

Catholic Social Teaching (7,5 ECTS credits)

Level: 1st cycle

Discipline: THEOLOGY and PHILOSOPHY

Course ID: 0239

Admission requirements

General admission requirements for university studies. 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). 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:

- give a comprehensive account of some of Catholic social teaching's central issues;
- understand the relationship between the Catholic Church's social doctrine and contemporary or historical challenges, and be able to analyze the relationship;
- be able to critically reflect on the social doctrine of the Catholic Church in relation to contemporary social issues such as poverty, war and peace, and the environment.

Course content

This course provides a historical, theoretical and practical overview of the principles and themes of Catholic social teaching and social justice. It explores approaches of Catholic social responsibility through the official texts from 100 years of modern Catholic social teaching, as well as contemporary topics such as wealth and poverty, war and peace, and the question of the environmental responsibility.

Teaching and examination

Teaching has the form of distance education via the online platform as well as one week of intensive education, with lectures, presentations and seminars. The examination is in part a written assignment (of 4-6 pp.).

Bibliography

Encyclicals:

Leo XIII, *Rerum Novarum* (On Capital and Labor), Encyclical Letter, May 15, 1891. 22 p.

John XXIII, *Pacem in Terris* (On Establishing Universal Peace in Truth, Justice, Charity, and Liberty), Encyclical Letter, April 11, 1963. 20 p.

John Paul II, *Centesimus Annus* (On Hundredth Anniversary of *Rerum Novarum*), Encyclical Letter, May 1, 1991. 54 p.

Benedict XVI, *Deus Caritas Est* (On Christian Love), Encyclical Letter, December 25, 2005. 29 p.

Pope Francis, *Laudato Si* (On Care for our Common Home), Encyclical Letter, May 24, 2015. 82 p.

Encyclicals available at www.vatican.va

Additional resources and studies:

Dorr, Donal. *Option for the Poor and for the Earth: From Leo XIII to Pope Francis* / Donal Dorr. ed. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 2016. 496 p.

McKenna, Kevin E. *A Concise Guide to Catholic Social Teaching: Revised Edition*. Ave Maria, 2013. 192 p.

Massaro, Thomas. *Living Justice: Catholic Social Teaching in Action*. Lanham, Md: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 2012. 197 p.

Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*. USCCB Publishing, 2004. ca. 300 p. *Online version available at www.vatican.va*

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

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