

Course description

General information		
Instructor	Krunoslav Nikodem, Full professor with tenure	
Course title	Sociology of Religion	
Study Programme	University Undergraduate Programme in Protestant theology	
Type of course	Mandatory	
Year of study	Second	
Number of credits and class hours	ECTS credits	2
	Class hours (L+E+S)	1+0+0

1. COURSE DESCRIPTION

1.1. Course Objectives

The objectives of this course are:

1. to introduce students to the basic concepts, themes, theories and processes of the sociology of religion;
2. to introduce students to contemporary functions and issues of religion.

1.2. Prerequisite

There are no prerequisites for this course.

1.3. Learning outcomes at the Study Programme level

1. Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of basic themes in practical theology and recognize the connections between theological-religious theory and ecclesial, religious, and social praxis.
2. Apply the acquired knowledge to evaluate the role of the Church and Christianity in the life of the humanity and society of today.
3. Critically assess individual segments in the relationship between the Church and the contemporary individual and society.
4. Clearly and expertly present the acquired knowledge in an essayistic form.
5. Present the collected information and insights in written and oral forms.
6. Act based on the ethical principles of the profession.

1.4. Learning Outcomes

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

1. identify the major concepts and themes of sociology of religion;
2. interpret the major concepts and themes of sociology of religion;
3. analyze the principal theoretical approaches within sociology of religion and identify their mutual relationships;

4. describe the crucial social and religious processes and changes, and identify their causes and consequences;
5. discern the patterns within major social and religious changes;
6. expertly explain the functions and roles of religion in contemporary society.

1.5. Course Content:

1. Theoretical and historical preconditions for the creation and development of sociology; basic concepts and conceptual structure in the context of the development of society and the science of sociology; critical outlook at the time of the creation of sociology (positivism, atheism)
2. Classical theories of sociology of religion: Emile Durkheim, defining religion; critique of animism and naturalism; analysis of totemism as the original form of religion; functionalistic approach to religion; sacred and profane; analysis of the role and importance of religious rituals; integrative function of religion
3. Classical theories of sociology of religion: Karl Marx, critical approach to the analysis of the religious phenomenon, with an emphasis on a specific socio-historical context; analysis of the legitimating role of religion
4. Classical theories of sociology of religion: Max Weber, the concept of charisma; sociological analysis of the doctrine of predestination; the concept of the calling; an analysis of the creation of religions; protestant ethics; the process of "disenchantment"; the influence of protestant ethics on the formation of capitalism
5. Theories of secularization and contemporary theoretical approaches of sociology of religion; the creation and development of the process of secularization: emphasis on the socio-historical context; the interconnectedness of modernization and secularization
6. Analysis of the basic concept and basic theoretical approaches to secularization: B. Wilson, K. Dobbelaere, S. Bruce
7. Analysis of basic critical approaches: J. K. Hadden and R. Stark
8. Contemporary theories of sociology of religion: P. Berger and the "sacred cosmos"; T. Luckmann and the "invisible religion"; Bellah and "civil religion"
9. Contemporary theories of sociology of religion: G. Davie, the representational role of religion, and the crisis of Churches; D. Hervieu-Leger and religion as the "chain of memory"; J. Casanova and the public role of religion
10. Contemporary themes of sociology of religion: Religion in the age of globalization I; basic approaches to globalization; the role of religion in the processes of globalization
11. Contemporary themes of sociology of religion: Religion in the age of globalization II; religion, nation, secularity, and violence in the global context
12. Contemporary themes of sociology of religion: Religion in the age of neoliberalism I; religion and capitalism; the basics of neoliberalism; religious freedoms and neoliberalism
13. Contemporary themes of sociology of religion: Religion in the age of neoliberalism II; the place, role, and activities of religious institutions in a neoliberal context; economy of desires and religious authority; analysis of religious responses to global neoliberalism
14. Religion in contemporary Croatian society: Social and religious changes, the development of sociology of religion in Croatia
15. Religious overview of contemporary Croatian society in a European context: Analysis of basic indicators based on the results of empirical research between 1997 and 2018.

1.6. Modes of Teaching

x lectures
 seminars

homework assignments
 multimedia and internet

		and workshops		<input type="checkbox"/> laboratory work <input type="checkbox"/> mentored work <input type="checkbox"/> other <hr/>	
		<input type="checkbox"/> exercises <input type="checkbox"/> remote learning <input type="checkbox"/> field teaching			
1.7. Comments					
1.8. Course Requirements					
Active participation in discussions during class.					
1.9. Course Assessment ¹					
Class attendance		Active participation in class		Term paper	Experimental work
Written exam	2	Oral exam		Essay	Research
Project		Quizzes		Written report	Practical work
Portfolio					
1.10. Grading structure during lectures and on the final exam					
Written exam.					
1.11. Mandatory Resources					
1) ČRPIĆ, G., ZRINŠČAK, S. (2010.) "Dinamičnost u stabilnosti. Religioznost u Hrvatskoj 1999. i 2008. godine", <i>Društvena istraživanja</i> , 19(1-2): 3-27; 2) ČRPIĆ, G., ZRINŠČAK, S. (2014.) "Religija, društvo, politika: komparativna perspektiva", u: J. Baloban, K. Nikodem, S. Zrinščak (ed.), <i>Vrednote u Hrvatskoj i u Europi. Komparativna analiza</i> , Zagreb, Kršćanska sadašnjost, KBF Sveučilišta u Zagrebu, 13-41.; 3) NIKODEM, K. (2011). "Religija i crkva; Pitanja institucionalne religioznosti u suvremenom hrvatskom društvu", <i>Socijalna ekologija</i> , 20 (1): 5-30.					
1.12. Additional Resources					
1.13. Number of copies of mandatory resources relative to the number of students currently enrolled					
Title		Number of copies		Number of students	
Resources are available to students in electronic form.					
1.14. Modes of quality control that ensure acquisition of knowledge, skills and competences					

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.

Discussions with students during class, and final exam.