

Ecumenical Theology (7,5 ECTS credits)

Level: 1st cycle

Discipline: THEOLOGY (Systematic Theology)

Course ID: 0397

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 student is expected to be able to:

- explain basic principles and approaches of ecumenical theology;
- evaluate current approaches to Church unity by comparing them with the traditional principles of the ecumenical movement;
- describe the most important features of the Christian denominations present in Sweden and Europe in historical, theological, cultural and sociological perspective;
- identify the areas, opportunities and challenges of theological dialogue and cooperation between various Christian denominations.

Course content

The changing religious landscape of our multicultural societies offers new opportunities and challenges for cooperation and dialogue between the Christian Churches. In this context, the course presents various approaches to building ecumenical relations and develops theological principles for ecumenism. It discusses current issues primarily from the Catholic-Protestant relationship and analyses what Catholics could learn from other denominations.

Teaching and examination

The course is taught in English. The papers are preferably to be written in English; it is also permitted to write in German.

The course consists of the following segments:

1. The individual preparation with readings and one short written paper before the local teaching.
2. The days of classes.
3. The practical experience (ecumenical Church visit) and the final paper.

Students are expected to attend the course having read and prepared all the assigned material.

Information regarding the individual preparation and the papers will be distributed at the beginning of the course. During the individual preparation before the days of classes, each student will write a short paper of 1200–1500 words in length. The final paper of 3000–3500 words will be written after the days of classes. All students are expected to engage in class discussion. Individual students may give short presentations based on their own reading and reflection of the texts.

Grade Distribution:

- Initial short paper: 20 %
- Course participation/presentation: 20 %
- Final paper: 60 %

Bibliography

Magdalena Dahlborg, *En kort introduktion till ekumenik*. Stockholm: Veritas, 2024.

Thomas E. FitzGerald, *The Ecumenical Movement: An Introductory History*. Westport, Conn.: Praeger, 2004.

Walter Kasper, *Kristen enhet: En handbok i andlig ekumenik*. Stockholm: Veritas, 2008 = *A Handbook of Spiritual Ecumenism*. Hyde Park, NY: New City, 2007.

Geoffrey Wainwright and Paul McPartlan, eds., *The Oxford Handbook of Ecumenical Studies*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2021.

Paul D. Murray, Gregory A. Ryan, and Paul Lakeland, eds., *Receptive Ecumenism as Transformative Ecclesial Learning. Walking the Way to a Church Re-formed*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2022.

Only parts of these works will be read within the course. The excerpts necessary for the individual preparation will be provided digitally by the course leader. He will give further information before the course starts.

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

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Valid as 2025-01-15