

Course description

General information		
Instructor	Branko Sekulić, PhD	
Course title	Hermeneutics of Political Liberation	
Study Programme	University Graduate Programme in Protestant theology	
Type of course	Elective	
Year of study	First and second	
Number of credits and class hours	ECTS credits	5
	Class hours (L+E+S)	1+0+0

1. COURSE DESCRIPTION

1.1. *Course Objectives*

The objectives of this course are:

1. introduce students to the basic concepts, themes, and controversial issues related to hermeneutics of political liberation within the so-called New Political Theology and Liberation Theology;
2. present the issues that belong to this domain – the issues of poverty, ecology, peace, etc., as well as racial, sexual, national, cultural, religious, and other forms of discrimination;
3. identify some of the crucial historical moments of contemporary society, and interpret them in a theologically relevant manner, thereby giving them historical-theological meaning.

1.2. *Prerequisite*

There are no prerequisites for this course.

1.3. *Learning outcomes at the Study Programme level*

1. Objectively evaluate scholarly literature in the field of theology.
2. Collect, select, and analyze philosophical-theological and historical-theological resources.
3. Identify and analyze the interdisciplinary relevance of theology.
4. Identify and analyze various theological concepts in the contexts of ecumenical and interreligious dialogue, and the dialogue between Christian theology and the contemporary society.
5. Create and combine different models of practical action in the Church and evaluate their applicability in handling specific situations in ecclesial practice and the social engagement of Christians.
6. Design and create forms of applying various theological concepts in the contexts of ecumenical and interreligious dialogue, and the dialogue between Christian theology, philosophy, culture, and science.
7. Critically and objectively evaluate the applicability of theological knowledge in a constructive contribution to the quality of ecclesial life and Christian engagement in the contemporary society.

8. Present and explain the importance of theological contribution to the discussion on important contemporary ethical, social, political, and cultural issues.
9. Expertly present the role and specific contribution of theology to a wider academic community.

1.4. Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the course, the student will be able to:

1. define the major themes and issues of New Political Theology and Liberation Theology;
2. describe the historical-theological processes of the creation of controversial issues of New Political Theology and Liberation Theology;
3. describe the historical-theological processes of the development of controversial issues of New Political Theology and Liberation Theology;
4. recount and classify the principal texts and events related to New Political Theology and Liberation Theology;
5. analyze and compare the content of principal texts and events related to New Political Theology and Liberation Theology;
6. critically evaluate the consistency of the content of principal texts and events related to New Political Theology and Liberation Theology;
7. identify the patterns in the causal relationship between controversies related to the understanding of the fields of New Political Theology and Liberation Theology;
8. integrate the knowledge acquired in this course with knowledge acquired in other areas of theology (particularly ecumenical theology and social engagement of the Church).

1.5. Course Content:

1. Basic theological texts related to hermeneutics of political liberation
2. Basic texts from other humanities related to hermeneutics of political liberation
3. The concept and nature of political theology and political religion
4. A political reading of the Gospels
5. Theory and praxis of the so-called New Political Theology
6. Theory and praxis of the so-called Liberation Theology
7. Contemporary currents in hermeneutics of political liberation
8. Final discussion

1.6. Modes of Teaching

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> x lectures x seminaries and workshops <input type="checkbox"/> exercises x remote learning <input type="checkbox"/> field teaching | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> homework assignments x multimedia and internet <input type="checkbox"/> laboratory work <input type="checkbox"/> mentored work <input type="checkbox"/> other |
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1.7. Comments

1.8. Course Requirements

Active participation in discussions during class, regular reading assignments. The students are required to write a scientific paper (12-15 standard pages). The subject of the paper needs to be approved by the instructor.

1.9. Course Assessment¹

Class attendance		Active participation in class		Term paper		Experimental work	
Written exam		Oral exam	3	Essay		Research	
Project		Quizzes		Written report		Practical work	
Portfolio				Scientific paper	2		

1.10. Grading structure during lectures and on the final exam

The final exam is in oral form. In order to take the final exam, the students must hand in their scientific paper (12-15 standard pages).

1.11. Mandatory Resources

- 1) R. GIBELLINI, *Teologija dvadesetog stoljeća*, Zagreb, KS, 1999. (select sections).
- 2) I. MAŠTRUKO, *Izazov alternativnih teologija*, Zagreb: Školske novine, 1988.
- 3) J. B. METZ, *Politička teologija*, Zagreb: Kršćanska sadašnjost, 2004. (select sections).
- 4) J. MOLTMANN, *Raspeti Bog*, Rijeka: Ex libris, 2005. (select sections).
- 5) G. GUTIERREZ, *Teologija oslobođenja*. Zagreb: Kršćanska sadašnjost, 1989. (select sections).

1.12. Additional Resources

- 1) R. GIBELLINI, *Teološke perspektive za XXI. stoljeće*, Zagreb, KS, 1999.
- 2) L. BOFF, *Crkva, karizma i vlast*, Zagreb: Stvarnost, 1987.
- 3) P. SCOTT i W. T. CAVANAUGH (ed.), *The Blackwell companion to political theology*, Malden, MA: Blackwell Pub., 2004.
- 4) J. SOBRINO i I. ELLACURÍA (ed.), *Systematic Theology: Perspectives from Liberation Theology*, Maryknoll, N.Y.: Orbis Books, 1993.
- 5) J. B. METZ, *Theology of the World*, New York Herder and Herder, 1969.

1.13. Number of copies of mandatory resources relative to the number of students currently enrolled

Title	Number of copies	Number of students
R. GIBELLINI, <i>Teologija dvadesetog stoljeća</i> , Zagreb, KS, 1999.	1	5

¹ **IMPORTANT:** Along with every mode of Course Assessment an adequate number of ECTS credits needs to be given, so that the total number of ECTS credits matches the number for the course. Empty fields can be used for additional activities.

I. MAŠTRUKO, <i>Izazov alternativnih teologija</i> , Zagreb: Školske novine, 1988.	Available to students in electronic form.	
J. B. METZ, <i>Politička teologija</i> , Zagreb: Kršćanska sadašnjost, 2004.	3	5
J. MOLTSMANN, <i>Raspeti Bog</i> , Rijeka: Ex libris, 2005.	4	5
G. GUTIERREZ, <i>Teologija oslobođenja</i> . Zagreb: Kršćanska sadašnjost, 1989.	Available to students in electronic form.	
<i>1.14. Modes of quality control that ensure acquisition of knowledge, skills and competences</i>		
Discussions with students during class, scientific paper, and final exam.		