General Theology

General Theology is a subject available at the Faculty of Humanities. The unit responsible for the practical issues concerning the subject is the Open University office:

Telephone: +358-8-553 7313, +358-8-553 7314, +358-8-553 7320
Website: http://www.kotu.oulu.fi/avoin/

Admission requirements
Students should apply for the study right at the Open University. A fee must be paid for the studies.

Overview of the subject
General Theology is not an independent theological subject, but a collage of different theological subjects. It includes the basics of exegetics, church history, systematic theology, practical theology and comparative religion. The curriculum of the Faculty of Theology of the University of Helsinki is used in the teaching of General Theology at the Faculty of Humanities. The Basic and Intermediate Studies of General Theology (60 credits) grant students who already have the qualifications of a subject teacher the eligibility to teach religion in elementary school and, as a secondary teaching subject, in upper secondary school.

Study Packages

Basic Studies 25 credits

Learning objectives
After completing the Basic Studies (25 credits), students will be familiar with the problems of the origin and the essential content of the Bible, the history of the Christian church and the basic questions of Christian faith and ethics. In addition, the students will study other religions, especially the high religions and the contemporary new religions. Furthermore, students will become acquainted with the functions of a Christian congregation and church service, as well as with the educational work of the church and religious education at school.

Content
The Basic Studies package of General Theology (25 credits) comprises the courses 708100P-708104P. The student will complete a 5-credit course in each of the five subjects, including lectures and independent reading.

Grading
Each course is graded using the scale 0-5. The overall grade for the study packages is determined by the weighted average of the course grades. The packages are graded using the following scale: Excellent (5), Very good (4), Good (3), Satisfactory (2) or Sufficient (1).

Intermediate Studies 35 credits
Objective

After completing the Intermediate Studies (35 credits), students will have an understanding of the traditional theological subjects. With the Basic and Intermediate Studies (60 credits) students who already have the qualifications of a subject teacher receive the eligibility to teach religion in elementary school and, as a secondary teaching subject, in secondary school. To be admitted to pursue the Intermediate Studies in General Theology, students must have completed the Basic Studies with the overall grade ‘Good’ (the weighted average of courses at least 3/5).

Content

The Intermediate studies in General Theology comprise five courses with the scope of 5 credits (708105A - 708110A). In addition to these, the students will participate in the seminar of General Theology and write a seminar paper in the area of one of the theological subjects. The scope of the seminar (708110A is ten (10) credits in total.

Grading

Each course is graded using the scale 0-5. The overall grade for the study packages is determined by calculating the weighted average of the course grades. The packages are graded using the following scale: Excellent (5), Very good (4), Good (3), Satisfactory (2) or Sufficient (1).

Tutkintorakenteisiin kuulumattomat opintokokonaisuudet ja -jakso

708104P: Basics in Comparative Religion, 5 op
708103P: Basics in Practical Theology, 5 op
708101P: Basics of Church History, 5 op
708100P: Basics of Exegetics, 5 op
708102P: Basics of Systematic Theology, 5 op
708106A: Church History, 5 op
708105A: Exegetics, 5 op
708108A: Practical Theology, 5 op
708109A: Science of Religion, 5 op
708110A: Seminar, 10 op
708107A: Systematic Theology, 5 op

Opintojaksojen kuvaukset

Tutkintorakenteisiin kuulumattomien opintokokonaisuuksien ja -jaksojen kuvaukset

708104P: Basics in Comparative Religion, 5 op

Voimassaolo: 01.08.2005 -
Opiskelumuoto: Basic Studies
Laji: Course
Vastuuysikkö: Faculty of Humanities
Arvostelu: 1 - 5, pass, fail
Opintokohteen kielet: Finnish
Leikkaavuudet:
ay708104P  Basics in Comparative Religion (OPEN UNI)  5.0 op

ECTS Credits:
5 credits
Language of instruction:
Finnish
Learning outcomes:
Upon completion of the lecture course, the student will:
1. be able to view comparative religion within the field of sciences, in relation to theological research in particular, and comprehend the difference between the understanding and explanatory approaches to comparative religion (the viewpoints of Philosophy of Science and History of Science)
2. be familiar with the basic concepts of religions, from folk religions to high religions, e.g. shamanism, magic, holy, rite, myth, religion
3. be familiar with the approaches of phenomenology, psychology and sociology of religion and the classics of these disciplines
4. become acquainted with the problems of defining ‘religion’.
The required literature for the Basic Studies course provides students with the basic knowledge of the most important world religions. The lectures will provide students with the methodological proficiency needed to comprehend the book.
Learning activities and teaching methods:
Lectures (24 h). In preparation for the lectures, students should read the article on comparative religion in the book P. Luomanen (ed.), Teologia. Johdatus tutkimukseen, pp. 126-147.
Recommended or required reading:
N. Smart, Uskontojen maailma. (624 pp.)
Assessment methods and criteria:
Written examination and book examination.
Grading:
0-5

708103P: Basics in Practical Theology, 5 op

Voimassaolo: 01.08.2005 -
Opiskelumuoto: Basic Studies
Laji: Course
Vastuuyksikkö: Faculty of Humanities
Arvostelu: 1 - 5, pass, fail
Opintokohdteen kielet: Finnish
Leikkaavuudet:
ay708103P  Basics in Practical Theology (OPEN UNI)  5.0 op

ECTS Credits:
5 credits
Language of instruction:
Finnish
Learning outcomes:
Upon completion of the lecture course, the student will:
1. be familiar with the basic concepts of practical theology, such as liturgy, homiletics, ecclesiastical year, ecclesiastical ceremonies, catechetics and church art;
2. be able to view religious life and activity within the framework of practical theology;
3. be familiar with research related to church services, the church year, church sociology and the pedagogics of religion;
4. be able to use the information sources of practical theology.
Learning activities and teaching methods:
Lectures (24 h). In preparation for the lectures, students should read the article on practical theology in the book P. Luomanen (ed.), Teologia. Johdatus tutkimukseen, pp. 149-170.
Recommended or required reading:
H. Kotila, Liturgian lähteillä (3rd edition; 279 pp.)
708101P: Basics of Church History, 5 op

Voimassaolo: 01.08.2005 -
Opiskelumuoto: Basic Studies
Laji: Course
Vastuuysikkö: Faculty of Humanities
Arvostelu: 1 - 5, pass, fail
Opintokohteen kielet: Finnish

ECTS Credits:
5 credits
Language of instruction:
Finnish
Learning outcomes:
Upon completion of the course, the student will be familiar with the different periods of church history, and able to explain their key events and central influential persons. The student will be able to recognize the historical roots of the contemporary representations of Christianity, and to compare the development of Finnish churches and the churches elsewhere in the world.

Learning activities and teaching methods:
Lectures (24 h). In preparation for the lectures, students should read the article on church history in the book P. Luomanen (ed.), Teologia. Johdatus tutkimukseen, pp. 65-69.

Recommended or required reading:
S. Heininen & M. Heikkilä, Suomen kirkkohistoria. (285 pp.)
Ahola & Antikainen & Salmesvuori (eds.), Eevan tie alttarille. Nainen kirkon historiassa. (239 pp.)

Assessment methods and criteria:
Written examination and book examination.
Grading:
0-5

708100P: Basics of Exegetics, 5 op

Voimassaolo: 01.08.2005 -
Opiskelumuoto: Basic Studies
Laji: Course
Vastuuysikkö: Faculty of Humanities
Arvostelu: 1 - 5, pass, fail
Opintokohteen kielet: Finnish

ECTS Credits:
5 credits
Language of instruction:
Finnish
Learning outcomes:
Upon completion of the lecture course, the student will:
1. comprehend the problems of Bible study and interpretation
2. be able to read popular exegetic literature
3. be able to view exegetic study in relation to other ways of using the Bible
4. be familiar with the contents of the Books of the Bible and understand their position within the historical continuum.

**Learning activities and teaching methods:**
Lectures (24 h.). In preparation for the lectures, students should read the article on exegetics in the book P. Luomanen (ed.), Teologia. Johdatus tutkimukseen, pp. 12-63.

**Recommended or required reading:**
R. Sollamo (ed.), Paimentolaisten uskonnosta kirkkolaitokseksi. (133 pp.; it is recommendable to begin by reading this book)
K. Kuula - M. Nissinen - W. Riekkinen, Johdatus Raamattuun. (1st or 2nd edition; 281 or 341 pp.)

**Assessment methods and criteria:**
Written examination and book examination.

**Grading:**
0-5

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**708102P: Basics of Systematic Theology, 5 op**

**Voimassaolo:** 01.08.2005 -

**Opiskelumuoto:** Basic Studies

**Laji:** Course

**Vastuuysikkö:** Faculty of Humanities

**Arvostelu:** 1 - 5, pass, fail

**Opintokohteen kielet:** Finnish

**Leikkaavuudet:**
ay708102P Basics of Systematic Theology (OPEN UNI) 5.0 op

**ECTS Credits:**
5 credits

**Language of instruction:**
Finnish

**Learning outcomes:**
Upon completion of the lecture course, the student will:
1. comprehend the differences between the approach of systematic theology and historical or empirical approaches
2. be familiar with the concepts and ways of thinking in systematic theology
3. have acquired a general idea of the history of theology and the systematic theology subject.

**Learning activities and teaching methods:**
Lectures (24 h). In preparation for the lectures, students should read the article on systematic theology in the book P. Luomanen (ed.), Teologia. Johdatus tutkimukseen, pp. 91-124.

**Recommended or required reading:**
J. Hallamaa (ed.), Rahan teologia ja Euroopan kirkot (pp. 11-138).
G. Gassmann - S. Hendrix, Johdatus luterilaiseen tunnustukseen. (260 pp.)
T. Mannermaa, Kaksi rakkautta, Johdatus Lutherin uskonmaailmaan. (2nd edition; 115 pp.)

**Assessment methods and criteria:**
Written examination and book examination.

**Grading:**
0-5

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**708106A: Church History, 5 op**

**Voimassaolo:** 01.08.2005 -

**Opiskelumuoto:** Intermediate Studies

**Laji:** Course

**Vastuuysikkö:** Faculty of Humanities
Arvostelu: 1 - 5, pass, fail
Opintokohteen kielet: Finnish
Leikkaavuudet:
ay708106A Church History (OPEN UNI) 5.0 op

ECTS Credits:
5 credits
Language of instruction:
Finnish
Learning outcomes:
The course will deepen and broaden the Basic Studies in church history.

Recommended or required reading:
K. Arffman, Kristinuskon historia. (269 pp.)
S. Heininen, Ihmistä suurempi. (191 pp.)
Mäkinen (ed.), Lasaruksesta leipäjonoihin. (327 pp.)
Kristinusko Suomessa, Suomalaisen Teologisen Kirjallisuusseuran vuosikirja 2006 (STKSJ 249). (308 pp.)

Assessment methods and criteria:
Book examination
Grading:
0-5

708105A: Exegetics, 5 op

Voimassaolo: 01.08.2005 -
Opiskelumuoto: Intermediate Studies
Laji: Course
Vastuuysikkö: Faculty of Humanities
Arvostelu: 1 - 5, pass, fail
Opintokohteen kielet: Finnish
Leikkaavuudet:
ay708105A Exegetics (OPEN UNI) 5.0 op

ECTS Credits:
5 credits
Language of instruction:
Finnish
Learning outcomes:
The student will deepen the exegetic knowledge and skills acquired during the basic course. The students will become acquainted with the questions, viewpoints and research results of Bible study presented in the course literature. Upon completion of the course, the student will comprehend the basics of scientific Bible study and the multiphase history of the birth and interpretation of the Bible texts. The student will be able to compare the contents, backgrounds and history of the Old and New Testament as well as the Apocrypha. He/she will be able to analyse elements which have had an effect on the emergence of Christianity.

Recommended or required reading:
T. Veijola, Dekalogi. (253 pp.)
L. Aejmelaeus, Kristinuskon synty. (2nd edition; 474 pp.)
R. Hakola - J. Pakkala, Kristinuskon ja juutalaisuuden juuret: arkeologian näkökulmia. (224 pp.)
A. Huhtala - J. Kilunen (eds.), Urhea Judit, viisas Sirak. Johdatus Vanhan testamentin apokryfikirjoihin. (334 pp.)
An examination must always be taken on Aejmelaeus, Kristinuskon synty. Examinations on other literature can also be replaced partly or completely by a reading journal or an essay. Guidelines on the scope of the compensatory assignment etc. (in Finnish): http://www.helsinki.fi/teol/pro/ihminen/ohjeet.

Assessment methods and criteria:
Book examination.
Grading:
0-5

708108A: Practical Theology, 5 op
Learning outcomes:
The objective of the Intermediate Studies course is to deepen and broaden the knowledge of the subjects of practical theology, particularly as regards the sociology and church services.

Recommended or required reading:
J. Jolkkonen et al. (eds.), Saaran käsikirja (372 pp.).
H. Aaltonen et al. (eds.), Rippikoulun käsikirja (255 pp.).
J. Kiiski, Sielunhoito (282 pp.).

Assessment methods and criteria:
Book examination
Grading:
0-5

ECTS Credits:
5 credits
Language of instruction:
Finnish

708109A: Science of Religion, 5 op

Learning outcomes:
The objective of the Intermediate Studies course is to supplement the knowledge acquired in the Basic Studies, particularly as regards the contemporary religiousness, and to deepen the student's knowledge of the psychology of religion and questions in the philosophy of science in particular.

Recommended or required reading:
Nils G. Holm, Religionspsykologins grunder. (129 pp.)

Assessment methods and criteria:
Book examination
Grading:
0-5
708110A: Seminar, 10 op

Voimassaolo: 01.08.2005 -
Opiskelumuoto: Intermediate Studies
Laji: Course
Vastuuysikkö: Faculty of Humanities
Arvostelu: 1 - 5, pass, fail
Opintokohteen kielet: Finnish
Leikkaavuudet:
ay708110A Seminar (OPEN UNI) 10.0 op

ECTS Credits:
10 credits
Language of instruction:
Finnish
Learning outcomes:
In the seminar, the student will:
1. learn to write a paper of a specific scope on a defined topic
2. acquaint him/herself with the culture of academic discourse
3. gain perspectives for theological research
4. get an overview of the principles of scientific writing
5. acquire a deeper view of a selected theme
6. become acquainted with a specific theological method and the ways of applying it.

Assessment methods and criteria:
Seminar (24h). The seminar requires intensive work. In preparation for the seminar, the student should decide on the topic of the seminar paper. It is recommendable to complete the course most closely connected to the topic of the paper before attending the seminar.

Grading:
0-5

708107A: Systematic Theology, 5 op

Voimassaolo: 01.08.2005 -
Opiskelumuoto: Intermediate Studies
Laji: Course
Vastuuysikkö: Faculty of Humanities
Arvostelu: 1 - 5, pass, fail
Opintokohteen kielet: Finnish
Leikkaavuudet:
ay708107A Systematic Theology (OPEN UNI) 5.0 op

ECTS Credits:
5 credits
Language of instruction:
Finnish
Learning outcomes:
The objective of the Intermediate Studies course is to deepen and broaden the knowledge of the systematic theology subjects acquired in the Basic Studies, particularly as regards ecumenics and the philosophy of religion.

Recommended or required reading:
A.E. McGrath, Kristillisen uskon perusteet: Johdatus teologiaan. (2nd edition; 622 pp.)
J. Pietarinen & S. Poutanen, Etiikan teorioita. (181 pp.)
R. Saarinen, Johdatus ekumeniikkaan. (282 pp.)
In case the student has already taken an examination on Kristillisen uskon perusteet by A.E. McGrath, the books P. Annala, Antikin teologinen perintö, Gassman-Hendrix, Johdatus luterilaiseen tunnustukseen and M. Ruokanen, Hermeneutica moderna should be read and examined instead. In case the student has read Johdatus ekumeniikkaan by R. Saarinen, he/she should replace it by Kirkkotiedon kirja (eds. Pekk Metso - Esko Ryökäs).
Assessment methods and criteria:
Book examination
Grading:
0-5