



Christian Ethics in Poland in the Second Half of the 20th Century

(Thematic Seminar)

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30 hours / 6 ECTS

Introductory description

The primary aim of the seminar is to show the specificity of Christian philosophy in Poland after II World War and the presentation of selected models of ethics, originated and emerged during this period. In Poland, after 1945 ethical reflection was a very important part of the controversy between Christian thought and the communist system. The most interesting models of Christian ethics, developed at this time, including concepts of different great authors like Karol Wojtyła and Tadeusz Ślipko. One of the most important proposals of this period is the ethics of solidarity that is connected with the experience of Solidarity Movement created in 1980. The main theoretician of this conception of ethics was Józef Tischner. It seems that the ethics of solidarity is extremely important today as one of the possible responses to the crisis of contemporary liberal democracy. During the classes the ethical concepts will be presented in the wider context of the controversy between Christian thought and Marxist philosophy.

Course content

- Philosophy in Poland after 1945
- Main currents of Christian philosophy
- Christian critique of Marxism
- The specificity of Christian inspirations in ethics
- Different models of Thomistic philosophy
- Tadeusz Ślipko and his conception of ethics
- The specificity of phenomenological ethics



- From Max Scheler to Karol Wojtyła
- Christian personalism and ethics
- Moral aspects of the birth of Solidarity Movement in 1980
- Solidarity as a philosophical category
- Józef Tischner and the philosophy of drama
- The philosophy of drama and the ethics of solidarity
- The main dimensions of the ethics of solidarity
- The role of solidarity in liberal democracy

Requirements of credits – Assessment criteria

Attending classes

Taking part in the discussions

Submitting one essay on a chosen topic (6-8 pages)

References / Literature / Reading list

1. Kobyliński Andrzej, *The Role of Solidarity in an Open Society*, in: *Europejske kontexty interkultúrnej komunikácie [Intercultural Communication in the European Context]*, ed. Peter Ivanic, Martin Hetenyi, Zvonko Taneski, Univerzita Konstantina Filozofa v Nitre, Nitra 2009, p. 139-148.
2. Kobyliński Andrzej, *Tischner and Metz: Two Understandings of Solidarity*, in: *Transformácia ľudskej identity v strednej Európe po roku 1990 [Transformation of human Identity in Central Europe after 1990]*, ed. Helena Hrehová, Trnava 2009, s. 45-51.
3. Ślipko Tadeusz, *Bioetyka. Najważniejsze problemy [Bioethics. The most important Issues]*, Wydawnictwo PETRUS, Kraków 2009.
4. Tischner Józef, *The Spirit of Solidarity*, trans. Marek B. Zaleski and Benjamin Fiore, Harper & Row Publishers, San Francisco 1984.
5. Weigel Georg, *The Final Revolution. The Resistance Church and the Collapse of Communism*, Oxford University Press, New York – Oxford 1992.
6. Wojtyła Karol, *The Acting Person*, trans. Adam Potocki, D. Reidel Publishing Company, Boston – London 1979.



7. Wojtyła Karol, *Person and Community: Selected Essays*, trans. Theresa Sandok, Peter Lang Press, New York 1993.