Detailed Course Syllabus

Academic year: 2026/2027	**Semester:** Summer semester
Year of study: 1	**Study Program:** Sociologija (dvopredmetni) (R) (elective) (Prijediplomski) Komunikologija (R) (elective) (Prijediplomski) Sociologija (R) (elective) (Prijediplomski)

I. BASIC COURSE INFORMATION

Name: Man in the Context of Contemporary Technological Challenges

Abbreviation: IZBP250

ECTS: 4	**Code:** 278467

Prerequisites: No

Total Course Workload

Teaching Mode	**Total Hours**
Lecture	30
Seminar	15

Class Time and Place: HKS - according to the published schedule

II. TEACHING STAFF

Course Holder

Name and Surname: Pavlić Richard

Academic Degree:	**Professional Title:** izvanredni profesor
Contact E-mail: richard.pavlic@unicath.hr	**Telephone:**

Office Hours: According to the published schedule

Course Assistant

III. DETAILED COURSE INFORMATION

Teaching Language: English

Course Description	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. 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. 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. Overall, this course aims to equip students with a nuanced understanding of theological anthropology and eschatology while encouraging critical engagement with contemporary societal challenges.
Educational Outcomes	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	Ratzinger, Joseph. *Eschatology: Death and Eternal Life*. 2nd ed., edited by Aidan Nichols, The Catholic University of America Press, 2007, pp. 1-164.

	Bargár, Pavol. "The Modern, the Postmodern, and. . . the Metamodern? Reflections on a Transforming Sensibility from the Perspective of Theological Anthropology." *Transformation*, vol. 38, no. 1, 2021, pp. 3–15. Campbell, Heidi A. "Understanding the Relationship between Religion Online and Offline in a Networked Society." *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*, vol. 80, no. 1, 2012, pp. 64–93. Evans, John H. "The Academic Analysts of the Relationship Between Religion and Science." *Morals Not Knowledge: Recasting the Contemporary U.S. Conflict between Religion and Science*, 1st ed., University of California Press, 2018, pp. 44–62. 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.
Supplementary	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 DA	**Exclusively Continuous Assessment** NE	**Included in Average Grade** DA
Prerequisites to Obtain Signature and Take Final Exam		
Examination Manner		
Grading Manner		
Detailed Overview of Grading within ECTS		

IV. WEEKLY CLASS SCHEDULE

[Predavanja]

#	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