Detailed Course Syllabus

Academic year: 2026/2027	**Semester:** Winter semester
Year of study: 1	**Study Program:** Povijest (R) (elective) (Prijediplomski) Sestrinstvo (I) (elective) (Prijediplomski) Komunikologija (R) (elective) (Prijediplomski) Sestrinstvo (R) (elective) (Prijediplomski) Sociologija (R) (elective) (Prijediplomski) Primaljstvo (R) (elective) (Prijediplomski) Primaljstvo (I) (elective) (Prijediplomski)

I. BASIC COURSE INFORMATION

Name: Dr. Ivan Merz - Selected Topics	
Abbreviation: IZBP261	
ECTS: 4	**Code:** 278817
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: Kevo Mario	
Academic Degree:	**Professional Title:** redoviti profesor
Contact E-mail: mario.kevo@unicath.hr	**Telephone:**
Office Hours: According to the published schedule	
Course Assistant	
Name and Surname: Bilobrk Petar	
Academic Degree:	**Professional Title:** naslovni asistent
Contact E-mail: pbilobrk@hrstud.hr	**Telephone:**
Office Hours: According to the published schedule	

III. DETAILED COURSE INFORMATION

Teaching Language: English

Course Description	The course presents the life and work of Dr. Ivan Merz within the historical and cultural context of the period from 1896 to 1928. It examines the impact of Merz's activities and ideas through the analysis of expanded interdisciplinary fields as factors of influence and significant changes in the cultural and social circumstances of the time. The methodology and structure of Merz's work are introduced, highlighting the multifaceted contributions achieved within his various areas of interest. By understanding and adopting new conclusions about the significance and influence of his contributions on the Croatian cultural corpus of the 20th century, students are enabled to situate Merz's impact within a broader European context.
Educational Outcomes	1. Explain the fundamental social and cultural processes of Croatian history at the beginning of the 20th century; 2. Critically evaluate the processes underlying the enduring tensions between Catholicism and modernism at the beginning of the 20th century, based on historiographic approaches and research; 3. Analyse primary and secondary sources, including academic and professional literature; 4. Produce a clear and well-structured written paper related to the topic; 5. Deliver a clear and well-structured oral presentation related to the topic; 6. Apply ethical principes in work.
Textbooks and Materials	
Required	1. I. Merz, „Diary 1914 – 1928", Postulation for the Canonization of the Bl. Ivan Merz, Philosophical Faculty of the Society of Jesus, Glas Koncila, Zagreb, Croatia, 2014; https://ivanmerz.hr/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/DIARY-SVE-ZA-WEB.pdf; 2. I. Merz, "Put k suncu" ("The Way to the Sun"), Selected writings; Zagreb, Postulation of Ivan Merz, 1978.; 3. I. Merz, "Put k suncu" ("The Way to the Sun"), Selected texts of Ivan Merz; Zagreb, The Institute of Philosophy and Theology and Postulation for Beatification of Ivan Merz, 1993.; 4. D. Kniewald, "Ivan Merz – Život i djelovanje" ("Ivan Merz – Life and Work"), Zagreb, 1932.; 5. D. Kniewald, "Sluga Božji – Dr. Ivan Merz" ("The Servant of God – Dr. Ivan Merz"), the second edition, Zagreb, 1988.; Symposium on Ivan Merz in 1996 – works published in the periodical *Obnovljeni život* ("The Renewed Life"), no. 3 /4 , 1997.; 6. J. Vrbanek,"Vitez Kristov Ivan Merz" ("Christ's Knight Ivan Merz"), Zagreb, 1943.
Supplementary	https://ivanmerz.hr/
Examination and Grading	

To Be Passed DA	**Exclusively Continuous Assessment** NE	**Included in Average Grade** DA

Prerequisites to Obtain Signature and Take Final Exam	1. **Regular attendance at classes –** attendance of at least 70 % of classes according to the study program. 2. **Fully completed seminar obligations** - prepared and submitted presentation, and accepted written version of the paper. 3. **Obtaining a minimum success rate of 35 % during classes within the assigned teaching activities** - achieved cumulatively through seminar obligation and midterm exams.

Grade Scale:

insufficient (1) – 0 to 49.9%

sufficient (2) – 50–64.9%

good (3) – 65–79.9%

very good (4) – 80–89.9%

excellent (5) – 90% and above.

Examination Manner

a) Teaching activities:

a. Seminar obligations – 20 % of the grade
b. Midterm exam 1 – 25 % of the grade
c. Midterm exam 2 – 25 % of the grade

b) Final exam:

a. **Final exam** – 30 % of the grade (*to pass, it is necessary to solve at least 50% of the exam*)

Oral exam – 30 %

Grading Manner

1. **Teaching activities** (seminar; midterm exams).
2. **Final exam** (oral)

Detailed Overview of Grading within ECTS

ACTIVITY TYPE	ECTS Student Workload Coefficient	GRADE PERCENTAGE (%)
Class Attendance	1,13	0
Seminar Presentation	0,57	20
Midterm Exam	0,72	25
Midterm Exam	0,72	25
Total in Class	**3,14**	**70**
Final Exam	0,86	30

TOTAL ECTS **(Classes + Final Exam)**	**4**	**100**

IV. WEEKLY CLASS SCHEDULE

[Predavanja]

#	Topic
1	Introductory Lecture
2	Life and Education of Dr. Ivan Merz
3	Catholic Renewal in Croatia and the Role of Ivan Merz
4	Ivan Merz as a Role Model for Catholic Laity
5	Liturgy in the Theology and Practice of Ivan Merz
6	French Influence on Ivan Merz
7	Midterm Exam 1
8	Ivan Merz and Social Engagement
9	Written Legacy of Dr. Ivan Merz
10	Holiness in the Modern World: Lessons from the Life of Ivan Merz
11	The Beatification Process of Ivan Merz
12	Spiritual Leadership of Youth and Education for Eternal Values
13	The Role of Ivan Merz in Building National and Spiritual Identity
14	Midterm Exam 2
15	Relevance of Ivan Merz's Thought in Contemporary Society and Course Evaluation

[Seminari]

#	Topic
1	The influence of Merz education in Zagreb, Vienna, and Paris on the formation of Merz's worldview
2	Ivan Merz as a soldier: The experience of World War I and his spiritual growth
3	Merz's academic work: His doctoral dissertation and its significance
4	Ivan Merz and his vision of holiness in everyday life
5	Spiritual and intellectual turning points in the life of Ivan Merz
6	Catholic Action: Ivan Merz's role in organizing lay believers
7	Promoting the spiritual education of youth through collaboration with the Association of Croatian Eagleship (Hrvatski orlovski savez)
8	Merz's approach to Enlightenment and secularism in society
9	An analysis of Ivan Merz's letters and speeches to young people
10	An analysis of Ivan Merz's letters and speeches to young people

11	Ivan Merz's view of women and their role in Catholic life
12	Ivan Merz as a model of an engaged Christian intellectual
13	An analysis of Ivan Merz's spiritual diaries
14	Lessons from Merz's life for today's Catholic laity
15	Contemporary challenges for the Church through the lens of Ivan Merz's works
16	How can Ivan Merz's messages be transmitted to new generations of young people?