

Advanced Reading Course: Hans Urs von Balthasar (7,5 ECTS credits)

Level: 1st cycle

Discipline: THEOLOGY (Systematic Theology)

Course ID: 2021

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 Hans Urs von Balthasar's theological thinking, in particular within the fields of the themes of his trilogy (theological aesthetics, theo-drama, and theo-logic), as well as his relation to the thinking of the Church fathers and some contemporary theologians of his own time;
- be able to engage with Hans Urs von Balthasar's thinking in areas such as trinitarian theology, nature and grace, prayer, analogy of being, and theological aesthetics;
- show the ability to critically reflect on, as well as from the standpoint of, Hans Urs von Balthasar's thinking, especially in relation to theology and Christianity in the contemporary world.

Course content

The *oeuvre* of the Swiss theologian Hans Urs von Balthasar (1905–1988) has made one of the most enduring contributions to twentieth century thought, contributions that are fruitful for new generations of readers. As von Balthasar's writings are sometimes considered hard to get an overview of, this course will guide the student through his works, focusing on central themes such as trinitarian theology, nature and grace, prayer, analogy of being and theological aesthetics.

Teaching and examination

Teaching is given by means of online lectures and seminars (compulsory attendance). Examination is in the form of a final essay (20000 – 30000 characters).

Bibliography

Balthasar, Hans Urs von, *Love Alone is Credible*, Ignatius Press, 2005 (153 pp.)

Balthasar, Hans Urs von, *Engagement with God: The Drama of Christian Discipleship*, Ignatius Press, 2008 (112 pp.)

Balthasar, Hans Urs von, *Truth is Symphonic: Aspects of Christian Pluralism*, Ignatius Press, 1997 (192 pp.)

Additional reading (excerpts from Hans Urs von Balthasar's works, articles, etc.) of around 700 pages provided digitally.

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

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Valid as 2026-01-15