

SYLLABUS

Early Christianity and Special Problems in the New Testament Theology

CURRICULUM	Theology, Master of Arts
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	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 Jewish and Roman environment, the development of early Christian theology and its meaning for today.
LEARNING OUTCOMES	On completion of the course student: <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 content of the parabolic sayings of Jesus in the gospels and is able to analyse them in their social context;• understands the relationship between Judaism and early Christianity, the mechanisms of the emerging new identity and the dynamics of the formation of the early Christianity;• can explain central theological concepts of the NT and factors leading to the formation of canon;• is prepared to analyse how theological solutions in the NT could be used to solve 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• John, Jesus and the beginning of their movements• Public ministry of Jesus, passion narrative throughout the gospels• Teaching of Jesus in the Gospels: Kingdom of God, discipleship, ethics• Early Jerusalem church, Hellenism, the early Christian mission• Paul's personality, beginning of his activities, spreading of the early Christianity to Antioch and its meaning for mission activity• 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• Linguistic and historical meaning and impact of NT theological terminology and concepts in social practices• Basic features of the NT anthropological views and their application in contemporary human life issues• Discussions based on the current topics

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PREREQUISITE SUBJECTS	Introduction to the Old Testament and Introduction to the New 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>Compulsory literature:</p> <p>Basic teaching materials: Jesus and Early Christianity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tasmuth, Randar ja Ingmar Kurg. <i>Jeesus. Kuningriik. Läkitemine. Jesus, Kingdom, and Mission</i>. Proceedings of the IT EELC XXXI. Tallinn, 2022. • Fischer, K.-M. <i>Algkristlus</i>. EELK UI Öppekirjandus 4. 1995. • Tasmuth, R. „Ristiusu valgest alghämarusest”. <i>EELK Juubelialbum</i>. 1996. • Tasmuth, Randar. <i>Uue Testamendi kontekstualiseeriv teoloogia. Contextual Theology of the New Testament</i>. Proceedings of the IT EELC XXIX. Tallinn, 2020. • 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?</i> Vikerkaar 1-2/2008. <p>Recommended literature:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.
TEACHING METHODS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • contact-based study: lecture 12 hours. • independent assignments based on compulsory and recommended

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	<p>literature, preparation of written assignments 84 hours.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• contact-based study: presenting one's written assignments in the seminar 4 hours.• examination 4 hours.
ASSESSMENT METHODS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• two written assignments: (1) on Jesus' personality or on the topics of early Christianity; (2) on 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 be uploaded in Moodle and receive written feedback by professor. Selected assignments may be analysed at seminars.• written examination.
ASSESSMENT CRITERIA	<p>1. Written assignments are assessed according to the non-differentiated criteria. 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>2. Examination is assessed according to the differentiated criteria. 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.