



# Christian Fundamentals in European Culture

## KPD/KŘKO, KKŘKO

### Guarantor

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### Course objectives

- The reflection of values in European culture
- To identify the variety of value systems
- Understanding the role of Christianity in European culture
- Understanding European culture from theological and philosophical point of view

**Prerequisites - other information about course preconditions:** None.

**Accredited / Credits:** Yes, 3 Cred.

**Semester:** Winter semester

### Requirements on student

Presentation about the Christian symbol(s) in European culture

or

paper, critique: 1320 – 1760 words. In each essay there should be a minimum of one source from the basic or recommended bibliography. Written work will be edited according to the methodology for writing final papers. All work for the exam must be submitted to the teacher via e-mail ([svobodz@tf.jcu.cz](mailto:svobodz@tf.jcu.cz)) no later than 15 working days before the end of the examination period.





## Literature

AUGUSTINE. *City Of God And Christian Doctrine*. Online.

<http://www.ccel.org/ccel/schaff/npnf102.i.html>.

AUGUSTINUS Hipponensis. *De Civitate Dei Contra Paganos Libri Xxii*. Online.

<https://www.augustinus.it/latino/cdd/index.htm>.

AUGUSTINUS Hipponensis. *De Doctrina Christiana Libri Quatuor*. Online.

[https://www.augustinus.it/latino/dottrina\\_cristiana/index.htm](https://www.augustinus.it/latino/dottrina_cristiana/index.htm).

BALDERMANN, Ingo. *Menschenwürde*, Neukirchen-Vluyn: Neukirchener, 2001.

BOZEMAN, Adda B. *Politics and Culture in International History*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1960.

Early Church Fathers. Online. <https://www.ccel.org/fathers.html>.

Early Church Fathers: Vol. 2. Online.

<http://www.ntslibrary.com/PDF%20Books/Church%20Fathers.pdf>.

FINNIS, John. *Human Rights and Common Good*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2011.

GRANT, George. *Technology & Empire*, Toronto: House of Anansi Press, 1991.

HALÍK, T. *Berühre die Wunden: Über Leid, Vertrauen und die Kunst der Verwandlung*. Verlag Herder, 2013. ISBN 978-345-1307-393.

HALÍK, T. *Night of the Confessor: Christian Faith in an Age of Uncertainty*. Doubleday/Image, New York. London-Toronto-Sydney-Auckland, 2012. ISBN 03-079-5282-7.

HALÍK, T. *Nicht ohne Hoffnung: Glaube im postoptimistischen Zeitalter*. Verlag Herder, 2014. ISBN 978-3451330872.

HALÍK, T. *Patience with God: the story of Zacchaeus continuing in us*. New York: Doubleday, 2009. ISBN 978-038-5524-490.

HILPERT, Konrad. *Zentrale Frage Christlicher Ethik: Für Schule und Erwachsenenbildung*, Regensburg: Pustet, c2009.

HOLLENBACH, David. *The Global Face of Public Faith: Politics, Human Rights, And Christian Ethics*, Washington, D.C.: Georgetown University Press, 2003.

<http://www.pluralism.org>





<http://www.tolerance.org>

<https://voegelinview.com/category/eric-voegelin-collected-works/>

<https://voegelinview.com/virtue-and-the-city/>

JÄGER, Werner. *Paideia: Die Formung des Griechischen Menschen*. 3. Aufl, Berlin: Walter de Gruyter, 1959.

JANKÉLÉVITCH, Vladimir. *Forgiveness*. Chicago, London: The University of Chicago Press, 2005. ISBN 978-0-226-04565-8.

MARITAIN, Jacques. *Man and the State*, Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1961.

MARSHALL, Christopher D. *Crowned With Glory: Human Rights in the Biblical Tradition*. Studies In Peace And Scripture, v. 6, Auckland, N.Z.: Lime Grove House, c2001.

McKAY, J. P., HILL, B. D., BUCKLER, J. A *History of Western Society*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1991. ISBN 0-395-43341-X.

PALOUŠ, Martin, ed. *The Solidarity of the Shaken: A Debate on Jan Patočka's Philosophical Legacy in Today's World*, Prague: Václav Havel Library, 2016.

PATOČKA, Jan. *Heretical Essays in the Philosophy of History*, Chicago: Open Court, c1996.

PERRY, M., CHASE, M. et al. *Western Civilization: Ideas, Politics and Society*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1989. ISBN 0-395-36936-3.

PIRENNE, Henri. *A History of Europe: From the Invasions to the XVI Century*. New York: University Books, 1965.

PORTER, Jean. *Nature As Reason: A Thomistic Theory Of The Natural Law*, Grand Rapids, Mich.: W.B. Eerdmans Pub. Co, c2005.

RÉMOND, R. *Religion and Society in Modern Europe*. Malden, Mass.: Blackwell Publishers, 1999. ISBN 06-312-0818-6.

SLOTERDIJK, P. *God's Zeal: The Battle of the Three Monotheisms*. Wiley, 2009. ISBN 978-0-7456-45.

SVOBODOVÁ, Zuzana. "Paideia As Care Of The Soul – The Potentials Of Contemporary School". In *Religion Long Forgotten: The Importance Of Religion In Education Towards Civil Society*, Dariusz Stepkowski and Andrzej Murzyn, pp. 191-206, 1st ed, Cracow: Impuls, 2014.

VARSAMOPOULOU, Evy. "Three Movements Of Life: Jan Patočka's Philosophy Of Personal Being".





Online. *The European Legacy* 12, no. 5 (2007): 577-588. doi:10.1080/10848770701443494.

WELLS, H. *The Rights Of Man, Or, What Are We Fighting For?*, Harmondsworth: Penguin Books, 1940.

WELZEL, Christian. *Freedom Rising: Human Empowerment And The Quest For Emancipation*, New York: Cambridge university press, 2013.

WITTE, John, and Frank S Alexander. *Christianity And Human Rights: An Introduction*, New York: Cambridge University Press, 2010.

### Form of course completion: exam

Presentation about the Christian symbol(s) in European culture

or

paper, critique: 1320 – 1760 words. In each essay there should be a minimum of one source from the basic or recommended bibliography. Written work will be edited according to the methodology for writing final papers. All work for the exam must be submitted to the teacher via e-mail (svobodz@tf.jcu.cz) no later than 15 working days before the end of the examination period.

In each essay there should be a minimum of one source from the bibliography – see “Literature” section above.)

### Content

- Sources, fundamental information
- Europe – tribe, people, value
- Culture – historical system
- Forms of European culture
- Myth about Europe
- Religion(s) of Europe
- Christian values
- European values
- Europe and human rights

### Competences acquired

- To define "culture"
- To identify fundamental values in European culture
- To explain differences of value systems from historical point of view
- To explain differences of value systems from religious point of view





- To compare influences of religion on European culture
- To discuss recent religious impact on European culture



## 1. Europe – from myth to the reality

### Key questions

- I. What is Europe?
- II. When did the European culture start?

### Commentary

Study the text of the ancient Greek myth about Europe.

Even today, Europe could be thought as:

- Strain/tribe: We (the world for us) x they (the threat)
- Empire: the ruling, reigning, "Roman", "holy", "transmission mechanism empire" - the essence of "Europeanness",
- Nation: we and the neighbors, </> alike, competition
- Value: essential for the formation of life

### Study materials related to the theme

Study parts of the presentation to this theme (slides 5, 24, 25)

#### Extended:

History of Europe: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oWWLECJnyIM>

Myth of Europe: <https://historia-europa.ep.eu/en/focus/myth-europa>

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/Europa-Greek-mythology>

PIRENNE, Henri. *A History of Europe: From the Invasions to the XVI Century*. New York: University Books, 1965.

### Formative assessment questions

1. How can we interpret the Greek myth of Europe?
2. What are the differences between the meaning of Europe as tribe, empire, nation and value?



## 2. Culture – what does it mean?

### Key questions

- III. What does “culture” mean?
- IV. What is culture in the narrower and broader concept?
- V. Who described the meaning of culture as the first?

### Commentary

Think about different sentences with the word “culture”. Try to find several different meanings of “culture”.

Find the definition of the Latin term “cultura animi”.

Try to find different definitions of “culture”.

### Study materials related to the theme

Study parts of the presentation to these themes (slides 26, 27).

Study the meaning of “cultura animi” by Cicero: <https://www.gutenberg.org/files/14988/14988-h/14988-h.htm> (see in *Tusculan Disputations* II, 5.13: “philosophy is the culture of the mind”)

Literature:

PATOČKA, Jan. *Heretical Essays In The Philosophy Of History*, Chicago: Open Court, c1996.

SLOTTERDIJK, P. *God's Zeal: The Battle of the Three Monotheisms*. Wiley, 2009. ISBN 978-0-7456-45.

### Formative assessment questions

- 3. What is the meaning of culture in broader concept?
- 4. What is the most important in each definition of the term “culture”?





### 3. Roots of Europe

#### Key questions

- VI. What are basics of European culture? Where are roots of Europe?
- VII. What held Europe together?
- VIII. What are traditional European institutions of intercommunity?

#### Commentary

Study different types of roots of Europe. Study historical, traditional and present European institutions of intercommunity.

#### Study materials related to the theme

Study parts of the presentation to these themes (slides 24, 28, 38, 62).

#### Formative assessment questions

- 5. Do we have some basic of European culture common with the ancient, medieval, modern and present people of Europe? If yes, which one(s)? If not, why?
- 6. Which institution of intercommunity is the most important and why?







## 4. European values. Virtues of people in Europe

### Key questions

- IX. What are the most important values for European people of today?
- X. What were cardinal virtues in medieval era?

### Commentary

Think about your values and virtues. What is the most important for you and why? Study the medieval structure of virtues. Study the European Value Study (<https://europeanvaluesstudy.eu/>)

### Study materials related to the theme

Study parts of the presentation to these themes (slides 7-23, 38, 64-69).

Literature and sources:

<https://europeanvaluesstudy.eu/>

GRANT, George. *Technology & Empire*, Toronto: House of Anansi Press, 1991.

HALÍK, T. *Night of the Confessor: Christian Faith in an Age of Uncertainty*. Doubleday/Image, New York. London-Toronto-Sydney-Auckland, 2012. ISBN 03-079-5282-7.

HALÍK, T. *Patience with God: the story of Zacchaeus continuing in us*. New York: Doubleday, 2009. ISBN 978-038-5524-490.

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MARITAIN, J. *Man and the state*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1961.

PALOUŠ, Martin, ed. *The Solidarity Of The Shaken: A Debate On Jan Patočka's Philosophical Legacy In Today's World*, Prague: Václav Havel Library, 2016.

ZAVADKAYA, Welzel. "Values, Repression, and Subversion." *World Values Research* 6 (1): 1-31. 2013. <http://www.worldvaluessurvey.org>

### Formative assessment questions

- 7. What are the most important European values and why they are important?
- 8. What could help to improve virtues of people in Europe today?

