

SYLLABUS

Early Christianity and Special Problems in the New Testament Theology

CURRICULUM	Master's Studies in Theology
NAME OF THE SUBJECT	<i>Early Christianity and Special Problems in the New Testament Theology</i>
CODE	UTII/1.01.03
VOLUME	4 ECTS
LECTURER	Dr Theol Randar Tasmuth
LEARNING OBJECTIVE	To learn to know and understand the formation of the early Christianity in the ancient world, linkages between early Christianity and its environment and the development of early Christian theology and its meaning for today.
LEARNING OUTCOMES	<p>On completion of the course student</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • knows the main events of the life of Jesus and history of the early Christianity, chronology and causal relations; • knows the events of the life of Jesus and the content of the message, images of the Jesus in the gospels and is able to analyse them; • knows the relationship between Judaism and early Christianity and the problems of the emerging new identity and the dynamics of the formation of the early Christianity; • can explain the NT centred theological concepts and factors leading to the formation of canons; • can analyse theological solutions in the NT and the analogical questions posed today.
DESCRIPTION OF THE CONTENT OF THE SUBJECT, MAIN TOPICS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Culture and politics of the ancient world, nature of Judaism and the Palestinian context 63 BC–150 AD • Concept, contextual definition and chronology of the early Christianity • Origin of Jesus and stories about his childhood • Public ministry of Jesus, passion narrative throughout the gospels • Teaching of Jesus in the Gospels, Kingdom of God, ethics • Early Jerusalem church, Hellenism, the early Christian mission • Paul's personality, beginning of his activities, spreading of the early Christianity to Antioch, meaning of Antioch • Council of the Apostles, Paul's missionary journeys • Christianity in the 2nd half of the 1st century • Christianity in the beginning of the second century • Tasks and practices of the NT theology • Meaning of the OT in shaping the theology of the NT • Religiosity of the early Christianity • Theology of the epistles of Paul • Origin and theology of the Gospels • Late letters of the New Testament, Christianity after the fall of Jerusalem • Early Christianity and gnosis • History of the most important NT theological terminology, concepts, social practices, concept of holiness in the Bible • Basic features of the NT theology and issues of contemporary human life issues • Discussions based on the current topics
PREREQUISITE	Introduction to the Old Testament and Introduction to the New

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SUBJECTS	Testament, and at least one examination of the OT and NT exegesis at the level of Bachelor's Studies or professional higher education studies.
EDUCATIONAL LITERATURE, TEACHING MATERIALS	<p><u>Compulsory literature:</u></p> <p>Basic teaching materials: Jesus and Early Christianity Drane, J. <i>Jesus</i>. EELK UI Õppekirjandus 3. 1996. Fischer, K.-M. <i>Algkristlus</i>. EELK UI Õppekirjandus 4. 1995. Tasmuth, R. „Ristiusu valgest alghämarusest”. <i>EELK Juubelialbum</i>. 1996. Tasmuth, R. „Vanast Testamendist kristliku kuulutuse alusena“, <i>Minu Issand ja minu Jumal</i>. Proceedings of the IT EELC XX. Tallinn, 2009. Tasmuth, R. „Mõistete „evangeelium“ ja „ideoloogia“ suhtest“, <i>Töid algkristliku Mõtlemise kujunemise alalt</i>. Proceedings of the IT EELC XIX. Tallinn, 2009. Tasmuth, R. „Pauluse nägemus Kristuse kogudusest“, <i>Kultuurisillad Läänemere-äärses kultuuriruumis</i>. Proceedings of the IT EELC XXI. Tallinn, 2011. <i>Mente et Corde</i>. 2000. Articles concerning the topics. Lohse, E. <i>Uue Testamendi teoloogia põhijooni</i>. 1994. Tasmuth, R. „Uue Testamendi teoloogia eile, täna, homme”. <i>Akadeemia</i>. 6/1999. Hiob, A. <i>Kes oli Jeesus? Vikerkaar</i> 1-2/2008.</p> <p><u>Recommended literature:</u></p> <p>Viljari, A. <i>Jeesuse elu juudisoost uurijate käsitluses</i>. Proceedings of the IT EELC VIII, 1996. Bruce, F.F. <i>Uue Testamendi ajalugu</i>. 2000. Wedderburn, A. <i>A History of the First Christians</i>. T&T Clark, 2004. Lahe, J. <i>Gnoosis ja algkristlus</i>. 2004. Theissen, G., Merz, A. <i>Der Historische Jesus</i>. 1996. Theissen, G. <i>Die Religion der ersten Christen. Eine Theorie des Urchristentums</i>. Gütersloher Verlagshaus, 2003. Brown, R. <i>The Birth of the Messiah</i>. (1993), <i>The Death of the Messiah</i>. 1994. <i>The Anchor Bible Dictionary</i>. Vol. 1-6. 1992. <i>Handbuch Theologischer Grundbegriffe</i>. Bd. 1-2. 1962. Bultmann, R. <i>Theology of the New Testament</i>. 1952. Gnllka, J. <i>Theologie des Neuen Testaments</i>. 1999. Dunn, J. <i>Unity and Diversity in the New Testament</i>. 1977/1993. Hiob, A. „Jeesuse Kristuse ülestõusmine surnuist” ja Riistan, A. „Võõras Jeesus”, <i>Pühendusteos Jaan Kiivitile 65. sünnipäevaks. Kristuse täisea mõõtu mööda</i>. Proceedings of the IT EELC, XIII, 2005. Räisänen, H. <i>The Rise of Christian Beliefs. The Thought World of Early Christians</i>. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2010.</p>
ASSESSMENT METHODS	<p>1. Written assignments about the Jesus' personality or on the topics of early Christianity and NT theology. Topics are selected from the broader spectrum of descriptions presented on the subject card or from the narrower spectrum of issues presented in the teaching materials. The assignments are presented orally at seminars.</p> <p>2. Written examination.</p>
ASSESSMENT CRITERIA	<p><u>1. Written assignments are assessed according to the non-differentiated criteria.</u></p>

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	<p>Criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• paragraphs and subtitles of the paper correspond to the title;• the content of the paper is presented in an understandable manner;• the layout of the paper corresponds to the requirements of layout of a short paper;• a student who presents the paper in the seminar has learnt the subject. <p><u>2. Examination is assessed according to the differentiated criteria.</u></p> <p>Criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• historical and literary facts of the subject are acquired;• can adequately draw connections and explain the events, personalities and phenomena based on the Bible;• the causal links that characterize the subject are clearly presented.
TEACHING METHODS	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Contact-based study: lecture 12 hours.2. Independent assignments based on compulsory and recommended literature, preparation of written assignments 84 hours.3. Contact-based study: presenting one's written assignments in the seminar 4 hours.4. Examination 4 hours.