

Advanced Reading Course: Karl Rahner (7,5 ECTS credits)

Level: 1st cycle

Discipline: THEOLOGY (Systematic Theology) and PHILOSOPHY

Course ID: 2004

Admission requirements

General admission requirements for university studies. 60 ECTS credits in theology or religious studies.

Educational goals

After having completed the course the students are expected to:

- be able to give an account of some fundamental ideas in Karl Rahner's theological thinking, especially in his early thinking, in particular in the areas of ignatian mysticism, the doctrine of grace, the doctrine of knowledge and theological anthropology, the reception of the church fathers and pastoral care;
- be able to engage with Karl Rahner's thinking in areas such as theological analysis of the present day, Christology and revelation, experience of grace and God as mystery, theology of the Sacred Heart, ecclesiology and the reform of the church, ecumenism and theology of religions;
- show the ability to critically reflect on, as well as from the standpoint of, Karl Rahner's theology and philosophy, especially in relation to Christianity in the contemporary world.

Course content

Karl Rahner (1904–1984) is considered to be one of the most prominent theologians of the twentieth century. In this course, we will engage with Rahner's thinking primarily by the reading of his own texts. His treatment of topics such as revelation, creation and the human longing for God remain just as challenging today as when they were first written, and are still capable of enlightening any student of theology.

Teaching and examination

Teaching is given by means of online lectures and seminars. Examination is in the form of active participation in the online seminars (40 % of final grade) and in the form of a final essay (14000 – 15000 characters; 60 % of the final grade).

Bibliography

A reader with excerpts from Karl Rahner's works in, in English and German, will be provided digitally through the course portal (around 200 pages).

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

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Valid as 2025-07-15