

## Course description

General information		
Instructor	Branko Sekulić, PhD	
Course title	Ecumenism and Politics in the Context of the Western Balkans	
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

<p><b>1. COURSE DESCRIPTION</b></p> <p><i>1.1. Course Objectives</i></p> <p>The objectives of this course are to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. introduce students to the basic concepts, themes, and issues related to the understanding of the relationship between ecumenism and politics in the region of the Western Balkans;</li> <li>2. present the manner in which the history of this relationship influences contemporary socio-political and religious movements in the region of the Western Balkans;</li> <li>3. by combining an historical-theological and systematic-theological approach, present the intertwining of religious and political aspects in the region of the Western Balkans.</li> </ol>
<p><i>1.2. Prerequisite</i></p> <p>There are no prerequisites for this course.</p>
<p><i>1.3. Learning outcomes at the Study Programme level</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Objectively evaluate scholarly literature in the field of theology.</li> <li>2. Collect, select, and analyze philosophical-theological and historical-theological resources.</li> <li>3. Identify and analyze the interdisciplinary relevance of theology.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>6. 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.</li> </ol>

7. Assess the applicability of theological-theoretical achievements of ecumenical and interreligious dialogue to the specific ecumenical and interreligious practice, and to the practice of religious communities.
8. Present models of constructive action in the fields of ecumenical, interreligious, and intercultural dialogue.
9. Present and explain the importance of theological contribution to the discussion on important contemporary ethical, social, political, and cultural issues.

#### 1.4. Learning Outcomes

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

1. define the major themes related to the issues of ecumenism and politics in the region of the Western Balkans;
2. describe the historical-theological processes that led to the creation of controversial issues of the relationship between ecumenism and politics in the region of the Western Balkans;
3. describe the historical-theological processes of the development of contemporary ecumenical dialogue between dominant Christian communities in the region of the Western Balkans, with special attention paid to Catholicism and Eastern Orthodoxy;
4. recount and classify the principal events in the region of the Western Balkans in which ecumenical and political issues are intertwined;
5. analyze and compare the principal events in the region of the Western Balkans in which ecumenical and political issues are intertwined;
6. critically examine the consistency of the content of the principal events in the region of the Western Balkans in which ecumenical and political issues are intertwined;
7. note the patterns in the causal relationship between controversies related to the issues of ecumenism and politics in the region of the Western Balkans;
8. integrate the knowledge acquired in this course with knowledge acquired in other areas of theology.

#### 1.5. Course Content:

1. Basic resources for understanding the relationship between politics and ecumenism in the context of the Western Balkans
2. The political environment and the beginnings of ecumenical movements in the context of the Western Balkans
3. Politics and ecumenism: the situation before the breakup of Yugoslavia
4. Politics and ecumenism: the period of war in former Yugoslavia I
5. Politics and ecumenism: the period of war in former Yugoslavia II
6. Politics and ecumenism: the period after the war in former Yugoslavia
7. Political issues and contemporary ecumenical efforts in the context of the Western Balkans
8. Final discussion

#### 1.6. Modes of Teaching

x lectures

homework assignments

						x seminars and workshops <input type="checkbox"/> exercises x remote learning <input type="checkbox"/> field teaching	x multimedia and internet <input type="checkbox"/> laboratory work <input type="checkbox"/> mentored work <input type="checkbox"/> other _____ —
1.7. <i>Comments</i>							
1.8. <i>Course Requirements</i>							
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. <i>Course Assessment</i> <sup>1</sup>							
Class attendance		Active participation in class		Term paper		Experimental work	
Written exam		Oral exam	3	Essay		Research	
Project		Quizzes		Written report	2	Practical work	
Portfolio							
1.10. <i>Grading structure during lectures and on the final exam</i>							
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. <i>Mandatory Resources</i>							
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) V. PERICA, <i>Balkanski idoli 1   2</i>, Beograd: Biblioteka XX. vek, 2006.</li> <li>2) B. SEKULIĆ, <i>Ethnoreligiosity in the Contemporary Societies of the Former Yugoslavia: The Veils of Christian Delusion</i>, Lanham, MD: Lexington Books/Fortress Academic, 2022.</li> <li>3) P. MOJZES, <i>Balkan Genocides</i>, Lanham, MD: Rowman&amp;Littlefield, 2011.</li> <li>4) S. ODAK i Z. GROZDANOV (ur.), <i>Balkan Contextual Theology: An Introduction</i>, London-New York: Routledge, 2022. (izabrana poglavlja)</li> </ol>							
1.12. <i>Additional Resources</i>							

<sup>1</sup> **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.

- 1) S. BADURINA, Ekumenska nastojanja, Zagreb: Kršćanska sadašnjost, 2019.
- 2) Ž. MARDEŠIĆ, Svjedočanstva o mirotvorstvu. Zagreb: Kršćanska sadašnjost, 2002.
- 3) F. FRANIĆ, Putovi dijaloga, Split: Crkva u svijetu, 1973.
- 4) A. ĐAKOVAC (ur.), Pravoslavlje i ekumenizam, Beograd: Hrišćanski kulturni centar, 2005.

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*

Discussions with students during class, scientific paper, and final exam.