

Syllabus

Systematic Theology in a Global Christianity, 10 ECTS-credits Systematisk teologi i en global kristenhet, 10 högskolepoäng

Code	ST402H	Valid from	Spring 2023
Discipline	Systematic Theology	Issued	2018-03-01
Level	A1N, advanced level 1	Revised	2022-12-20

Entrance Qualifications

At least 120 ECTS-credits in Theology including at least 15 credits at advanced level within Systematic Theology.

Learning Outcomes

Knowledge and Understanding

At the end of the course, the student is expected to

- be able to describe characteristic features of current Systematic theology in a global context as it interacts with prosperity theology,
- be able to account for prosperity theology's theological shape, worldwide impact and relation to global consumerism,
- be able to account for the current Pentecostal and evangelical positions on prosperity theology, and
- be able to understand the key theological questions prosperity theology poses to global Pentecostal and evangelical theology.

Competence and Skills

At the end of the course, the student is expected to

- be able to identify and critically engage prosperity theology in its varied contextualized forms,
- be able to reach beyond common stereotypes and biases to discuss prosperity theology in an informed manner, and
- show knowledge of different theoretical perspectives and methods within current Systematic theology with special emphasis on worldview.

Judgement and Approach

At the end of the course, the student is expected to

- show competence in mapping prosperity theology's theological shape, and
- demonstrate an understanding of how prosperity theology both challenges and furthers global Pentecostal and evangelical commitments.

Course Content and Course Work

The general focus of this course is to describe features of the conditions that characterize Systematic theology in a global context with special emphasis on Pentecostal and evangelical currents. This course gives the student an enhanced understanding of what is probably the most popular and influential stream within global Pentecostalism, the so-called prosperity theology or the Word of Faith movement. The course gives

the students an overview of prosperity theology's theological content, its contextualized shapes and expressions, its massive impact on Pentecostalism and evangelicalism worldwide, its relation to global consumerism and what the current scholarly positions on the movement are. Particular attention is given to the concept of worldview as a tool of analysis that reaches beyond stereotypes and polarizations to acknowledge the complexities in prosperity theology. The student will be equipped to engage the problems as well as the possibilities prosperity theology poses for global Pentecostal and evangelical theology. The different topics are introduced in lectures and expanded on through individual studies of the course reading and engaging primary sources (articles and videos) that portray current expressions of global prosperity theology.

Assessment Forms

Book Report: 3000 words. (4 hp)

PM: Written on a topic selected by the student, 5000 words. (6 hp)

* is used to mark assessment forms where only a two graded scale is used (pass or fail). If the student has a decision from ALT regarding pedagogical support due to disability, the course coordinator has the right to provide a customized assessment.

Grading Scale

Pass with distinction, Pass or Fail.

Course Development

At the end of the course, the students are asked to complete a course evaluation. The results are compiled and commented on by the responsible teacher in a report which is available to the student union. Since the last time the course was given, the following changes have been made:

- Learning outcomes have been adjusted to further focus on prosperity theology.
- Assessment forms have been further specified.
- The number of pages in each book has been specified.
- Bowler 2013 has been replaced with Bowler 2010.
- Heuser 2015 has been replaced with Heuser 2016.

Literature

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- Bowler, Kate. 2010. *Blessed: A History of the American Prosperity Gospel*. Doctoral thesis: Duke University. Selected parts, in total about 100 p. Available online: https://dukespace.lib.duke.edu/dspace/bitstream/handle/10161/2297/D_Bowler_Catherine_a_201005.pdf.
- Heuser, Andreas. 2016. "Charting African Prosperity Gospel Economies." *HTS Teologiese Studies/Theological Studies* 72/4: 1–9. Available online: <https://hts.org.za/index.php/hts/article/view/3823>.
- Salinas, J. Daniel, ed. 2017. *Prosperity Theology and the Gospel: Good News or Bad News for the Poor?* Peabody: Hendrickson.
- Stenhammar, Mikael. 2022. *The Worldview of the Word of Faith Movement: Eden Redeemed*. London: Bloomsbury T&T Clark, selected parts, in total about 150 p.

In addition, a selection of primary sources that portray global prosperity theology will be read, in total about 500 pages.