



Detailed Course Syllabus

Academic Year 2025-2026		Semester II.	
Study Program	Sociology (double-major) (R) (elective) Communication Studies (R) (elective)	Specialization/ Major in	Year of Study 1

I. BASIC COURSE INFORMATION

Name	Man in the Context of Contemporary Technological Challenges		
Abbreviation	IZBP250	Code	278467
Status	ECTS 4		
Prerequisites: None			
<i>Total Course Workload</i>			
Teaching Mode	Total Hours	Teaching Mode	Total Hours
Lectures	30	Seminars	15
Class Time and Place	CUC according to published timetable		

II. TEACHING STAFF

Course Holder

Name and Surname	Richard Pavlič		
Academic Degree	Associate Professor, PhD.	Professional Title	
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Office Hours	According to published timetable Office		

Course Collaborator

Name and Surname			
Academic Degree		Professional Title	
Contact E-mail		Telephone	
Office Hours	According to published timetable Office		

Course Collaborator

Name and Surname			
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Office Hours	According to published timetable Office		

III. DETAILED COURSE INFORMATION

Teaching Language	English
Course Description	<p>The course examines the relationship between theological anthropology and eschatology, focusing on their interaction with contemporary issues such as technology, globalization, and ecological challenges. Students will explore key theological concepts related to human existence, including the significance of humans created in the image of God and the implications of technological advancement.</p> <p>The course begins with an overview of theological anthropology, emphasizing human dignity and purpose. Students will critically assess the theology of creation considering advancements in robotics and artificial intelligence, paying particular attention to the ethical challenges these developments pose.</p> <p>Discussions will highlight the theology of hope in a world often marked by techno-pessimism, exploring how faith can foster resilience. Additionally, students will engage in debates between anthropocentrism and theocentrism concerning ecological responsibility and consider how technological progress affects human freedom.</p> <p>Overall, this course aims to equip students with a nuanced understanding of theological anthropology and eschatology while encouraging critical engagement with contemporary societal challenges.</p>
Expected Educational Outcomes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify key theological concepts related to theological anthropology and the theology of creation, including foundational principles. 2. Explain the implications of technological progress on the theology of creation, demonstrating comprehension of its influence on human existence. 3. Apply ethical frameworks to analyse case studies involving robotics and artificial intelligence, using theological principles in practical scenarios. 4. Analyse the horizontal and vertical dimensions of human existence, examining their interaction within the context of globalization and communication. 5. Evaluate the challenges posed by contemporary technologies on eschatological beliefs, assessing their impact on traditional views of death and eternal life.
Textbooks and Materials	
Required	<p>Ratzinger, Joseph. <i>Eschatology: Death and Eternal Life</i>. 2nd ed., edited by Aidan Nichols, The Catholic University of America Press, 2007, pp. 1-164.</p>
Supplementary	<p>Bargár, Pavol. "The Modern, the Postmodern, and . . . the Metamodern? Reflections on a Transforming Sensibility from the Perspective of Theological Anthropology." <i>Transformation</i>, vol. 38, no. 1, 2021, pp. 3–15.</p> <p>Campbell, Heidi A. "Understanding the Relationship between Religion Online and Offline in a Networked Society." <i>Journal of the American Academy of Religion</i>, vol. 80, no. 1, 2012, pp. 64–93.</p> <p>Evans, John H. "The Academic Analysts of the Relationship Between Religion and Science." <i>Morals Not Knowledge: Recasting the Contemporary U.S. Conflict between Religion and Science</i>, 1st ed., University of California Press, 2018, pp. 44–62.</p>

Francis. *Laudato Si': On Care for Our Common Home*. Vatican Press, 2015.

Harrison, Peter. "'Science' and 'Religion': Constructing the Boundaries." *The Journal of Religion*, vol. 86, no. 1, 2006, pp. 81–106.

Hoffman, Andrew J., and Lloyd E. Sandelands. "Getting Right with Nature: Anthropocentrism, Ecocentrism, and Theocentrism." *Organization & Environment*, vol. 18, no. 2, 2005, pp. 141–62.

Pavlić, Richard, and Bruno Rukavina. "Laudato Si' – Socioeconomic Relevance for a Dynamic, Shifting, and Challenging Future." *Diacovensia*, vol. 29, no. 2, 2021, pp. 187–208.

Ratzinger, Joseph. *Introduction to Christianity*. 2nd ed., Ignatius Press, 2004.

Simkins, Ronald A. "The Bible and Anthropocentrism: Putting Humans in Their Place." *Dialectical Anthropology*, vol. 38, no. 4, 2014, pp. 397–413.

Turkle, Sherry. *Alone Together: Why We Expect More from Technology and Less from Each Other*. Basic Books, 2011.

Vogt, Markus, et al. "Sustainability and Climate Justice from a Theological Perspective." *RCC Perspectives*, no. 3, 2010, pp. 30–46.

Examination and Grading

To Be Passed	Exclusively Continuous Assessment	Included in Average Grade
Prerequisites to Obtain Signature and Take Final Exam		
Examination Manner		
Grading Manner		

Detailed Overview of Grading within ECTS

ACTIVITY TYPE	ECTS Student Workload Coefficient	GRADE PERCENTAGE (%)
Class Attendance		
Seminar Presentation		
Midterm Exam		
Midterm Exam		
Total in Class		
Final Exam		

TOTAL ECTS (Classes + Final Exam)		
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Midterm Exam Dates	Midterm Exam 1: ; Midterm Exam 2:
Final Exam Dates	According to published timetable

IV. WEEKLY CLASS SCHEDULE

Lectures

Week	Topic
1.	Theological Anthropology – Theology of Creation
2.	Theology of Creation and Technological Progress
3.	Horizontal and Vertical Dimensions of Human Existence
4.	Man and Robotics - Ethical and Theological Challenges
5.	Biotechnology and the Limits of Human Creation
6.	Globalization, Communication, Technology
7.	Mid-term Exam 1
8.	Attending a scientific or professional conference or panel discussion.
9.	Eschatological Challenges of Contemporary Technologies
10.	Theology of Hope in a World of Techno-Pessimism
11.	Anthropocentrism vs. Theocentrism
12.	Theological Anthropology and Cognitive Sciences
13.	Theological Anthropology in the Context of Ecological Challenges
14.	Technology and Human Freedom
15.	Mid-term Exam 2

Seminars

Week	Topic
1.	Division of topics for oral presentations and homework
2.	Oral presentations and discussions on homework
3.	Oral presentations and discussions on homework
4.	Oral presentations and discussions on homework
5.	Oral presentations and discussions on homework
6.	Oral presentations and discussions on homework
7.	(Mid-term Exam)
8.	Field Work: Oral presentations and discussions on homework
9.	Oral presentations and discussions on homework
10.	Oral presentations and discussions on homework
11.	Oral presentations and discussions on homework
12.	Oral presentations and discussions on homework
13.	Oral presentations and discussions on homework

14.	Oral presentations and discussions on homework
15.	(Mid-term Exam)

<i>Exercises</i>	
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Week	Topic
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	
6.	
7.	
8.	
9.	
10.	
11.	
12.	
13.	
14.	
15.	