

Women in the Church and in the Synod

Special Course in Pastoral Theology

Summer Semester 2024
Catholic Private University Linz
3 ECTS

Instructors

[Dr. Adela Muchova](#)
[Prof. Dr. Klara Csiszar](#)

Email

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Office Location & Hours

By appointment

Course Description

We are bringing women participants of [the World Synod of Bishops](#) together with students for an academic exchange. They will reflect on the role of women in the church and discuss various topics from [the Synthesis Report](#) (October 28, 2023) with students from [the Catholic University in Linz](#) and partner universities worldwide. The interdisciplinary theological approach will be followed with a pastoral theological contextualization. The working sessions are based on the Synthesis Report and elaborate various topics as they were discussed during the First Session of the Synod (October 2023). Every week a different speaker presents one topic of the Synthesis and reflects especially on the expertise and experience of women in the Synod. As the speakers – the synod participants – represent various regions, continents, roles and responsibilities, they will offer a contextualization of chosen topics in their specific field of ministry and in the global church.

The honored speakers include Nathalie Becquart (Vatican/France), Klara Csiszar (Austria/Romania), Anna Beatrice Faye (Burkina Faso), Helena Jeppesen-Spuhler (Switzerland), Jolanta Maria Kafka (Poland/Spain), Rafael Luciani (Venezuela/USA), Ladislav Nemet (Serbia/CCEE), Nora K. Nonterah (Ghana), Julia Oseka, (Poland/USA), Estela Padilla (Philippines), Susan Pascoe (Australia), Sheila Leocadia Pires (Mozambique/South Africa), Myriam Wijlens, (the Netherlands/Germany), Marie Kolbe Zamora (USA/Vatican).

The course sessions will examine the following topics from the Synthesis Report: Synodality, Experience and Understanding; the Eastern Churches and Latin Church Traditions; A church “out of every tribe, tongue, people and nation”; Church is Mission; the Bishop in Ecclesial Communion; Women in the Life and Mission of the Church; a Synodal Approach to Formation; Towards a Listening and Accompanying Church; Structures for Participation; the Relevance of Canonical Provisions in a Synodal Church; the Church-Governance. Specific attention will be given to the role of women in the church.

Date & Time

The course is designed as a chance for an international exchange: students from various partner universities of KU Linz from all over the world are welcome to participate in this online course (3 ECTS available to students). **The sessions take place online on Wednesdays, between March 6 and June 26, 2024, in the time from 14:15 to 16:00 CET** (08:15-10:00am EST; 10:15-12:00am BRT; 21:15-23:00pm HKT). The online access will be sent to registered students on March 4, 2024.

Expectations and Goals

The objectives of this seminar are (1) to engage in discussions with women participants of the Synod; (2) to examine related synodal themes from various perspectives; and (3) to outline possible pastoral and ministerial models for the future considering the role of women in the synodal church.

The seminar is based on active student participation: the sessions consist of short lectures and discussion with speakers, group discussions and theological contextualization. The working language is English; students are expected to communicate at level A2-B1. It is expected that the participants read the synodal Synthesis from October 2023 in advance to be ready for discussions. Interested students outside theology are welcome too. All study materials will be available online.

Grading Policy

Final grading reflects online attendance and active participation in discussions and group reflections (70%) and a short reflection paper (30%) ranging between 6.000 and 8.000 characters.

Registration Information

Registration period: February 12, 2024 – March 8, 2024

- **Students from KU Linz:** standard registration procedure
- **International students from KU Linz [partner universities](#):** free of charge
More information on student registration provides Ruzica Romic from the International office, KU Linz, r.romic@ku-linz.at
- **Guest participants:** 150 EUR for a course. The interested persons shall contact a course instructor Adela Muchova from the Institute of Pastoral Theology, KU Linz, a.muchova@ku-linz.at Please, indicate the “DKT-7-VZ Pastoral Theology” as the subject.
Should anyone wish to attend the whole seminar and is unable to pay the fee, please contact the Vice-rector for Teaching, Research, and Internationalization for a financial support: Prof. Klara Csiszar, k.csiszar@ku-linz.at

Course Materials




[The Synthesis Report](#) (October 28, 2023) is available online, language versions accessible. Other study materials and texts for further reading will be distributed to registered students.

Course Schedule

Organizer: [The Institute of Pastoral Theology](#), Catholic Private University Linz, Austria

More information: <https://ku-linz.at/theologie/institute/pastoraltheologie/news>



<i>Week</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Speaker</i>	<i>Session Theme</i>
W1	6. March 2024	 	Klara CSISZAR (Austria/Romania) Adela MUCHOVA (Austria/Czech Republic) Introduction
W2	13. March 2024		Marie Kolbe ZAMORA (USA/Vatican) The Eastern Churches and Latin Church Traditions (Chapter 6)
W3	20. March 2024		Rafael LUCIANI (Venezuela/USA) Synodality: Experience and Understanding (Chapter 1)
W4	10. April 2024		Nathalie BECQUART (France/Vatican) A Church “out of every tribe, tongue, people and nation” (Chapter 5)
W5	17. April 2024		Anne Béatrice FAYE (Burkina Faso) Church is Mission (Chapter 8)
W6	24. April 2024		Ladislav NEMET (Serbia/CCEE) The Bishop in Ecclesial Communion (Chapter 12)
W7	8. May 2024		Sheila PIRES (Mozambique/South Africa) A Synodal Approach to Formation (Chapter 14)
W8	15. May 2024		Helena JEPPESEN-SPUHLER (Switzerland) Women in the Life and Mission of the Church (Chapter 9)
W9	22. May 2024		Jolanta KAFKA (Poland/Spain) Church is Mission (Chapter 8)
W10	29. May 2024		Myriam WIJLENS (the Netherlands/Germany) The Relevance of Canonical Provisions in a Synodal Church (General framework)
W11	5. June 2024		Nora K. NONTERAH (Ghana) Structures for Participation (Chapter 18)
W12	12. June 2024		Julia OSEKA (Poland/USA) Towards a Listening and Accompanying Church (Chapter 16)
W13	19. June 2024		Estela PADILLA (Philippines) Structures of Participation (Chapter 18)
W14	26. June 2024		Susan PASCOE (Australia) Church-Governance (General framework)



Organized with kind support of the General Secretariat of the Synod