

Guidelines for the study and examination regulations of the Theological Faculty of the University of Lucerne for the **Master's program in Philosophy, Theology and Religions**

The following document is an English translation of the original and binding German language version of the document «Wegleitung zur Studien- und Prüfungsordnung der Theologischen Fakultät der Universität Luzern für das Masterstudium Philosophy, Theology and Religions».

Of April 25th, 2023

The faculty assembly of the Faculty of Theology of the University of Lucerne, based on Section 12 § 1 of the study and examination regulations of March 30th, 2022, decrees:

I General

§ 1 *Course offerings and scope*

¹ The guidelines govern the Online Master's program in Philosophy, Theology, and Religions (hereafter "program") at the Faculty of Theology of the University of Lucerne.

§ 2 *Awarded degree (explanations to SPO¹ § 22)*

The title "Master of Arts in Philosophy, Theology, and Religions of the University of Lucerne" certifies the successful completion of the program.

§ 3 *Start of studies; Information about the courses*

¹ Incoming students may begin their course of study in either the fall or the spring semester.

² The courses are listed in the University of Lucerne's electronic course catalog.

§ 4 *Program and study management*

¹ The program is implemented under the direction of a member of the board of directors of the Center for Theology and Philosophy of Religions (hereafter referred to as the program director).

² The program director selects the coordinator and the study manager and acts as their supervisor.

³ The coordinator of the program organizes and coordinates the program.

⁴ The study manager is responsible for advising on questions relating to the faculty, particularly on questions relating to examinations (i.e., examination organization), study planning, and the transfer of ECTS credits from previous studies (study advice).

⁵ The tutors (i.e., research assistants) for each relevant subject area provide exclusively subject-specific information.

¹ SRL 541a Study and examination regulations for the diploma, bachelor's, and master's degree programs of the Faculty of Theology of the University of Lucerne, of March 30, 2022.

II Study (explanations to SPO §43-46)

§ 6 Study objective

The program covers the history of philosophy in all its breadth. In addition to Greek, Latin, and modern Western philosophy, the history of Jewish and Islamic philosophy from their origins to the present is also taught. The central focus is engaging with questions and viewpoints arising from the dialogue that has historically taken place, through philosophy, among the three Abrahamic religions: Judaism, Christianity and Islam.

The program enables students to analyze and assess complex questions carefully and independently as they pertain to the history of philosophy and interreligious dialogue.

§ 7 Modules

¹ Within the purview of the program, the following subjects must be taken and the specified number of ECTS credits (Cr) must be acquired:

1st Semester **30 Cr**

History of Philosophy and Religions: Basic Concepts

Module 1: Basic Concepts **15 Cr**

1. History of Philosophy across Religions: An Introduction	3 Cr
2. Foundational Concepts and History of Judaism	3 Cr
3. Foundational Concepts and History of Christianity	3 Cr
4. Foundational Concepts and History of Islam	3 Cr
5. Philosophy and Non-Abrahamic Religions	3 Cr

Module 2: Basic Concepts II **15 Cr**

6. Philosophy and Religion in the Greek-Roman World	3 Cr
7. God as Being according to Plato and Aristotle	1.5 Cr
8. Translatio Studiorum. Translations and Philosophical Exchanges in the Middle Ages between Jewish, Islamic and Christian Cultures	3 Cr
9. Philosophical Lexicons across Traditions: Coming from Greek, Latin, Jewish and Arabic/Persian Philosophical Texts	3 Cr
10. Religious Sense across Religions	1.5 Cr
11. Summer Conference (End of August – beginning of September): Philosophical Issues across Religions (4.5 Cr)	

2nd Semester **30 Cr**

History of Medieval/Modern Philosophy and Religions

Module 3: God in the History of Philosophy (“Middle Ages”) **15 Cr**

1. Judaism	4.5 Cr
2. Christianity	4.5 Cr
3. Islam	4.5 Cr
4. Philosophical Books across Religions: The Liber de Causis and its Different Traditions	1.5 Cr

Module 4: God in the History of Philosophy (“Modernity”)	15 Cr
5. Judaism	4.5 Cr
6. Christianity	4.5 Cr
7. Islam	4.5 Cr
8. Does God Exist? Classical Arguments	1.5 Cr
3rd Semester	30 Cr
Contemporary Philosophy and Religions: Topics and Problems	
Module 5: Topics and Problems I	15 Cr
1. Philosophy of Religion I: Epistemology of Religion	3 Cr
2. Philosophy of Religion II: God's Existence and Attributes	3 Cr
3. Philosophy of Religion III: God, Freedom and Evil	3 Cr
4. Divine Attributes across Religions	3 Cr
5. Interreligious Relationships I	3 Cr
Module 6: Topics and Problems II	15 Cr
6. Jewish Contemporary Philosophy	3 Cr
7. Christian Contemporary Philosophy	3 Cr
8. Islamic Contemporary Philosophy	3 Cr
9. Philosophy in the Modern Islamic World and the Reception of Western Philosophy	3 Cr
10. Interreligious Relationships II	1,5 Cr
11. The Unknown God: Agnosticism and Mysticism	1,5 Cr
4th semester	30 Cr
Final module	30 Cr
1. Master's thesis	20 Cr
2. Master's examination (defense of the master's thesis)	10 Cr
Total:	120 Cr

§ 8 Module types

¹ Modules 1–6 together with the final module are compulsory.

² In justified exceptional cases, and upon request to the study manager, students can choose an alternative to the courses offered in the curriculum from a list of courses (“Free Choice Courses”). Each of these courses is worth 3 ECTS credits.

III Course and examination modalities (explanations to SPO §13)

§ 9 Registration deadline for courses

¹ The binding registration period for courses in the Uni Portal opens one week before the start of courses and closes on the Friday of the second week of courses.

§ 10 Interactive courses

Students are offered the opportunity to take part in forums and *quaestiones disputatae* (i.e., structured debates), although these are not mandatory.

§ 11 *Performance evaluation*

¹ There are two types of performance evaluation for courses: multiple-choice quizzes and research papers.

² The multiple-choice quiz consists of five questions per course, which must be completed in 45 minutes.

³ The research paper is based on a topic either taken from a list of preapproved topics or of the students own choosing. The list of preapproved topics can be viewed on the learning platform and is provided by the lectures four weeks after the start of the semester.

§ 12 *Dates of the examination sessions*

¹ The multiple-choice quizzes take place regularly in the examination session following the lecture period. For the fall semester this is during calendar week 6, for the spring semester during calendar week 26. In years in which January 1st does not fall in calendar week 1, the examination sessions take place one week earlier. The exact dates will be published.

² Research papers are to be submitted in calendar week 5 for the fall semester and in calendar week 25 for the spring semester.

³ Re-examinations take place in the first week of courses of the following semester. If the student finishes their studies, the re-examination takes place before the start of courses of the new semester.

§ 13 *Examination protocol*

¹ The master's examination minutes are usually kept by a tutor. These record the progress and the main content of the examination interview.

² The minutes for multiple-choice quizzes are kept by the person entrusted with supervising the examination. These contain a report on any special incidents.

§ 14 *Research Papers*

¹ For research papers, the font, font size, line spacing, and page margins must be chosen in such a way that legibility is ensured.

² The research papers should generally be 10-12 pages long.

³ The research papers will be assessed and evaluated by the lecturer by the start of courses of the new semester.

IV Acquisition of credits (explanation for SPO § 14)

§ 15 *Credit allocation*

¹ Credits in accordance with § 7 will be acquired and considered for proof of performance that are completed during the course of study in the MA PhilTeR degree program. This includes completed exams (multiple-choice quizzes) as well as successfully submitted and passed research papers as well as the master's thesis.

² The study manager decides on the transfer of ECTS credits from previous studies and on their assignment to the modules.

³ ECTS credits can only be acquired once in courses that are offered repeatedly.

V Admission (explanation for SPO § 43)

§ 16 *Immatriculation*

¹ Holders of a bachelor's degree from a Swiss university or a university recognized in Switzerland in the fields of philosophy, theology or religious studies which includes at least 60 ECTS credits in one of the above mentioned fields are admitted to the program without further conditions.

² Holders of bachelor's degrees in other fields of study may be required to acquire or provide evidence of additional knowledge and skills before admission (i.e., admission with conditions). The conditions are determined by the study manager.

³ In all cases, the completion of the master's degree can be made dependent on proof of additional knowledge and skills that were not acquired in the completed bachelor's degree (i.e., admission with obligations).

⁴ Anyone who has been ultimately rejected from one of the fields of study listed in Section 43 § 1 of the Study and Examination Regulations at another faculty in Switzerland or abroad due to insufficient performance will not be admitted to the program.

VI Master's ad Degree Degrees (explanation for SPO § 26- § 28)

§ 17 *Master's thesis*

¹ The master's thesis deals with a question from the field of philosophy and its interaction with theology and/or Abrahamic religions (Judaism, Christianity, Islam).

² The topic and structure of the master's thesis must be determined with the responsible professor at least six months before the intended submission date.

³ The chosen topic should be one manageable within a six-month timeframe. The finished thesis should be around 80-100 pages long (manuscript page: average 2500-3000 characters).

⁴ The student must submit a separate declaration that the master's thesis was written independently and that its use of other literature is restricted exclusively to those works explicitly specified within the thesis. The faculty reserves the right to check for plagiarism.

⁵ The faculty offers one submission deadline for master's theses per semester:

Fall semester: September 30th

Spring semester: March 31st

⁶ The master's thesis is submitted to the dean's office in electronic form. Detailed information about the master's thesis is provided to students via a leaflet.

⁷ The master's thesis is graded by the supervising professor and a second reviewer.

⁸ The second reviewer is named by the supervising professor. Second reviewers must have a doctorate and will usually belong to the faculty.

⁹ The grade for the master's thesis is based on the average of the first and second reviews.

¹⁰ The reviews, including grading, must be submitted to the dean's office for the attention of the dean no later than three months after the submission date. The following dates apply:

Fall semester: December 31st

Spring semester: June 30th

§ 18 Master's examination (defense of the Master's thesis)

¹ For the master's examination, the student selects a relevant topic in consultation with a lecturer.

² The master's examination lasts 30 minutes and is graded as "pass" or "fail".

³ During the master's examination, the student has 10-15 minutes to present and defend the main arguments of his or her master's thesis. This is followed by a scholarly discussion of around 10-15 minutes. The sole basis of the discussion is the presentation and the submitted master's thesis.

⁴ The examination takes place in the presence of a tutor. This person has at least a master's degree or an equivalent degree in theology, Jewish studies, philosophy, religious studies, or a related subject.

⁵ The tutor keeps a record of the course of the examination. He or she is also responsible for informing the study manager and the coordinator of the results of the master's examination.

⁶ As a rule, the master's examination is integrated into the examination sessions of the Faculty of Theology.

VII Final and transitional provisions

§ 19 *Final and transitional provisions*

These guidelines come into force on May 1, 2023.

Lucerne, April 25, 2023

Assembly of the Faculty of Theology