

THE NEWMAN INSTITUTE
UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

COURSE SYLLABUS

Theology of the Icons: Iconography of Christ (7,5 ECTS credits)

Level: 1st cycle

Discipline: THEOLOGY (Theological Studies in Culture and Society)

Course ID: 0156

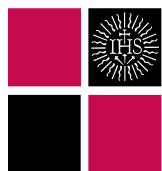
Admission requirements

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 report on the most important types of the iconography of Christ in the Eastern
- Christian tradition and historical development of Eastern Christian art, as compared to
- Western Christian art throughout the ages;
- be able to report on the most essential traits of Eastern Christian theology of images;
- show that they understand the interconnections between icons, liturgy, individual prayer and
- theology within Eastern Christian tradition;
- show the ability to make a written analysis of an essential Eastern Christian image or a complex of Eastern Christian iconographical motifs.



THE NEWMAN INSTITUTE

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

Course content

The course examines theology and history of pictorial art in the Eastern Church, with special emphasis on its central theme – iconography of Jesus Christ. Considerable attention is dedicated to the Eastern Christian understanding of the role of the icon in liturgy and private prayer. A comparative study is made between the main trends of Eastern and Western religious pictorial art.

Teaching and examination

Teaching is given by means of lectures and discussion seminars on the basis of literature and images. After the end of the teaching period every student writes an essay (8–12 A4 pages) containing an analysis of an important Eastern Christian image or a complex of Eastern Christian iconographical motifs. The main ingredient of this paper is the analysis itself, but the students are expected to write in such a way that they also document that they have absorbed the obligatory reading (cf. below). If possible the essays are discussed in the form of one or more seminars.

Bibliography

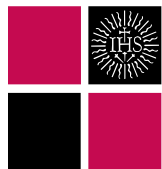
Hart, Aidan, *Festal Icons: History and Meaning*, Gracewing Publishers, 2022.

Jensen, Robin M., *Understand Early Christian art*, Routledge, 2000.

Mango C. *The Art of the Byzantine Empire, 312 — 1453. Sources and Documents*. Toronto 1986.

Sendler, Egon, *The Icon: Image of the Invisible, Elements of Theology, Aesthetics and Technique*, Oakwood Publications, 1988.

NB. Chapters from other studies will be provided by the instructor in digital format.



THE NEWMAN INSTITUTE
UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

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

Finalised 2017-07-30; rev. 2021-10-14, 2026-07-03

Valid as 2026-07-15