

## BACHELOR IN RELIGIOUS STUDIES

### Main Language of Instruction:

French  English  Arabic

Campus Where the Program Is Offered: CSH

### OBJECTIVES

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The Bachelor program fulfills the Higher Institute of Religious Studies' core mission: offering university-level education in Christian theology and religious studies. This program provides the opportunity to:

- a) Deepen and live out faith with awareness, structure, and responsibility in a constantly changing world.
- b) Develop the skills needed to serve the Church effectively.
- c) Build a strong foundation for specialization in pastoral theology, opening pathways for professional engagement.

In alignment with the guidelines of the Congregation for Catholic Education in its instruction "Reform of Higher Institutes of Religious Studies", which distinguishes the pathway of religious studies from priestly formation by providing essential knowledge in theology, philosophy, and human sciences, this program aims to achieve a more specific purpose. It focuses on enhancing the religious education of laypeople and consecrated individuals, encouraging their active and informed participation in modern evangelization efforts. This includes fostering the engagement of the working world in Church's life and promoting a Christian influence within society.

Additionally, the program prepares students for various lay ministries and Church-related roles while accommodating those interested in gaining essential theological knowledge, including its philosophical foundations and complementary insights from the humanities.

### PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES (COMPETENCIES)

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- Define the theological and anthropological foundations of the Christian faith.
- Adopt a critical and responsible stance in the interpretation of matters of faith and life.
- Update the basis of Christian faith in various pastoral sectors, including teaching, worship, personal, and communal life.
- Construct a transmissible theological production within the field of religious studies, utilizing both speculative/ intellectual and operational tools effectively.
- Access theological sources within different ecclesial traditions.
- Articulate a theological argument by identifying rationally acknowledged truths along with their underlying conceptual and philosophical foundations.
- Situate pastoral practice within the complex reality of the Church in the world.
- Promote holistic personal and professional development within an integration framework.

### PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

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**180 credits: Required courses (145 credits), Institution's elective courses (35 credits)**


#### USJ General Education Program (37 Cr.)

- English (Exemption) (4 Cr.)
- Biblical Greek Language / ILO (2 Cr.)
- Biblical Hebrew Language / ILO (2 Cr.)

#### Arabic (Arab Culture - 6 Cr.)

- Introduction to the Old Testament (3 Cr.)
- Introduction to the New Testament (3 Cr.)

#### Humanities (9 Cr.)

- Introduction to Ethics (3 Cr.)
  - Faith and Reason (Paths of Reason in the Oasis of Faith) (3 Cr.)
  - Social Teaching of the Church (3 Cr.)
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### **Social Sciences (6 Cr.)**

Introduction to Sociology (3 Cr.)  
Theology of Christian Education and Catechesis (3 Cr.)

### **Quantitative Techniques (6 Cr.)**

Methods for Approaching Social Reality (3 Cr.)  
Applied Statistics in Religious Studies (3 Cr.)

### **Communication Techniques (6 Cr.)**


Text Analysis Methodology (3 Cr.)  
Research Methodology in Theology and Religious Studies (3 Cr.)

### **Required Courses (145 Cr.)**

Research Methodology in Theology and Religious Studies (3 Cr.). Research Methodology: Engaging with Text (3 Cr.). Summary of Christian Doctrine (3 Cr.). The Church: Sacrament, People, and Institution (3 Cr.). Eastern Churches: Origins and Identities (3 Cr.). John: The Gospel, the Letters, and Revelation (3 Cr.). Introduction to the Old Testament (3 Cr.). Introduction to the New Testament (3 Cr.). Spiritual Growth (3 Cr.). Introduction to Church Fathers (3 Cr.). Theological Ethics (3 Cr.). Spiritual Experience and Psychology (3 Cr.). The Books of the Law (Torah) (3 Cr.). Matthew, Mark, and the Synoptic Question (3 Cr.). Christian Anthropology (3 Cr.). Foundational Theology (3 Cr.). Theology, Christian Education and Catechesis (3 Cr.). The Prophets (3 Cr.). Epistemology (The Philosophy Of Knowledge) (3 Cr.). Church History in the First Millennium (3 Cr.). Liturgical Theology (3 Cr.). Eastern Churches: Vocation and Mission (3 Cr.). Mary in the Sacrament of Salvation (3 Cr.). Luke – Acts of the Apostles (3 Cr.). Practical Theology: Foundations and Perspectives (3 Cr.). Christology: Who Do You Say That I Am? (3 Cr.). Introduction to Islamic Doctrine (3 Cr.). Patristics: Overview (3 Cr.). Sexuality and Christian Life (3 Cr.). Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist (3 Cr.). Religious Sociology (3 Cr.). Sacrament of the Trinity and Pneumatology (3 Cr.). Introduction to Canon Law (3 Cr.). Christian Ethics and Biomedical Advances (3 Cr.). Introduction to Judaism (3 Cr.). Saint Paul (3 Cr.). Church and Ecumenism and the Middle East (3 Cr.). Christian Heritage in the Arab East (3 Cr.). Faith and Reason (3 Cr.). Foundational Ethics (3 Cr.). Anthropology of Religions (3 Cr.). Methods of Approaching Social Reality (3 Cr.). Social Teaching of the Church (3 Cr.). Applied Statistics in Religious Studies (3 Cr.). Biblical Greek (2 Cr.). Biblical Hebrew (2 Cr.). Portfolio (9 Cr.).

### **Institution's Elective Courses (35 credits must be selected from the 77 credits offered)**

Hebrews and Catholic Epistles (3 Cr.). Psalms and Wisdom Books (3 Cr.). Reading Biblical texts (3 Cr.). Reading Theological Texts - Christology (3 Cr.) / Trinity and Theology of the Holy Spirit (3 Cr.). Church History – The Second Millennium (in the West) (3 Cr.). Church History – The Second Millennium (in the East) (3 Cr.). Church Fathers – Era or School (3 Cr.). Contemporary Philosophy (3 Cr.). Medieval and Modern Philosophy (3 Cr.). Schools of Ancient Philosophy (3 Cr.). Syriac 1 (2 Cr.). Spiritual Theology and Spiritual Schools (3 Cr.). Spiritual Discernment (3 Cr.). The Quran (2 Cr.). Druze Religion (3 Cr.). Protestantism (3 Cr.). Ignatian Spirituality (3 Cr.). Popular Piety: Between Origins and Deviations (3 Cr.). Cults and New Religious Movements (3 Cr.). Aesthetic Theology: Art in Service of the Mission (3 Cr.). Training in Christian-Muslim Dialogue (3 Cr.). Various Sessions and Workshops.



## SUGGESTED STUDY PLAN

### Semester 1

Code	Course Name	Credits
018MOKHL1	Summary of Christian Doctrine	3
018ILAKL2	Introduction to Ethics FG	3
018KACML1	The Church: Sacrament, People, and Institution	3
018KCNHL1	Eastern Churches: Origins and Identities	3
018YIRRL3	John: The Gospel, the Letters, and Revelation	3
018MAAKL3	Introduction to the Old Testament FG	3
018MADJL1	Introduction to the New Testament FG	3
018NROUL4	Spiritual Growth	3
018MABAL1	Research Methodology (1 & 2) FG	2
	Institution's elective courses	4
	<b>Total</b>	<b>30</b>

### Semester 2

Code	Course Name	Credits
018DAWIL2	Faith and Reason FG	3
018ABKAI1	Introduction to Church Fathers	3
018LAAKL3	Theological Ethics	3
018KRINL2	Spiritual Experience and Psychology	3
018KOCAL2	The Books of the Law (Torah)	3
018MMMIL3	Matthew, Mark, and the Synoptic Question	3
018ANTML3	Christian Anthropology	3
018MRTHL1	Research Methodology in Theology and Religious Studies FG	3
	<b>Total</b>	<b>30</b>

### Semester 3

Code	Course Name	Credits
018LAASL1	Foundational Theology	3
018LTMTL5	Theology, Christian Education and Catechesis FG	3
018KOANL2	The Prophets	3
018EPIML3	Epistemology (The Philosophy Of Knowledge)	3
018TAKAL1	Church History in the First Millennium	3
018LAHOL4	Liturgical Theology	3
018TMWIL3	Methods of Approaching Social Reality FG	3
018KACHL2	Eastern Churches: Vocation and Mission	3
018STATM2	Applied Statistics in Religious Studies FG	3
	<b>Total</b>	<b>30</b>

#### Semester 4

Code	Course Name	Credits
018MARIL5	Mary in the Sacrament of Salvation	3
018TKIJL3	Social Teaching of the Church FG	3
017BIIAL1	Summary of Islamic Doctrine IEIC	3
018LUACL3	Luke – Acts of the Apostles	3
018LAOTL4	Practical Theology: Foundations and Perspectives	3
018CRISL1	Christology: Who Do You Say That I Am?	3
045PMEDL2	Medieval and Modern Philosophy ILO	3
045LLPAL1	Biblical Hebrew FG-ILO	2
	<b>Total</b>	<b>30</b>

#### Semester 5

Code	Course Name	Credits
018ATADL3	Anthropology of Religions	3
018ITAKL3	Church Fathers: Overview	3
018HJAML3	Sexuality and Christian Life	3
018PCOAL2	Christian Heritage in the Arab East	3
018ATITL6	Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist	3
018MIJL1	Introduction to Sociology FG	3
018THLRL3	Sacrament of the Trinity and Pneumatology	3
017FORTF1	Training in Muslim-Christian Dialogue IEIC	3
045LAGIL2	Biblical Greek FG-ILO	2
	<b>Total</b>	<b>30</b>

#### Semester 6

Code	Course Name	Credits
018INDCL1	Introduction to Legal Rights (Canon Law)	3
018KMTBL4	Christian Ethics and Biomedical Developments (Bioethics)	3
018MDYAL2	Introduction to Judaism	3
018KBOUL6	Saint Paul	3
018KMMOL4	Churches and Ecumenism and Middle East	3
	Theological Texts: Christology, the Holy Trinity, and the Theology of the Holy Spirit	3
018PRTFL6	Portfolio	9
	<b>Total</b>	<b>30</b>

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

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<b>018MOKHL1</b>	<b>Summary of Christian Doctrine</b>	<b>3 Cr.</b>
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This course introduces students to the key elements of Christian faith, focusing on Jesus Christ, His person, His teachings, and the events of His life. These aspects of faith go beyond just the basic facts; they are deeply interconnected with the life of the Christian community. Students will explore how this faith is shared, defended, and preserved throughout history, as well as how it interacts with different cultures and civilizations.

<b>018ILAKL2</b>	<b>Introduction to Ethics</b>	<b>3 Cr.</b>
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This course provides a methodological approach to ethics, allowing students to build a constructive path for evaluating and improving human behavior, both individually and collectively, in general and specific terms.

<b>018KACML1</b>	<b>The Church: Sacrament, People, and Institution</b>	<b>3 Cr.</b>
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Through this course, students will explore the challenges of understanding the Church in an increasingly diverse religious and cultural environment, while grounding their study in the mystery of the Church's Trinitarian nature. The Church, through its connection to God, possesses both an intrinsic nature and a mission to reach out to humanity, inviting all to share in God's intimate life. This course highlights the essential characteristics that define the Church's identity as well as the tasks it is called to accomplish. Students will understand how the Church lives out its mission through service in a specific human context and location.

<b>018KCNHL1</b>	<b>Eastern Churches: Origins and Identities</b>	<b>3 Cr.</b>
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This course aims to explore the richness and diversity of the churches in the East by studying the historical, cultural, and ecclesiastical development of each church. It focuses on understanding the role and mission of the churches in the Middle East, particularly in relation to their evangelical identity and their communities.

<b>018YIRRL3</b>	<b>John: The Gospel, the Letters, and Revelation</b>	<b>3 Cr.</b>
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This course focuses on the Gospel of John, the "spiritual Gospel" par excellence, and aims to explore several key questions: What distinguishes this Gospel from the Synoptic Gospels? What are the main theological elements that shape its message? What image of Christ does it emphasize? What are the underlying symbols in its teachings? Finally, what is the place of the three letters and the Book of Revelation within the Johannine writings?

<b>018MAAKL3</b>	<b>Introduction to the Old Testament</b>	<b>3 Cr.</b>
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This course allows students to gain an understanding of the Bible in general, and the Old Testament in particular, while identifying the sections of the canonical sacred books. It helps them distinguish between human expression and the content of divine revelation, enabling them to understand the nature of the biblical text's formation within its surrounding environment. Students will also identify the relationship between the two testaments and explore key theological themes present in the sacred writings.

In summary, this course serves as a general introduction to the world of the Bible. It provides students with an overall view of God's written word from a faith-based, theological, scientific, geographical, cultural, historical, anthropological, social, and literary perspective.

<b>018MADJL1</b>	<b>Introduction to the New Testament</b>	<b>3 Cr.</b>
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This course serves as a general introduction to the New Testament and covers the following topics:

- An overview of the entire New Testament in its historical context, along with a brief introduction to the books it contains.
- Accompanying the apostles in the personal discovery of the character of Jesus Christ, the human-divine figure, risen from the dead, from their first encounter with Him to the writing of His message, including the preaching in His name.
- Introducing students to textual criticism and the study of texts, using various literary, historical, and linguistic methods.

<b>018NROUL4</b>	<b>Spiritual Growth</b>	<b>3 Cr.</b>
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This course aims to open avenues for reflecting on spiritual growth. Spiritual life grows and interacts with students in all their physical, mental, emotional, and social dimensions. It is a journey that begins with an encounter with God and is rooted in His word, lived out in the church and in the heart of the world.

<b>018MABAL1</b>	<b>Research Methodology (1 &amp; 2)</b>	<b>2 Cr.</b>
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This course helps students begin their research work at all levels and in all fields of study.

<b>018DAWIL2</b>	<b>Faith and Reason (The Paths of Reason in the Oasis of Faith)</b>	<b>3 Cr.</b>
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This course aims to:

- Define the concepts of reason and religion in their anthropological and functional dimensions.
- Provide an overview of the development of theological and philosophical thought regarding the relationship between faith and reason.
- Develop critical thinking that contributes to establishing beliefs on objective foundations and helps defend these beliefs logically, free from doctrinal extremism.

<b>018ABKAI1</b>	<b>Introduction to Church Fathers</b>	<b>3 Cr.</b>
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This course introduces the thought of the Church Fathers from the Apostolic era to the seventh century. It covers the Eastern Church Fathers (Greek and Syriac) as well as the Western Church Fathers. The course follows a historical order in presenting the material, as the works of the Fathers are closely linked to the historical events they lived through. First, it begins with an overview of their origins to understand the sources of their writings and the influence of their environment on them. Second, it delves directly into their writings, using analysis and critical methods to understand each Father's doctrine and arguments based on their texts. Due to the breadth of this subject, the study will focus on a specific number of Fathers, while briefly presenting others.

<b>018LAAKL3</b>	<b>Theological Ethics</b>	<b>3 Cr.</b>
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This course aims to provide the basic ethical formation required for a committed Christian by guiding students through the world of human work using a dual approach: rational and faith based. The first approach is provided through the courses titled "Fundational Ethics" or "Introduction to Ethics." Meanwhile, this course addresses the faith-based approach to ethics.

This course seeks to address, in light of the Bible and Christian tradition, a series of questions that occupy the human conscience in its relationship with others and with God: How does the believing community in the God of Jesus Christ define good and evil? How are values connected and coordinated, and how can we activate principles and laws to make appropriate distinctions and make human actions more humane? In short, how does one act well?

<b>018KRINL2</b>	<b>Spiritual Experience and Psychology</b>	<b>3 Cr.</b>
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This course introduces students to the psychological impact of religion in general and spiritual experience in particular, on the mental, intellectual, and social life of both individuals and communities. Psychology, since its emergence in the 19th century, has explored these influences. The course provides students with psychological concepts and tools drawn from various classical and contemporary psychological schools in their approach to spiritual experience. This approach will help students distinguish between the psychological and spiritual dimensions and address the issue of defining the boundaries between these two aspects.

<b>018KOCAL2</b>	<b>The Books of the Law (Torah)</b>	<b>3 Cr.</b>
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This course examines the significance of the five books of the Torah in relation to other biblical texts. It investigates how this collection of books, which refers to the Torah in a narrow sense, can also encompass the entire Old Testament in a broader sense. It explores whether these five books truly form the foundation of divine revelation and why they are not limited to serving as civil and religious law but also as history, presenting us with narratives.

<b>018MMMIL3</b>	<b>Matthew, Mark, and the Synoptic Question</b>	<b>3 Cr.</b>
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This course examines the three Synoptic Gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke, which share a similar approach to

narrating the “Good News.” They are thus referred to as the Synoptic Gospels. Students will explore the unique characteristics of each Synoptic Gospel, particularly Matthew and Mark. They will also analyze the questions raised by the differences or similarities that surprise us when comparing the texts. The course begins with a historical discussion of the Synoptic Problem and the scholarly challenges it presents in interpreting and understanding the Gospels. Students will then focus on the formation of the Gospels of Matthew and Mark, highlighting their common elements and distinct features: how each presents a unique image of Christ (Christology). Finally, using a scientific methodology, students will engage in a close reading of passages from the Gospels, comparing them to one another. This comparative analysis will allow students to practice two critical approaches: historical criticism and narrative analysis.

**018ANTML3      Christian Anthropology      3 Cr.**

This course explores theology as a discourse not only about God but also about humanity. Students will understand the nature of humanity through the lens of the Bible, recognizing humans as made in God’s image and likeness. It compares these foundational biblical texts with creation narratives from ancient religions to deepen students’ understanding of both God’s nature and humanity’s essence. Additionally, students will examine the significant influence of Greek philosophy on the Church’s theology, the image of humanity, and the teachings of St. Paul in his letters. Ultimately, students will discuss on the incarnation and the humanity of Jesus Christ.

**018MRTHL1      Research Methodology in Theology and Religious Studies      3 Cr.**

This course focuses on the methodology required to achieve the goals of academic work. Students will learn how to gather and evaluate essential information for their research, express their ideas clearly, make sound suggestions, and convince the reader with strong arguments and evidence. To balance knowledge, insight, analysis, critique, and innovation, students will not rely on guesswork or intuition but will follow established rules and principles. In this course, students will practice key academic skills, including how to analyze theological texts, define terms, raise important questions, create outlines, and write well-structured paragraphs.

**018LAASL1      Foundational Theology      3 Cr.**

This course focuses on the development of fundamental theology, especially since the 1970s, in light of the new direction presented by the Second Vatican Council. New roles and dialogue partners have emerged, shifting this discipline away from academic disputes and placing it at the heart of dialogue. The course highlights the importance of listening to the other and making an effort to understand their stance. The aim is no longer to expose the errors of others, but to respond to the credibility and reasonableness of faith. This course emphasizes that fundamental theology reflects the changing state of theology and Christianity. In an era marked by the loss of traditional evidence, the rapid erosion of faith in the face of increasing secularization, and new challenges posed by globalization, fundamental theology seeks to adapt to these new conditions and provide different approaches to address the questions and problems that arise.

**018LTMTL5      Theology, Christian Education and Catechesis      3 Cr.**

This course aims to help students distinguish between two forms of the service of the word in their theological thinking and in their practice of Christian teaching. It seeks to understand Christian teaching both in its theological and historical dimensions, so that students can differentiate between what is constant and what changes within a given context.

**018KOANL2      The Prophets      3 Cr.**

This course aims to explore the origins and environments of the prophetic movement in the Old Testament (Pre-exilic prophets) based on the richness and complexity of prophetic literature. What role did the prophets play? What connections did they establish with the major historical events of their time? What were their responsibilities within society? When and how were the books of the prophets compiled into the biblical canon? The course then studies the post-exilic prophets, focusing on key themes such as the covenant, the Day of the Lord, and messianic expectation.

**018EPIML3      Epistemology (The Philosophy Of Knowledge)      3 Cr.**

This course examines the varying definitions of epistemology in the Anglo-Saxon and French traditions. In the Anglo-Saxon context, epistemology is seen as a philosophical discipline that investigates the nature of knowledge

(gnoseology), while in the French context, it addresses the principles, concepts, and methods involved in scientific inquiry. We do not need to adhere to a single definition, as both perspectives can be integrated. As Wittgenstein famously stated, “The meaning of a word is its use.”

The course explores key concepts such as the definition of science, scientific methodologies, testing, objectivity, and others, as well as the major figures and intellectual movements (such as the Vienna Circle, Hempel, Popper, and Russell).

It also delves into the nature of theological activity: Is theology a science? The course examines its relationship with ecclesiastical authority, theological language, and other relevant issues.

<b>018TAKAL1</b>	<b>Church History in the First Millennium</b>	<b>3 Cr.</b>
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This course examines the first millennium of church history, which is divided into two classical periods: the ancient period (from the 1st to the 5th century) and the medieval period (from the 5th to the 11th century). The course highlights the emergence of Christianity and its beginnings in the Jewish context, as well as within the Roman Empire. It then explores the spread of Christianity and the impact of Christian persecution. The 4th and 5th centuries represent significant developments in Christian doctrine, culminating in the first major schism between the Chalcedonian and non-Chalcedonian churches.

With the medieval period, the course covers the power struggles between the papacy and the emperor, the spread of Islam in the eastern Mediterranean region, and the Western Christian engagement with the barbarian tribes, which led to the organization of Christianity outside the Byzantine Empire. This period concludes with the Great Schism, which divided the churches of Rome and Constantinople.

<b>018LAHOL4</b>	<b>Liturgical Theology</b>	<b>3 Cr.</b>
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This course explores the theological concept of liturgy, which originates from the mystery of the Holy Trinity and is fulfilled in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit. It examines how this mystery is revealed and realized as a “sacramental liturgical act” shared between the Holy Spirit and the Church in the final times. The course also delves into the conciliar document *Sacrosanctum Concilium* on the sacred liturgy, highlighting the rich diversity of liturgical rites rooted in the varied churches, each shaped by its unique historical, cultural, theological, and spiritual heritage.

<b>018TMWIL3</b>	<b>Methods of Approaching Social Reality</b>	<b>3 Cr.</b>
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This course provides a scientific and field-based perspective for understanding the reality of any society, using several scientific methods, including both quantitative and qualitative approaches. Special emphasis will be placed on the qualitative method, focusing on direct observation, interviews, and note-taking, followed by analysis. This approach will help students of religious studies gain a deeper understanding of the reality of a religious community or group. However, the quantitative method, based on survey techniques, will also be considered.

<b>018KACHL2</b>	<b>Eastern Churches: Vocation and Mission</b>	<b>3 Cr.</b>
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Now more than ever, Christians are called to find meaning in their presence in the Middle East. This quest for meaning is intrinsically linked to the vocation and mission of the Eastern Churches to which they belong. This course introduces students to this quest by examining:

- The original history of Eastern Churches and their encounters with Muslims, with the West, and with the Church of Rome.
- The wounds of divisions and wars that have weakened or hindered their common mission over centuries.
- The current challenges and issues faced in their mission in the Middle East today.

<b>018STATM2</b>	<b>Applied Statistics in Religious Studies</b>	<b>3 Cr.</b>
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This course familiarizes students with designing and organizing quantitative surveys using questionnaires, as well as analyzing and interpreting results using SPSS software.

<b>018MARIL5</b>	<b>Mary in the Sacrament of Salvation</b>	<b>3 Cr.</b>
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This course aims to explore the role of the Virgin Mary in the Sacrament of Salvation based on Scriptures, the teachings of the Fathers, the doctrine of the Church, the teachings of Vatican II, as well as the status of the Virgin Mary in Orthodox and Protestant theology.



<b>018TKIJL3</b>	<b>Social Teaching of the Church</b>	<b>3 Cr.</b>
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This course explores the theological foundation of the Church's social teaching, rooted in the revelation accomplished through Jesus Christ, the incarnate Son of God. The course highlights how the Church's belief in the Incarnation and Resurrection prioritizes the inherent dignity of every individual across all social dimensions. It also examines the dual mission of the Church: fostering the community of believers within (the movement within the Church) and fulfilling the mission of this community, both individually and collectively, in the world (the Church's engagement with the world). This mission aligns with the central goal of promoting integrated human development through an anthropological and salvific vision.

The course explains how the Church's social teaching provides principles for action, criteria for judgment, and practical guidelines to support this holistic vision of humanity. It serves as a tool for moral and pastoral discernment in addressing the complex challenges of our time. Students will be equipped to critically analyze and interpret contemporary realities and devise or innovate appropriate responses across various fields of life, including family, work, economics, politics, and environmental stewardship.

<b>018LUACL3</b>	<b>Luke – Acts of the Apostles</b>	<b>3 Cr.</b>
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This course examines the Gospel of Luke and the Acts of the Apostles through a sequential interpretation of key texts, complemented by synchronic and narrative comparisons. Students will explore the major theological themes presented in these parts of the New Testament, gaining a deeper understanding of their messages and significance.

<b>018LAOTL4</b>	<b>Practical Theology: Foundations and Perspectives</b>	<b>3 Cr.</b>
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This course explores the emergence and development of practical theology as a response to the declining influence of theoretical theology in the Enlightenment era. Theologians began seeking approaches rooted in daily lived realities as sources for theological thought. By the late 18th century, this gave rise to a new theological method, eventually established as a distinct field known as practical theology.

Practical theology aims to reconnect theology with lived experience, moving beyond purely theoretical frameworks. This shift has led to the diversification of the discipline, resulting in various branches of practical theology. While some, like liberation theology, have faced criticism, others continue to bear fruit and open new horizons in theological, ecclesial, and Christian thought and practice. Students will examine these developments and their implications for contemporary theology.

<b>018CRISL1</b>	<b>Christology: Who Do You Say That I Am?</b>	<b>3 Cr.</b>
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This course focuses on the centrality of Jesus Christ in Christian faith as the foundation, path, and purpose, embodying the Gospel and its message. Christian life finds its meaning in the encounter with Jesus, as Pope Benedict XVI stated: "Being Christian is not the result of an ethical choice or a lofty idea, but of an encounter with an event, a person, which gives life a new horizon and a decisive direction."

The course aims to address the question Jesus posed to His disciples in Caesarea Philippi: "But who do you say that I am?" (Matthew 16:15).

Students will begin by exploring Christology to understand the significance of Christ in Christian faith. The course examines representations of Christ in the New Testament, His titles, and the Christological doctrines proclaimed in the councils. Students will then delve into historical research on the person of Jesus and explore approaches to presenting Him effectively in Arab and Eastern contexts.

<b>018ATADL3</b>	<b>Anthropology of Religions</b>	<b>3 Cr.</b>
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This course explores the distinction between religious anthropology, which examines a religion's view of humanity, its origins, and the purpose of life, and the anthropology of religions, which focuses on the human perspective on God, divinity, and religion as a subject of study. While religious anthropology adopts a theological lens, the anthropology of religions offers a human-centered approach, analyzing religion from a secular perspective. Students will study rituals, their functions, and symbols, as well as the interplay between the sacred and the profane. The course also examines sacrifices and their central role in various religions, alongside humanity's thirst for eternal life and rejection of death, which underpins much of anthropological reflection. This dual focus provides a comprehensive understanding of the human relationship with religion and spirituality.

<b>018ITAKL3</b>	<b>Patristics: Overview</b>	<b>3 Cr.</b>
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This course addresses the foundational question, “What is the human being?” through the lens of Christian anthropology, which begins with the concept of humanity being “created in the image of God.” While interpretations of this concept vary, the patristic tradition emphasizes theosis—the divinization of humanity—as the ultimate understanding of human existence.

Students will explore the term theosis in the thought of the Church Fathers, examining its roots and significance. Is it truly a Christian doctrine? What are its sources? Is it a uniquely Eastern Christian development, or does it have parallels in Western Christian thought? The course relies on primary patristic texts and contemporary studies to investigate these questions, combining lectures with preparatory activities to deepen understanding and engagement.

<b>018HJAML3</b>	<b>Sexuality and Christian Life</b>	<b>3 Cr.</b>
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This course delves into human sexuality, described by Ruiz Retegui as encompassing the full spectrum of elements that shape the human being, whether man or woman, and as deeply ingrained in their entire existence. Far from being merely a mode of being, sexuality represents the human dimension that enables mutual self-giving and exchange (Aquilino PALAINO-LORENTE, «Éducation sexuelle,» in *Conseil pontifical pour la famille Lexique des termes ambigus et controversés sur la famille, la vie et les questions éthiques*, Pierre TEQUI, Paris, 2005, pp. 305–316). Adopting an interdisciplinary perspective rooted in anthropology, theology, and Christian ethics, this course explores the biological, physical, historical, and spiritual dimensions of human sexuality. It emphasizes contemporary interpretations shaped by advances in scientific knowledge and evolving social and cultural dynamics.

<b>018PCOAL2</b>	<b>Christian Heritage in the Arab East</b>	<b>3 Cr.</b>
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This course provides an exploratory view of Christian Arabic literature across different periods and theological issues. It aims to familiarize students with this Christian literature and engage with the University’s research center, CEDRAC.

<b>018ATITL6</b>	<b>Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist</b>	<b>3 Cr.</b>
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This course serves as a continuation of Liturgical Theology, focusing on the sacraments of Christian initiation—Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist—through which the salvific plan is realized in the last times by the shared power of the Holy Spirit and the Church in a sacramental form. Sacramentality becomes the foundation and standard for a pastoral approach that is mystagogical, harmonizing the various liturgical celebrations with the daily personal and communal life of believers. The course aims to explore the biblical and theological foundations of each sacrament and their effects on the life of individuals and the community.

<b>018MIJL1</b>	<b>Introduction to Sociology</b>	<b>3 Cr.</b>
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Sociology is one of the human sciences that is increasingly gaining attention for its approach to social issues related to the living conditions of diverse communities. This approach aligns with the scientific foundations and methods for understanding, discussing, and assessing the impact of social events on various aspects of individuals’ and communities’ lives.

Therefore, this course addresses the theoretical and practical foundations that help students develop their understanding of social reality and achieve a scientific comprehension of social phenomena.

<b>018THLRL3</b>	<b>Sacrament of the Trinity and Pneumatology</b>	<b>3 Cr.</b>
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This course addresses the early Christians’ challenge of coherently reconciling their (Jewish) faith in one God with their personal experience of the work of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit in their lives. They believe in the existence of only one God, but they experience—distinctly and uniquely—that the Father is God, the Son, Jesus, is God, and the Spirit is God. The effort to reconcile the unity and multiplicity in God does not lie in solving a mathematical or metaphysical puzzle about how three persons can be one God. Instead, the early Christians focused on interpreting the distinct ways in which one God is experienced as present and active in their lives and in the history of their salvation. This God, who is Father, Son, and Spirit, creates, saves, and sanctifies humanity, not by playing different and successive roles in history, but as truly three distinct personal “entities.”

<b>018INDCL1</b>	<b>Introduction to Legal Rights (Canon Law)</b>	<b>3 Cr.</b>
<p>This course explores key theories of legal rights within Catholic, Orthodox, and Protestant churches, examining how each tradition interprets scriptural texts with a legal dimension. It then delves into fundamental principles that serve as the foundation for legal analysis.</p> <p>The course further examines the relationship between legal rights and other theological fields—such as liturgy, doctrine, history, and the Church’s social teaching—highlighting how these areas are formalized through legal frameworks.</p>		
<b>018KMTBL4</b>	<b>Christian Ethics and Biomedical Developments (Bioethics)</b>	<b>3 Cr.</b>
<p>This course addresses the ethical questions arising from technological and scientific advancements in the biological and medical fields, which challenge humanity’s understanding of existence, the world, and issues such as the meaning of life, health, dignity, and suffering. From a Christian faith perspective, the course examines a range of ethical dilemmas stemming from these developments and aims to enlighten personal conscience, guiding responsible decision-making.</p>		
<b>018MDYAL2</b>	<b>Introduction to Judaism</b>	<b>3 Cr.</b>
<p>This course offers a methodological approach to acquiring an objective understanding of Judaism in all its historical, social, cultural, and religious dimensions.</p>		
<b>018KBOUL6</b>	<b>Saint Paul</b>	<b>3 Cr.</b>
<p>This course explores the discovery of salvation through Jesus Christ, which, according to Saint Paul, is inseparable from the mission to the Gentiles and the establishment of communities that live the Gospel. Through the reading of Paul’s letters, the course examines how the apostle responded to the problems emerging in the new churches he founded, as well as the central theological focus of his preaching on the word of the cross.</p>		
<b>018KMMOL4</b>	<b>Churches and Ecumenism and Middle East</b>	<b>3 Cr.</b>
<p>This course addresses the issue of Christians and their future presence in the Middle East through an ecumenical ecclesiastical approach. It examines their situation and historical depth, considering both their glories and failures, particularly the divisions that have contributed to their weakening. The course then outlines the ecclesiastical theological foundations for unity and highlights the dimensions and perspectives that give the highest meaning to their presence and the mission of the one Church in its diversity in the Middle East.</p>		
<b>045LLPAL12</b>	<b>Biblical Hebrew</b>	<b>2 Cr.</b>
<p>This course examines the relevance of learning grammar in an era where digital texts are automatically corrected, specifically focusing on the ancient language of Hebrew. Despite advancements, Hebrew remains a fascinating language to study in itself, whether for appreciating its uniqueness and characteristics or for the purpose of reading and understanding biblical texts. It belongs to the Semitic language group, offering not just common vocabulary but also parallel linguistic structures.</p>		
<b>045LAGIL2</b>	<b>Biblical Greek</b>	<b>2 Cr.</b>
<p>This course aims to provide sufficient knowledge of the NT Greek (Koine) to read and translate biblical or philosophical texts. Course 1 serves as an introduction, covering essential concepts necessary for learning the language and understanding simple sentences.</p>		
<b>018MMNSL2</b>	<b>Engaging With Texts</b>	<b>3 Cr.</b>
<p>This course aims to train students in applying the fundamental analytical research methodology in the research papers they will complete throughout their academic journey.</p>		
<b>017BIIAL1</b>	<b>Summary of Islamic Doctrine</b>	<b>3 Cr.</b>
<p>This course, “A Concise Overview of Islamic Doctrine and the Fundamentals of Belief in Twelver Shia Islam,” provides a brief introduction to the principles of Islamic doctrine, with a particular focus on the beliefs of Twelver Shia Islam. It compares these beliefs to those of other theological groups such as the Mu’tazila, Ash’ariyyah, and</p>		

the Hadith scholars. The course begins by defining Islamic doctrine and distinguishing it from Sharia and religion in general, followed by an exploration of the major Islamic religious sects. It then delves into key theological issues, such as the existence of God, His attributes and names, the concepts of moral good and evil, and their relation to critical matters like divine justice, predestination, free will, and divine decree.

Subsequently, the course examines prophecy, including the necessity of prophethood, its proofs, the infallibility of prophets and the scope of their infallibility, and the specific prophethood of the Prophet Muhammad, including evidence for his prophethood, such as his major miracle, the Qur'an, and other miracles. It also explores the issue of the finality of prophethood and the closure of the prophetic message.

The course continues by addressing the concept of Imamate, discussing the appointment of the Imam by God according to Twelver Shia doctrine, the infallibility of the Imam, and the evidence for this infallibility in comparison to other theological viewpoints, such as those of the Ash'ariyyah, Mu'tazila, and Hadith scholars. The course then focuses on the specific Imamate of Ali ibn Abi Talib after the Prophet Muhammad's passing, examining the disagreements among Muslims on this matter, and addresses the topic of the awaited Imam, the Mahdi.

Finally, the course concludes with a study of the afterlife, including the theologians' views on bodily resurrection and the evidence supporting this belief, contrasting with the philosophers' perspectives. It also covers the theological debates regarding the nature of death, the existence of the Barzakh (intermediate realm), and compares different views on issues related to the afterlife, such as repentance, intercession, and the forgiveness of major sins.

<b>018PRTFL6</b>	<b>Portfolio</b>	<b>9 Cr.</b>
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The portfolio serves as an assessment modality for evaluating the student's progression in relation to their practice, while also establishing connections between practice and theory. It is a validation or certification portfolio divided into four parts:

1. The first part presents all the knowledge students have accumulated over the years and their motivations for pursuing this training.
2. The second part describes the continuation and regulation of their training.
3. In the third part, students assess their training, highlighting their theological achievements and their relationship to theological education.
4. Finally, after presenting the written portfolio, students also defend it before a jury for validation.

### Elective Courses

- Hebrews and Catholic Epistles (3 Cr.)
- Psalms and Wisdom Books (3 Cr.)
- Biblical Readings: Topics (3 Cr.)
- Biblical Readings: Christology/Trinity and Theology of the Holy Spirit (3 Cr.)
- Church History – The Second Millennium (in the West) (3 Cr.)
- Church History – The Second Millennium (in the East) (3 Cr.)
- Church Fathers – Era or School (3 Cr.)
- Contemporary Philosophy (3 Cr.)
- Medieval and Modern Philosophy (3 Cr.)
- Schools of Ancient Philosophy (3 Cr.)
- Syriac Language (2 Cr.)
- Spiritual Theology and Spiritual Schools (3 Cr.)
- Spiritual Discernment (3 Cr.)
- The Quran (3 Cr.)
- Druze Religion (3 Cr.)
- Protestantism (3 Cr.)

### COURSE DESCRIPTION OF INSTITUTIONS' ELECTIVE COURSES

<b>018IBRKL2</b>	<b>Hebrews and Catholic Epistles</b>	<b>3 Cr.</b>
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This course delves into the Letter to the Hebrews, one of the most profound and enigmatic texts in the New Testament. While questions surrounding its authorship and identity persist, the richness of the text compels students to explore its Christological themes, deeply intertwined with both the Old and New Testaments. This course focuses on key theological issues such as the priesthood of Christ, the relationship between faith and works, and the significance of perseverance in faith.

Moreover, this course examines the seven “Catholic Epistles” in the New Testament, so named because they are addressed to the broader Christian community. These epistles stand as a testament to the vitality of Christian theological reflection amidst the shifting challenges and evolving circumstances faced by the early Church. Through this course, students will gain a deeper understanding of this transformative period in the history of the early Christian communities.

<b>018MZKHL5</b>	<b>Psalms and Wisdom Books</b>	<b>3 Cr.</b>
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This course explores the intertwined nature of wisdom and faith, with wisdom seeking to uncover the true face of God, thus revealing the authentic nature of humanity. While faith is embodied in theological truths, wisdom is rooted in existential experience. The two are deeply connected, and this course investigates how they are presented in the poetic and wisdom literature of the Bible. Through a comprehensive study of the Psalms and wisdom books, this course addresses the profound human questions these texts aim to answer, examining their theological insights and the challenges they pose for understanding life.

<b>018LBTHL5</b>	<b>Biblical Readings: Topics</b>	<b>3 Cr.</b>
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This course delves into the art of leadership as portrayed in the Bible, where leadership is viewed as the ability to influence and guide others toward shared goals. The biblical texts provide various perspectives, often conflicting, on leadership and its role in fulfilling God’s plan. Students will analyze key biblical figures, exploring how their leadership styles either aligned with or deviated from God’s will. By studying these leadership models, students will gain a deeper understanding of their theological and ethical dimensions in both historical and contemporary contexts.

<b>018LBTHL5</b>	<b>Biblical Readings: Christology/Trinity and Theology of the Holy Spirit</b>	<b>3 Cr.</b>
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This course explores the art of leadership as presented in the Bible. Leadership is typically defined as the ability of an individual to influence others and guide their actions toward shared, predefined goals. However, biblical texts—spanning both the Old and New Testaments—present diverse and sometimes conflicting perspectives on leadership. These texts highlight leaders who use their skills and talents to serve God’s plan for His people, as well as those who deviate from divine will in a pursuit of control and absolute power.

The course aims to achieve two main objectives. First, from a methodological perspective, it examines the challenges and approaches to interpreting leadership themes across various historical and literary contexts within the Bible. Second, it extracts key principles of leadership from the biblical texts, exploring how the scriptures guide the understanding of leadership in a Christian context.

<b>018TKO2L2</b>	<b>Church History – The Second Millennium (in the West)</b>	<b>3 Cr.</b>
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This course examines the history of the second millennium in the West, focusing on the establishment of papal authority and its role in shaping society, territories, and the “empire.” Historical developments, however, led to a split in Western Christianity and a restructuring of the Catholic Church. It was not long before signs of resistance to the church’s dominance emerged, as it sought to impose its vision and organize society. Democracies began to form in opposition to monarchies, and the rise of science promoted independent ways of thinking. The church resisted these changes and lost much of its influence. However, with the Second Vatican Council, the Church redefined its role and the meaning of its presence and mission in the modern world.

The course explores the second millennium of Church history through the texts of the Second Vatican Council, addressing two key issues:

- The modern versus traditional Church.
- The Church’s balance between preserving tradition and embracing modernity.
- The course objectives are to:
  - Familiarize students with the Church’s contemporary language and terminology.
  - Analyze historical events in relation to the Church’s role today.
  - Encourage a holistic interpretation of history, free from ideological bias.
  - Promote an understanding of the present as a continuity of historical development.

<b>018TKMOL3</b>	<b>Church History – The Second Millennium (in the East)</b>	<b>3 Cr.</b>
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This course explores the pivotal events of the second millennium in the history of the Church in the East. It focuses on key historical moments, councils, the evolving relationship between Church and state, the shifting ecclesiastical perspectives between East and West, and the ecumenical developments that emerged in the last century.

<b>018AKHML5</b>	<b>Church Fathers – Era: The Fourth and Fifth Centuries</b>	<b>3 Cr.</b>
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This course explores the theological thought of the Church Fathers in the fourth and fifth centuries, focusing on the development of the doctrines of the Trinity and Christology.

<b>045HPCOL4</b>	<b>Contemporary Philosophy</b>	<b>3 Cr.</b>
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In this course, students will continue their exploration of the history of philosophy by delving into influential figures in contemporary thought, including Nietzsche's philosophy, phenomenology (Husserl), personalism, and existentialism (Sartre).

The course aims to:

1. Provide students with the historical context that shaped contemporary philosophy.
2. Highlight the defining characteristics that set contemporary philosophy apart, such as its emphasis on pluralism, analysis, focus on reality, and clarity.
3. Introduce students to key philosophical movements, including Nietzschean philosophy, phenomenology, personalism, and existentialism.

<b>045PANTL1</b>	<b>Schools of Ancient Philosophy</b>	<b>3 Cr.</b>
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This course covers the beginnings and development of human philosophy in Greece, from the naturalist school (6th century BCE) to Plotinus (d. 270 CE).

The course aims to:

- Explain the beginnings of philosophical thinking, including the historical, social, and political context of the first attempts to interpret the origin of the cosmos.
- Study the stages through which Greek philosophy passed from its inception to Plotinus, and to explore the different Greek philosophical schools, such as: the Pythagorean school, the atomic school, the Epicurean school, and the Stoic school.
- Cover the prominent figures of Greek philosophy, such as: Heraclitus, Parmenides, Socrates, Plato, Aristotle, and others.

<b>018LRMRL3</b>	<b>Spiritual Theology and Spiritual Schools</b>	<b>3 Cr.</b>
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This course introduces spiritual theology, exploring its foundations, methodology, core principles, sources, specific concepts, and approaches, while highlighting its relationship with doctrinal theology. Through an examination of various spiritual schools, the course aims to demonstrate the significance of spiritual theology in the history of Christianity. It will also offer a precise definition of the concept of "spirituality" and emphasize the importance of spiritual theology in our contemporary times for living out our faith.

<b>018TAROL4</b>	<b>Spiritual Discernment</b>	<b>3 Cr.</b>
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This course aims to help students develop the ability to discern and make decisions in their personal lives as well as in their pastoral activities. Every day, and often multiple times throughout the day, we find ourselves in a state of constant choice, called to make decisions. Whether big or small, of lesser or greater importance, these decisions accompany our lives, shaping us day by day and defining who we are. Students will learn to listen attentively to the Holy Spirit working in their hearts while considering their human reality.