

# Theology of Creation (7,5 ECTS credits)

Level: 1st cycle

Discipline: THEOLOGY (Systematic Theology)

Course ID: 0364

## 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:

- Be able to give an overall account of theology of creation as it comes to expression in the Old Testament, as well as its Christological developments in the New Testament;
- Be able to give an account of the most important stages of development in the theology of creation;
- Show an overall understanding of the most important axiom in the theology of creation: creation out of nothing – *creatio ex nihilo*;
- Understand how belief in creation, on the one hand, and modern science, on the other, are mutually related;
- Show an ability to discuss how theology of creation contributes to environmental ethics.

## Course content

Creation represents the Christian key to ecology. But how does this doctrine relate to contemporary ecological and social crises? What can the theology of creation teach us about the relationship between creation and the Creator? Using biblical exegesis and critical thinking techniques, students will analyse the human role in creation and the three fundamental relationships that ground life itself: with God, with neighbours, and with Nature.

## Teaching and examination

### *Local teaching and examination*

Teaching is conducted in the form of lectures and discussion seminars. Examination consists in four essays (1-2 A4 pages) handed in during the course, ventilated at a seminar, as well as an oral exam at the end of the course. The grade is based equally on the essays (50 % in total) and on the final oral exam (50 %).

## **Bibliography**

- Barbour, Ian G 2000: *When Science Meets Religion. Enemies, Strangers or Partners?* New York: HarperCollins (180 s.).
- Beeck, Frans Jozef van 1994: *God Encountered. A Contemporary Catholic Systematic Theology. Volume Two/2: The Revelation of the Glory. Part II: One God, Creator of All That is*, Collegeville: The Liturgical Press (§§ 103 e-resurs)
- Copan, Paul & William Lane Craig 2004: *Creation out of Nothing. A Biblical, Philosophical and Scientific Explanation*, Grand Rapids: Baker Academic (k. 1-4, 7-8).
- Gunton, Colin E 2005 [1993]: *The One, the Three and the Many. God, Creation and the Culture of Modernity*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press (231 s, e-resurs).
- Hamilton, Victor P 1990: *The Book of Genesis. Chapters 1-17* (The New International Commentary on the Old Testament), Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company (s. 101-217).
- Moltmann, Jürgen 1985: *God in Creation. A New Theology of Creation and the Spirit*, San Francisco: Harper & Row (k. I, IV, VI-IX, XI).

## TEXTS

Selection in accordance with instruction at the start of the course (ca. 300 pages)

Augustine: *Confessiones* III, VII, XIIIf.

Irenaeus of Lyon: *Adversus haereses* III-V.

Thomas Aquinas: *Summa Theologiae* I 44-49.

Documents of the Magisterium

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

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