

Course description

General information		
Instructor	Juro Zečević-Božić, Full professor with tenure	
Course title	Spiritual Experience as an Ecumenical, Interreligious and Ideological Meeting Point	
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
<p>1.1. <i>Course Objectives</i></p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">The objectives of this course are to introduce students to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. the universal and the specific features of religious experiences in Christian communities, world religions, and worldview conceptions; 2. the complementary integrative potentials of spirituality in enabling individuals for a quality and constructive coexistence and cooperation with people of different confessions, religions, and worldviews.
<p>1.2. <i>Prerequisite</i></p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">There are no prerequisites for this course.</p>
<p>1.3. <i>Learning outcomes at the Study Programme level</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify and analyze the interdisciplinary relevance of theology. 2. 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. 3. 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. 4. Present and explain the importance of theological contribution to the discussion on important contemporary ethical, social, political, and cultural issues. 5. Present models of constructive action in the fields of ecumenical, interreligious, and intercultural dialogue. 6. Professionally and popularly present the religious doctrines and practices of various Christian confessions and denominations. 7. Integrate the existing knowledge with new insights and produce new ideas.
<p>1.4. <i>Learning Outcomes</i></p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Upon completion of the course, the student will be able to:</p>

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. evaluate one's own confessional / religious / worldview identity in an objectively complex context of a confessional, religious, and ideologically pluralistic environment; 2. evaluate and analyze the humanizing and harmonizing effect of religion within educational systems and society in general; 3. present the manners of appropriate contact and constructive dialogue with other religious and worldview identities; 4. using an appropriate comparative method, critically assess the universal and the specific contributions of spiritual experience in various confessions, religions, and worldviews; 5. examine the positive principles and values of interculturalism and multiculturalism; 6. draw conclusions about the relationship between one's own identity and the positive principles of multiculturalism and interculturalism. 		
<p><i>1.5. Course Content:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Introduction to the course: overview of the content, introduction to the resources and requirements 2. Defining and describing the concept of "spiritual experience" 3. Individual subjectivity of spiritual experience and the efforts to objectify it 4. Universal (common) features of spiritual experience / spiritual experiences 5. Differentiating between "spiritual syncretism" and "spiritual identity" 6. Spiritual identity as the precondition of complementary encounters, respect, and spiritual growth 7. The semantic content of the terms "ecumenical dialogue" and "interreligious dialogue" 8. Existing ecumenical and interreligious structures and their spiritual cooperation on national, European, and global levels (CEC, CCEE, WCC, Religion for peace, etc.) 		
<p><i>1.6. Modes of Teaching</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> x lectures <input type="checkbox"/> 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 x mentored work <input type="checkbox"/> other _____ —
<p><i>1.7. Comments</i></p>		
<p><i>1.8. Course Requirements</i></p> <p>Active participation in class, regular reading assignments. The students are required to write a scientific paper. The subject of the paper needs to be approved by the instructor.</p>		
<p><i>1.9. Course Assessment¹</i></p>		

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.

Class attendance	0,5	Active participation in class	0,5	Term paper	1,5	Experimental work	
Written exam		Oral exam	2,5	Essay		Research	
Project		Quizzes		Written report		Practical work	
Portfolio				Scientific paper			

1.10. Grading structure during lectures and on the final exam

Students' participation will be monitored during the course of the semester. Attendance is mandatory. The final exam is in oral form. In order to take the final exam, the students must hand in their paper (10-15 standard pages).

1.11. Mandatory Resources

- 1) J. ZEČEVIĆ, "Univerzalnost iskustva Boga kao element unutarkršćanskog i međureligijskog dijaloga i zajedništva", in: *The Experience of God today and carmelite Mysticism : Mystagogy and Inter-Religious and Cultural Dialog* (Zbornik), Zagreb, 2009. str. 637-640.
- 2) J. W. SIRE, *Izazov svjetonazora*, Zagreb, Steppress 2005.

1.12. Additional Resources

- 1) J. MAMIĆ, *Razvoj suvremene duhovnosti*, Zagreb, Kršćanska sadašnjost, 2003.
- 2) M. ECKHART, *Knjiga božanske utjehe*, Zagreb, Naprijed, 1989.
- 3) L. GARDET, *Mistika*, Zagreb, 1983.

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

<i>Title</i>	<i>Number of copies</i>	<i>Number of students</i>
Resources are available to students in electronic form.		

1.14. Modes of quality control that ensure acquisition of knowledge, skills and competences

Student's engagement and familiarity with the reading material will be monitored during the course of the semester. Attendance and participation in discussions during class, as well as the utilization of the opportunities for consultation, will also be monitored. At the end of the semester, the course, student's engagement, and the instructor are evaluated by way of an analytical conversation.