

## SYLLABUS

**TITLE:** Exploration of Christianity's Vision of the Human Being  
**CODE:** TEO 115  
**PREREQUISITE:** N/A  
**CREDITS:** 3 credits | 45 contact hours | 1 term

### DESCRIPTION

In this course, students will explore the phenomenon of the human being from a Christian perspective according to the Sacred Scriptures. Therefore, the course follows the latest affirmations on Catholic doctrine on the human being as published by the Pontifical Biblical Commission in the document *Che cosa é l'uomo: un itinerario di antropologia biblica* (December 2019). Through the exploration of the essential dimensions of the human being, such as the dignity of human life, the experience of gender and sexuality, the right to education and work, personal and collective acts of evil, and situations of oppression of the human being, students define the type of person they wish to be in society.

### JUSTIFICATION

In its mission "To educate individuals in intellectual liberty and moral conscience", Universidad del Sagrado Corazón (Sagrado) must offer its students, from the very beginning of their university career, the fundamental ideas about what it means to be a person in order to develop a moral conscience that allows the construction of "a caring community in justice and peace." As a Catholic institution of higher education, with this course —offered especially to first-year students as a course of exploration— Sagrado complies with what St. John Paul II states in the Apostolic Constitution, *Ex corde Ecclesiae*:

A specific priority is the need to examine and evaluate the predominant values and norms of modern society and culture in a Christian perspective, and the responsibility to try to communicate to society those ethical and religious principles which give full meaning to human life. In this way a University can contribute further to the development of a true Christian anthropology, founded on the person of Christ, which will bring the dynamism of the creation and redemption to bear on reality and on the correct solution to the problems of life.

## **COMPETENCIES**

The course develops the following competencies in students:

- **Communication**
- **Research and exploration**
- **Ethical sense and social justice**
- **Critical questioning**

## **OBJECTIVES**

After completion of the course, students will be able to:

1. Identify, in the biblical affirmations about the human being, values such as openness to the diverse, constructive criticism, mutual respect, ethical and aesthetic appreciation to be able to apply them in professional life, placing Jesus of Nazareth as a paradigm of humanity.
2. Ethically evaluate human actions, from the biblical paradigms of human weakness, which lead to selfishness and the ability to choose love.
3. Analyze the biblical affirmations about the human being as a subject who lives from a sexuality, who takes care of his own integrity and dignity as well as that of other human beings.
4. Create routes of action in human promotion, in their life project, and in their professional projection from the Christian understanding of the human being as a being with a socio-political commitment.

## **CONTENTS**

- I. Human person and dignity
  - A. Theoretical foundations
  - B. The Human Being as a Created Being: Genesis Affirmations
  - C. Being as a man and as a woman
  - D. Human dignity founded on the "image and likeness" of God
  - E. Jesus of Nazareth as the perfect "image" of God and man
- II. The human being, evil, and goodness
  - A. Weakness of the human being: the possibility of choosing evil
  - B. Evil conceived as Sin
  - C. Awareness of evil and the ability to resolve the damaged
  - D. Selfishness as the root of personal and social evil
  - E. Love as an option for reintegration of the damaged
  - F. Jesus of Nazareth and His Act of Redemption

- III. Human being as a sexed being
  - A. Gender, sexuality, and Jesus of Nazareth
  - B. Being the man of Jesus
  - C. Jesus and women: Mary as a feminine paradigm
  - D. The Bible and Human Sexuality
- IV. The human being as a social being
  - A. Human responsibility for the dignity of the other
  - B. The human being as a community being: Trinitarian vision of the human being
  - C. The human being as responsible for society: Being political, being economic
  - D. Bible prophecy: evil and social good
  - E. The human being as builder of justice and peace: The Risen Jesus

## METHODOLOGY

The following strategies from the active learning methodology are recommended:

- Problem-based learning
- Research-based learning
- Forum discussion
- Role play
- Minute papers

## EVALUATION

Partial assignments	40%
Final work or exam	25%
Participation	20%
Compositions	<u>15%</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>

## LEARNING ASSESMENT

The institutional assessment rubric is applied to the course's core activity.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

Becker, E-M., Holm, K. (Eds.). (2017). *"What is human?": theological encounters with anthropology*. Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht.

Cortez, M.A. (2016). *Christological anthropology in historical perspective: ancient and contemporary approaches to theological anthropology*. Zondervan.

- Farris, J.R., Taliaferro, C. (Eds.). (2015). *The Ashgate research companion to theological anthropology*. Ashgate Publishing.
- Horan, D.P. (2019). *Catholicity and emerging personhood: a contemporary theological anthropology*. Orbis Books.
- Jones, B. F., Barbeau, J. W. (Eds.). (2016). *The image of God in an image driven age: explorations in theological anthropology*. InterVarsity Press.
- Kampowski, S. (2018). *Embracing our finitude: exercises in a Christian anthropology between dependence and gratitude*. Cascade Books.
- Maston, J., Reynolds, B. (Eds.). (2018). *Anthropology and New Testament theology*. Bloomsbury T&T Clark.
- O'Callaghan, P. (2016). *Children of God in the world: an introduction to theological anthropology*. The Catholic University of America Press.
- O'Donnell Gandolfo, E. (2015). *Power and vulnerability of love: a theological anthropology*. Fortress Press.
- Robbins, J. (2020). *Theology and the anthropology of Christian life*. Oxford University Press.
- Saracino, M. (2015). *Christian anthropology: an introduction to the human person*. Paulist Press.
- Tóth, B. (2015). *The heart has its reasons: towards a theological anthropology of the heart*. Cascade Books.
- Voss Roberts, M. (2017). *Body parts: a theological anthropology*. Fortress Press.
- For more information resources related to the course's topics, access the library's webpage <http://biblioteca.sagrado.edu/>

## **REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION**

For detailed information on the process and required documentation you should visit the corresponding office. To ensure equal conditions, in compliance with the ADA Act (1990) and the Rehabilitation Act (1973), as amended, any student in need of reasonable accommodation or special assistance must complete the process established by the Vice Presidency for Academic Affairs.

## **ACADEMIC HONESTY, FRAUD, AND PLAIGARISM**

Any student who fails to comply with the Honesty, Fraud, and Plagiarism Policy is exposed to the following sanctions: receive a zero in the evaluation and/or repetition of the assignment, an F(\*) in the course, suspension or expulsion as established in the document *Política de Honestidad Académica* (DAEE 205-001) effective in August 2005.

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