

Postgraduate Course

# THEOPOLITICS. NEW TRENDS IN POLITICAL THEOLOGY

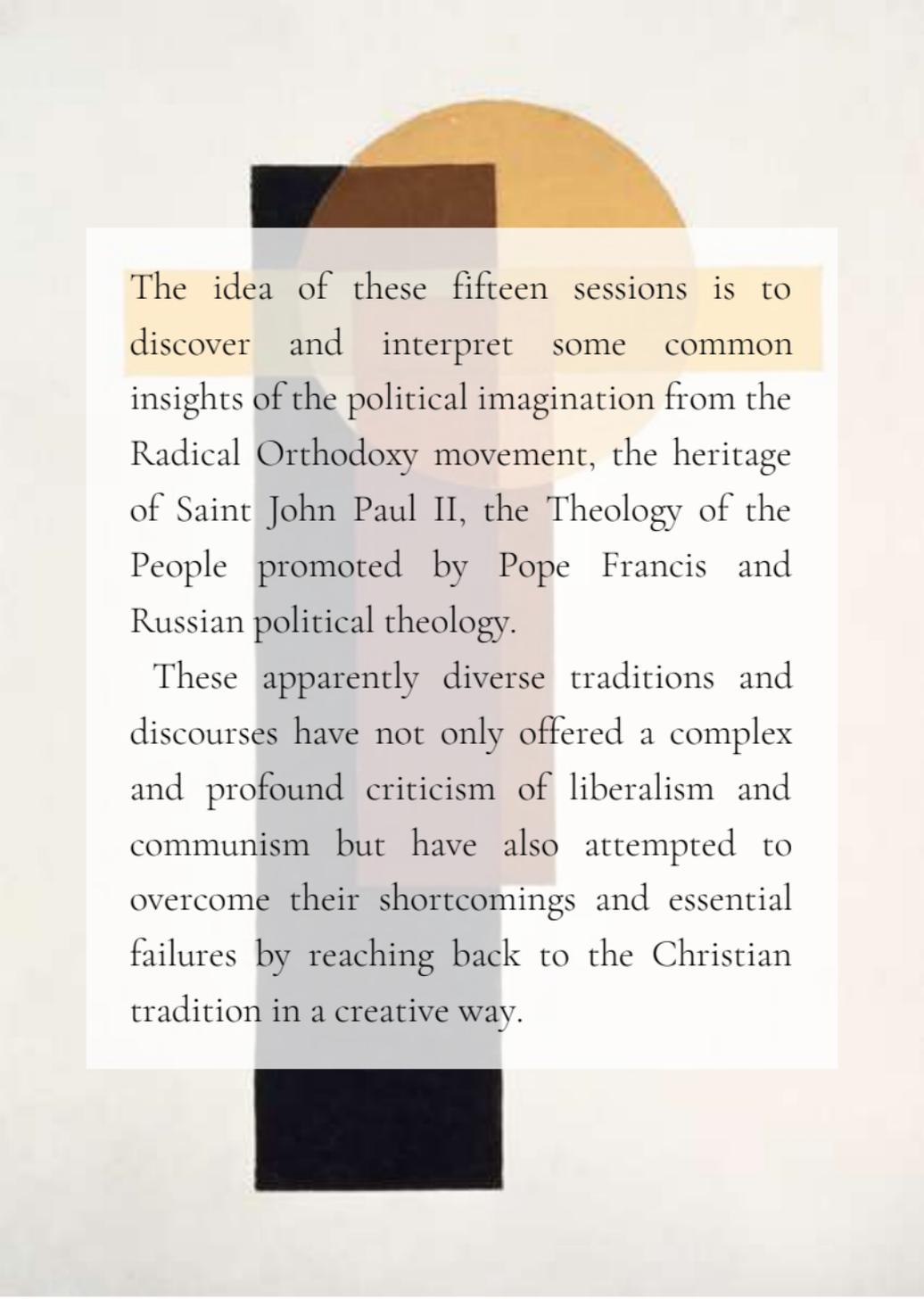
Online Modality

October 2022 - January 2023



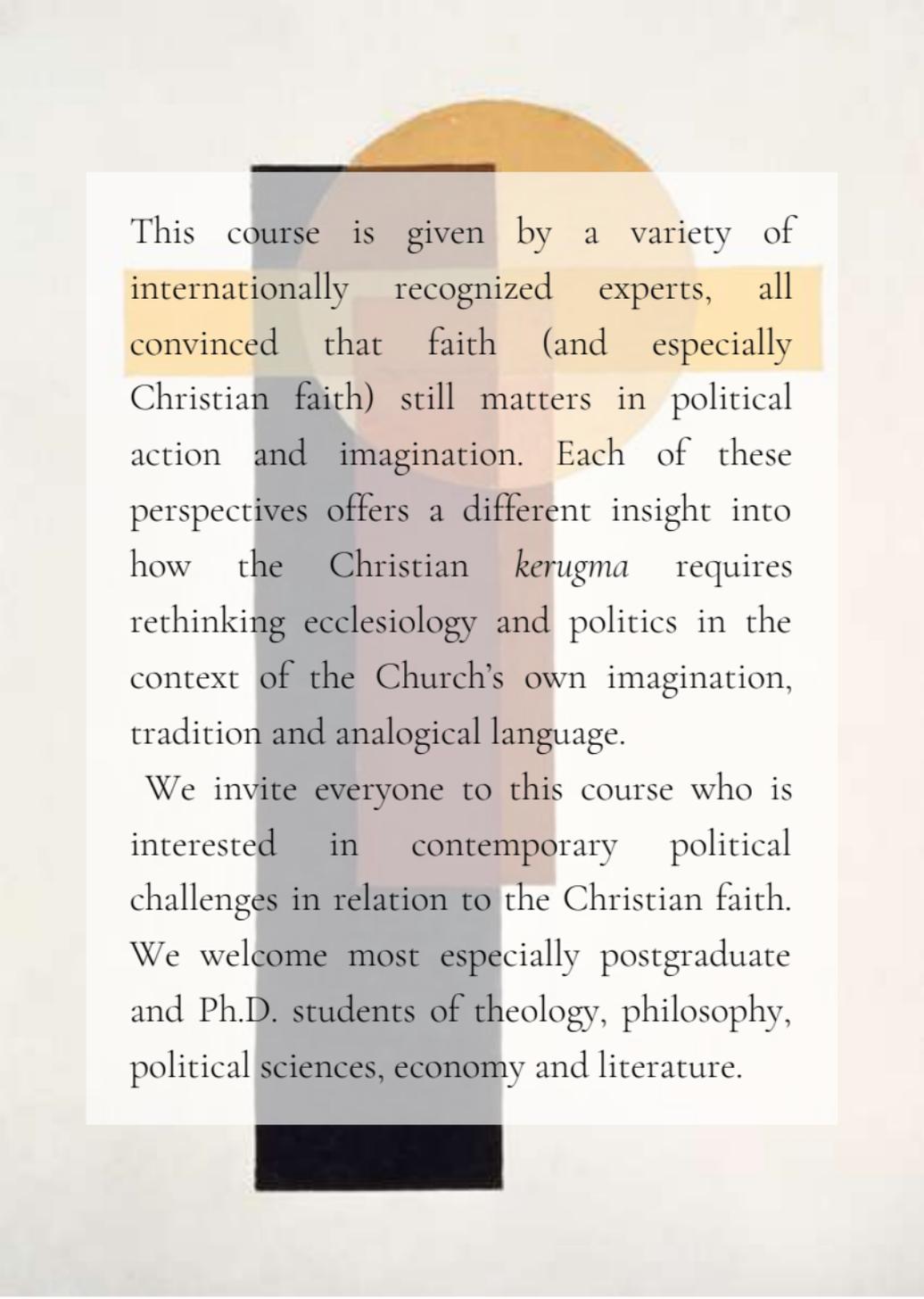
Universidad  
Pontificia  
de Salamanca





The idea of these fifteen sessions is to discover and interpret some common insights of the political imagination from the Radical Orthodoxy movement, the heritage of Saint John Paul II, the Theology of the People promoted by Pope Francis and Russian political theology.

These apparently diverse traditions and discourses have not only offered a complex and profound criticism of liberalism and communism but have also attempted to overcome their shortcomings and essential failures by reaching back to the Christian tradition in a creative way.



This course is given by a variety of internationally recognized experts, all convinced that faith (and especially Christian faith) still matters in political action and imagination. Each of these perspectives offers a different insight into how the Christian *kerugma* requires rethinking ecclesiology and politics in the context of the Church's own imagination, tradition and analogical language.

We invite everyone to this course who is interested in contemporary political challenges in relation to the Christian faith. We welcome most especially postgraduate and Ph.D. students of theology, philosophy, political sciences, economy and literature.



Prof. Dr. Rocco Buttiglione  
Program Director



Dr. phil. hab. Mátyás Szalay  
Coordinator



# Contents

1. Lecture: Theology and Politics in the Catholic Tradition
2. Seminar
3. Lecture: Theology of the People
4. Seminar
5. Lecture: Social Sciences and Theology
6. Seminar
7. Lecture: Trinitology and Political Theory (Schmitt-Peterson-Agamben)
8. Seminar



9. Lecture: John Paul II and Polish Messianism

10. Seminar

11. Lecture: Here is The Man! The Political Theology of Vladimir Solovyov and Sergio Bulgakov

12. Seminar

13. Lecture: Toward a Sacramental Biopolitics

14. Seminar

15. Plenary session: Theopolitics, a New Beginning



William Cavanaugh

is Professor of Catholic Studies and director of the Centre for World Catholicism and Intercultural Theology, a research centre housed in the Department of Catholic Studies and focusing on the Catholic Church in the global South Africa, Asia, and Latin America. He has an undergraduate degree in Theology from the University of Notre Dame and a Master's degree from Cambridge University in England. He spent two years working for the Church in a poor area of Santiago, Chile, under the military dictatorship. He earned a Ph.D. from Duke University, and taught at the University of St. Thomas in Minnesota for 15 years before going to DePaul. His major areas of research have to do with the Church's encounter with social, political, and economic realities. He has authored six books and edited three volumes that have been published in 10 languages.

# Theology and Politics in the Catholic Tradition

Date: October 6 and 13, 2022

## Class description:

In this lecture I will argue that the Church's historical embrace of the separation of Church and state does not necessarily entail the separation of theology and politics. I will discuss the rise of political theology in the context of the twentieth century, and I will discuss how theology and politics are practiced in the Catholic Church today worldwide.

## Bibliography:

- Cavanaugh, W.T. and Scott, P.M. (eds.). (2019). Introduction to the Second Edition, in: Wiley Blackwell companion to political theology. John Wiley & Sons.
- I Samuel 8
- Pius XI's encyclical Quas Primas



Rocco Buttiglione

received an honorary degree in Philosophy from the Catholic University of Lublin, a Ph.D. in Law from the University of Rome La Sapienza and an honorary doctorate from Francisco Marroquín University. He was a member of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace. He has been a member of Parliament since 1994 and served as Minister of European Affairs, Minister of Culture and Vice President of the Chamber of Deputies. He was the Director of the Saint John Paul II Chair at the Pontifical Lateran University and Pro-rector of the International Academy of Philosophy. He is a member of the scientific committee of the John Paul II International Foundation for the Social Magisterium of the Church (European Academy of Sciences and Arts), member of the Chilean Academy of Sciences, Political and Moral Sciences and member of the Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences. He has been a Full Professor at different universities and he is currently Professor at the IFES (Instituto de Filosofía Edith Stein).

# Theology of the people

Date: Friday, October 21 and 28, 2022

First class description:

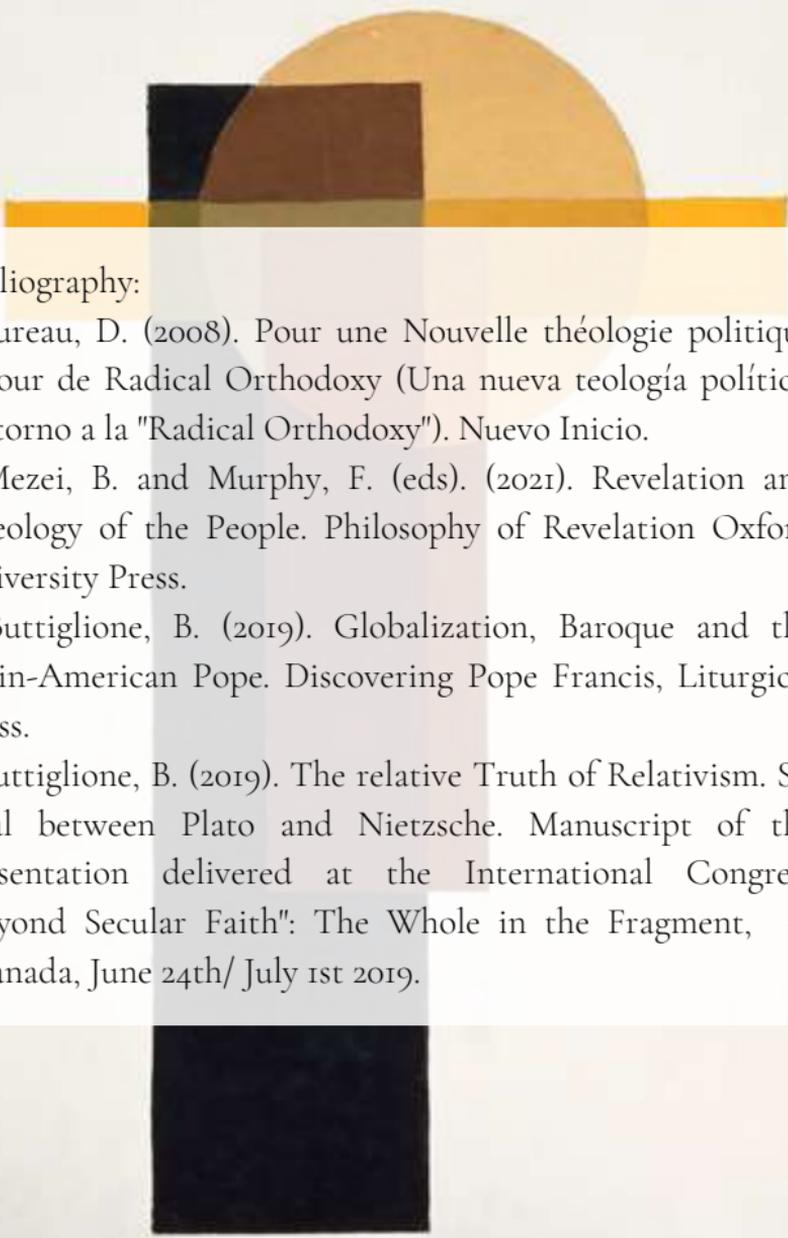
We are going to treat the following issues:

- Theology of the People and Liberation Theology. Similarities and differences.
- What is Culture? What is the Culture of the People?
- The Culture of the Latin American Peoples.
- Rodolfo Kusch: "ser" and "estar".
- The Theology the People and the Latin American Pope.

Second class description:

We are going to treat the following issues:

- The eucharistical communion demands to become a visible and sociologically detectable community.
- A Church in Movement ("Iglesia en salida").
- The Missionary Disciple.
- A methodology for the implantation of the Church.
- The Communion with Christ is the Liberation of Man.



## Bibliography:

- Sureau, D. (2008). Pour une Nouvelle théologie politique autour de Radical Orthodoxy (Una nueva teología política: en torno a la "Radical Orthodoxy"). Nuevo Inicio.
- Mezei, B. and Murphy, F. (eds). (2021). Revelation and Theology of the People. Philosophy of Revelation Oxford University Press.
- Buttiglione, B. (2019). Globalization, Baroque and the Latin-American Pope. Discovering Pope Francis, Liturgical Press.
- Buttiglione, B. (2019). The relative Truth of Relativism. St. Paul between Plato and Nietzsche. Manuscript of the presentation delivered at the International Congress "Beyond Secular Faith": The Whole in the Fragment, in Granada, June 24th/ July 1st 2019.



## John Milbank

is an Anglican theologian, formerly Research Professor of Religion, Politics and Ethics at the University of Nottingham, where he also directs the Centre of Theology and Philosophy. Previously, he taught at the University of Virginia, the University of Cambridge and the University of Lancaster. He is also chairman of the trustees of the ResPublica think tank. His work integrates subjects, such as systematic theology, social theory, ethics, aesthetics, philosophy, political theory and political theology in a cross-disciplinary manner. He first gained recognition for the volume *Theology and Social Theory* (1990) which laid the theoretical foundations for the movement known as Radical Orthodoxy. He has collaborated on three books with the title *Theology and the Political: The New Debate* (2005), *The Monstrosity of Christ: Paradox or Dialectic* (2009), and *Paul's New Moment: Continental Philosophy and the Future of Christian Theology* (2010).

# Social Sciences and Theology

Date: November 3 and 10, 2022

## Class description:

Theology needs to be wavier in its relations to the social and political sciences than it has been in the past. Modern political theory and modern economics are rooted in a distorted Augustinianism which wavers between excessive pessimism and excessive optimism; in either case tending to shift the focus from the ethical to a kind of mechanised providentialism. The primacy of the social over either the economic or the political promoted by sociology is truly an heir to the post-politics of ecclesiology. However, the legacy of a distorted Augustine is manifest here also, combined with a substitution of society for God. Yet the internal implicit deconstruction of sociology by Mauss, with its foregrounding of gift-exchange can be re-integrated with ecclesiology and is compatible with Catholic Social Teaching, which it also potentially enriches.

## Bibliography:

- Milbank, J. (2008). Chapter 1. Theology and Liberalism, in: *Theology and Social Theory: Beyond secular reason*. John Wiley & Sons.
- Milbank, J. and Pabst, A. (2011). Introduction à la théologie de John Milbank et à la "Radical Orthodoxy" (El pensamiento de John Milbank. Una introducción a la "Radical Orthodoxy"). *Nuevo Inicio*, 2011, p.29-67.



## Zoltán Balázs

is Professor of Political Science (Corvinus University and Eotvos Research Network, Budapest). He has been publishing in political theory and philosophy. His current interest includes the interface of politics and literature, political theology, and the thought of Aurel Kolnai. His recent publications in English include *Constraining Government*. Lexington Books. Lanham; New York; London: Rowman and Littlefield, 2021, *The Never-Ending Story of Political Moralism and Realism*. *Ethical Perspectives* 4 (2018): 589-616. , *Viktor Orbán's leadership: the prince, the political father and the doomed trickster*. In *Modern Leaders: Between Charisma and Trickery*. A. Horvath, A. Szakolczai and M. Marangudakis (eds). London, New York: Routledge, 2020: 191-210, *Political Death and the Political After life*, *International Political Anthropology*, 2 (2020): 155-70, *The Sovereign's Beatitude*. *Political Theory* 4 (2021): 1-21. Further, he has been publishing in various Hungarian conservative and Catholic platforms since the early nineties.

# Trinitology and Political Theory (Schmitt-Peterson-Agamben)

Date: November 17 and 24, 2022

## Class description:

Carl Schmitt's bold thesis on the analogical nature of political and theological concepts was first repelled theologically by Erik Peterson. He was the first to point out that trinitology cannot be squared with the modern monarchical concept of political sovereignty. However, G. Agamben argued that the 'oikomenical' aspect of the trinitological doctrine is, and has been, a viable model for political thinking, and Stathis Gourgouris adds that the doctrine itself originates in antique political language. Is this right? Or has the doctrine of the Trinity other imports for political thinking?

## Bibliography:

- Agamben, G. (2011). Chapter 2: The Mystery of Economy, in: *The Kingdom and The Glory. For a Theological Genealogy of Economy and Government*. Stanford University Press.
- Gourgouris, S. (2016). Political Theology as Monarchical Thought. *Constellations*. 23, (2), 145-159.
- Matthews, C. (2013). Feasting on Glory. *Political Theology*, 65-76



Paweł Rojek

is philosopher and sociologist, teaches analytical metaphysics at Jagiellonian University in Krakow. Currently, he works on relational trinitarian ontology. Besides this, he explores the Polish Catholic intellectual tradition and Russian religious philosophy. In 2016 he published a much-discussed book, *Liturgia dziejów* [The Liturgy of History] on the influences of Polish romantic messianism on the literary, philosophical and theological works of Karol Wojtyła – John Paul II. His book was discussed in a special issue of *Theological Research* (2019, vol. 7). In his *Awangardowy konserwatyzm* [Avant-Garde Conservatism] he argued, among other things, for joining religious inspirations with contemporary art. This book was nominated for two important Polish literary awards: Joseph Mackiewicz and Identitas. He also wrote a book on current Russian political ideologies, published both in Polish, and in Czech. He is a co-editor of the book series *Ex Oriente Lux*, published by Wipf and Stock in the US.

# John Paul II and Polish Messianism

Date: December 1 and 8, 2022

## Class description:

Karol Wojtyła, before he was ordained for a priest, was deeply influenced by Romantic Messianism, an original complex of philosophical, religious and social ideas, created by a number of nineteenth-century Polish poets and thinkers. Quite surprisingly, Polish commentators of John Paul II usually disregard this particular context, because, as they believed, it might somehow undermine the universal meaning of the pope's teaching. Contrary to this view, I propose a program of systematic study of messianic influences on John Paul II. During our class, we will try to find traces of this influence in John Paul II's theology of history, theology of suffering, and theology of the nation.

## Bibliography:

- John Paul II. (1979). Homily at the Victory Square in Warsaw, 2 June 1979. The Holy See.
- Ehrlich OSU, E. (2019). Remarks on Some Aspects of Messianism, transl. by K. Popowicz. Theological Research, vol. 7, 29-59.



## Tsoncho Tsonchev

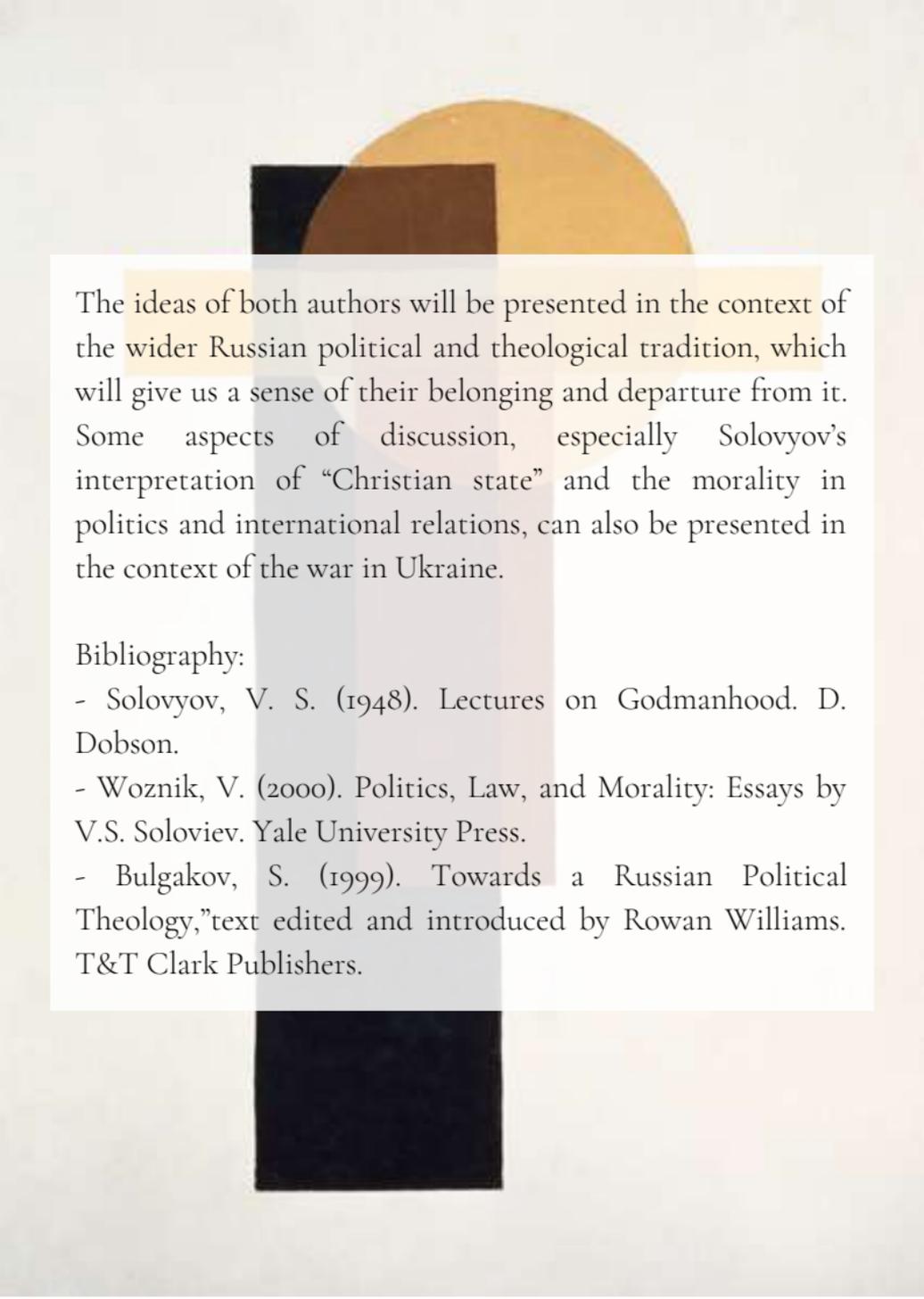
Ph.D., McGill University. Is a Bulgarian-Canadian theologian and political philosopher. His research interests include Russian Orthodox political and religious thought (19th and 20th centuries), Christian ethics and moral theology, Christian Realism and the study of political regimes and ideologies. His current work is focused on the political ideas of Vladimir Solovyov, Dmitry Merezhkovsky, Sergei Bulgakov, and on Tolstoy's pacifist anarchism. Dr. Tsonchev is the recipient of the Redemptorist Anniversary Bursary for Moral Theology and the author of *The Political Theology of Augustine, Thomas Aquinas and Reinhold Niebuhr: Essays in Political Theology and Christian Realism* and *Person and Communion: The Political Theology of Nikolai Berdyaev*. He is a Research Scholar at the Northwestern University Research Initiative for the Study of Russian Philosophy and Religious Thought and the current editor-in-chief of *The Montréal Review* magazine.

# Here is The Man! The Political Theology of Vladimir Solovyov and Sergio Bulgakov

Date: December 15 and 22, 2022

## Class description:

“When Jesus came out wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe, Pilate said to them “Here is the man!” (John 19:5) We can interpret this event in the Gospel as an invitation from the center of temporal authority (or the state) to judge the meaning and value of the human person. Living in a state and secular society, we are often asked, openly or implicitly, to judge our neighbour. In fact, the fate of our neighbours depends on our individual and collective response to the call of the state and organized society. Thus, we can cry out “Crucify Him! Crucify Him!”, or shout: “Ecce Homo: here is the Übermensch (Mangod)!”, or exclaim “Hosanna! Give praise to Godman!” In these lectures, we will cover all these three possible political and ethical responses. Our discussion will be based on the political theology of two of the most influential Russian religious thinkers: Vladimir Solovyov and Sergii Bulgakov. In the first lecture, we will cover Solovyov’s early work “Readings in Godmanhood,” which is the very foundation of his mature religious philosophy and political criticism. In the second lecture, we will focus on the early Bulgakov, when he was actively engaged with questions of politics, culture, and society.



The ideas of both authors will be presented in the context of the wider Russian political and theological tradition, which will give us a sense of their belonging and departure from it. Some aspects of discussion, especially Solovyov's interpretation of "Christian state" and the morality in politics and international relations, can also be presented in the context of the war in Ukraine.

#### Bibliography:

- Solovyov, V. S. (1948). Lectures on Godmanhood. D. Dobson.
- Woznik, V. (2000). Politics, Law, and Morality: Essays by V.S. Soloviev. Yale University Press.
- Bulgakov, S. (1999). Towards a Russian Political Theology,"text edited and introduced by Rowan Williams. T&T Clark Publishers.



## Therese Lysaught

studied organic chemistry, writing, and religion at Hope College and theology at the University of Notre Dame. She earned her doctorate in theological ethics from Duke University Divinity School. She received a fellowship from the Ethical, Legal, and Social Implications (ELSI) Program of the National Human Genome Research Institute of the NIH and spent a year in Dr. Jeff Murray's Cooperative Human Linkage Lab at the University of Iowa, one of the major sequencing centers for the Human Genome Project. Subsequently, she was appointed to the Recombinant DNA Advisory Committee (RAC) of the National Institutes of Health. She is professor of theological ethics at three Catholic universities. Lysaught spent a year with CHA as a Visiting Scholar, where she collaborated with associates across Catholic healthcare to discern and articulate a landscape of the theological foundations of this flagship ministry of the Church. This vision is captured in her third book, *Caritas in Communion*. She worked in Haiti, El Salvador, and Guatemala through research projects in global health.

# Toward a Sacramental Biopolitics

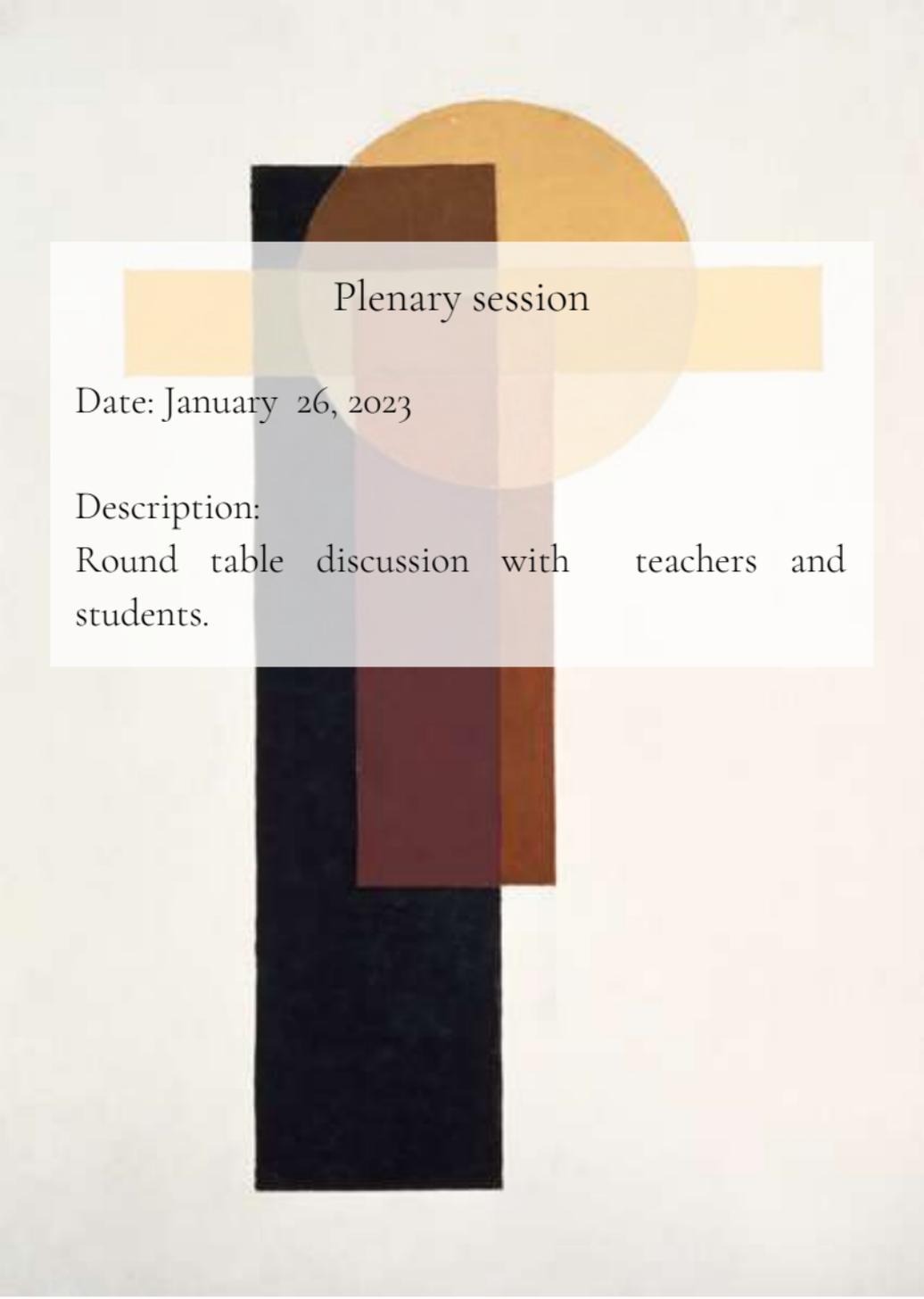
Date: January 12 and 19, 2023

## Class description:

This lecture cross-talks three claims: (1) Michel Foucault's claim "the body is the site at which power is contested"; (2) John Paul II's claim that "bodies are the primordial sacrament"; and (3) Henri De Lubac's claim that "the Eucharist is the font of the Church." Taken together, these claims enable us to see in a new way how the bodies of the sick, the poor, and marginalized are the *fulcrum* that connects—or should connect—the body politic and the Body of Christ. The initial explorations outlined in this paper seek to provide a basis for rethinking the theological basis of Catholic bioethics.

## Bibliography:

- Guinn, D. (2006). And Power Corrupts...: Theology and the Disciplinary Matrix of Bioethics. In Handbook of Bioethics and Religion. Oxford University Press, 93-123.
- Lysaught, T. (1992). Patient Suffering and the Anointing of the Sick. *The Cresset*. 55, 15-21.
- Lysaught, T. (2019). Las Periferias y El Pan: Pope Francis, La Teología del Pueblo, and the Conversion of Catholic Bioethics. *Perspectiva Teológica Brazil* 51 (3), 421-442.



## Plenary session

Date: January 26, 2023

Description:

Round table discussion with teachers and students.

# Why study with us?

- Academic quality

Courses taught by experts on the subject of international reputation.

- Personalized follow-up

We offer theoretical training as well as personalized support with a tutor to answer questions and provide follow-up in the learning process.

- Official recognition

Course organized by the Edith Stein Institute of Philosophy and certified by the Pontifical University of Salamanca, offering 5 ECTS credits.

- Online modality

Classes taught through Google Meet that allows you to connect from wherever you are.

## ● Schedule

Thursdays, from October 6, 2022 to January 26, 2023  
18:00 - 19:00 hrs (Central European Time)

## ● Price

220.00 €

Scholarships for students of academic excellence

For registration, scholarships and contact,  
write to:

Carmen Guerra

[guerra@institutoifes.es](mailto:guerra@institutoifes.es)

Paintings by László Moholy-Nagy

