



Theology of the Icons: Iconography of Christ (7.5 ECTS credits)

Level: 1st cycle

Discipline: THEOLOGY (Theological Studies in Culture and Society)

Course ID: 0156

Admission requirements

General entry requirements for studies at universities. Students taking part in the course as a part of their Bachelor's degree program must have completed Course A, Introduction in Philosophy and Theology (30 ECTS credits), or corresponding courses. Students taking part in the course as a freestanding course are expected to have corresponding prior knowledge.

Educational goals

After having completed the course the students are expected to:

- be able to report on the most important types of the iconography of Christ in the Eastern Christian tradition and historical development of Eastern Christian art, as compared to Western Christian art throughout the ages;
- be able to report on the most essential traits of Eastern Christian theology of images;
- show that they understand the interconnections between icons, liturgy, individual prayer and theology within Eastern Christian tradition;
- show the ability to make a written analysis of an essential Eastern Christian image or a complex of Eastern Christian iconographical motifs.

Course contents

The course examines theology and history of pictorial art in the Eastern Church, with special emphasis on its central theme – iconography of Jesus Christ. Considerable attention is dedicated to the Eastern Christian understanding of the role of the icon in liturgy and private prayer. A comparative study is made between the main trends of Eastern and Western religious pictorial art.

Teaching and examination

Teaching is given by means of lectures and discussion seminars on the basis of literature and images. After the end of the teaching period every student writes an essay (8–12 A4 pages) containing an analysis of an important Eastern Christian image or a complex of Eastern Christian iconographical motifs. The main ingredient of this paper is the analysis itself, but the students are expected to write in such a way that they also document that they have absorbed the obligatory reading (cf. below). If possible the essays are discussed in the form of one or more seminars.

The course is taught in English. The final paper is preferably to be written in English; it is, however, also permitted to write it in Swedish.

Reading list

Required reading:

- Ouspensky, Leonid, *Ikonens teologi*. Övers. Göran Ståhl (Skellefteå: Artos, 2000), 252 s.
Schönborn, Christoph, *God's Human Face: The Christ-Icon*. Transl. by L. Krauth (San Francisco, CA: Ignatius Press, 1994), 254 pp.
Quenot M. *The resurrection and the icon*, New York 1997.

Other literature which will be used in the course:

- Badde, Paul, *The True Icon: From the Shroud of Turin to the Veil of Manoppello*, Ignatius Press, 2012
Badde, Paul, *The Face of God: The Rediscovery Of The True Face of Jesus*, Ignatius Press; Reprint edition, 2010
- Baggley, John, *Festival Icons for the Christian Year* (Crestwood, NY: St Vladimir's Seminary Press, 2000)
Belting, Hans, *Likeness and Presence. A History of the Image before the Era of Art*. Transl. by E. Jephcott (Chicago & London: University of Chicago Press, 1990), s. 30–36, 208–224
Bigham, Stephen, *Early Christian Attitudes toward Images* (Rollinsford, NH: Orthodox Research Institute, 2004)
Bigham, Stephen, *The Image of God the Father in Orthodox Theology and Iconography and Other Studies* (Crestwood, NY: St Vladimir's Seminary Press, 2000)
Buechner F. *The Faces of Jesus*. New York 1974.
Finney C. *The Invisible God: The Earliest Christian on Art*. New York 1994.
Grabar, André, *Christian Iconography: A Study of Its Origins*. New edn (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1992)
Guscin, Mark, *The Image of Edessa*, Brill, 2009.
Treppa, Zbigniew, *The Manoppello Icon The prototype of images of Christ*, Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Gdanskiego, 2014
- Proceedings of the International Workshop on the Scientific approach to the Acheiropoietos Images (IWSAI 2010), ENEA Research Centre of Frascati, Italy, May 4 through May 6, 2010 (e-copy provided by the lecturer).

Useful articles (will be provided in e-copy by the lecturer):

- Galadza P. The Role of Icons in Byzantine Worship, в: *Studia Liturgica* 21, 1991.
Patterson S. Icons in the Liturgy, в: *Dumburton Oaks Papers*, N. 45, 1991 (рус. перекл. в:

Useful general reference tools:

- Byzantium* (Oxford Dictionary of Byzantium). A. Kazhdan et al. (eds.), 3 vols. New York – Oxford 1991.
Cross F., Livingstone E. *Dictionary of the Christian Church*. Oxford 1983.
Mango C. *The Art of the Byzantine Empire, 312 — 1453. Sources and Documents*. Toronto 1986.
F. Van der Meer, Mohrmann Ch. *Atlas of the Early Christian World*.. London 1966.

See also "Kursplaner: allmänna bestämmelser" (Course plans: General rules)

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