



## Logical Philosophy of God. Selected Approaches

(Thematic Seminar)

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**30 hours / 6 ECTS**

### Introductory description

Modern logical philosophy still undertakes traditional philosophical issues and one of such is a question of the existence of an absolute being. The concept of absoluteness is understood according to the given ontological (or metaphysical) background and is conceived in philosophical (not theological) way. In different approaches the absolute is identified as the first mover, the first cause, the sufficient reason, the most perfect being. Any chosen way of defining an absolute gives frames for a construction of different arguments for the existence of such a being. Modern way of formulating them uses contemporary philosophical logic. We are going to present this modern way of philosophizing. In frame of the seminar we describe the very idea of formalizing and we show its application to three arguments: the argument for the existence of the first mover (Thomas Aquinas), the second – for the existence of a sufficient reason (Leibniz) and the third – for the existence of the most perfect being (Anselm, Descartes, Gödel). The main aim of the seminar is to show possibilities of using scientific formal methods to consider classical questions put in philosophy.

### Course content

- Concepts of a formal system and a deductive theory
- Example of logic (later used as a formal background) – classical first order predicate logic with identity
- Two concepts of formalization (translation and phenomenological one)
- Translation problems – examples of different ways of formalizing the problem “ab alio”



- Theory of the first mover. The argument of Thomas Aquinas in Salamucha's formalization
- Theory of sufficient reason. Leibnizian proof in version of Nieznański
- Theory of the most perfect being. Anselmian argument in Gödel's formalism (classical version)
- Pragmatic problems in formalization

#### **Requirements of credits – Assessment criteria**

- attending classes (max absence: 3 hours),
- taking part in a discussion,
- preparing the text on a chosen topic (6– 8 pages). Text should be presented to the teacher. It will be evaluated (evaluation: 2 – 5).

#### **References / Literature / Reading list**

1. J. H. Sobel, *Logic and Theism*, Cambridge Univ. Press, 2004
2. E. Nieznański, A. Burakowska, "Formalized Proofs of the Existence of God", *Collectanea Theologica* 64, 109-122
3. *Gödel's Ontological Argument. History. Modifications, and Controversies.* ed. by K. Świętorzecka, Semper 2015
4. E. Nieznański, *Towards a Formalization of Thomistic Theodicy. Formalized Attempts to Set Formal Logical Bases to State First Elements of Relations Considered in the Thomistic Theodicy*, Peter Lang 2013
5. K. Świętorzecka, „Natura Absolutu w kosmologicznych dowodach na Jego istnienie”, *Zagadnienia Naukoznawstwa*, 3(181-182), 2009, 128-140 (optional)
6. E. Nieznański, "Modal sense of the classical concepts of reason for the existence of beings", *Bulletin of the Section of Logic* Volume 43:1/2 (2014), 73–97 Wojtyła Karol, *Person and Community: Selected Essays*, trans. Theresa Sandok, Peter Lang Press, New York 1993.