

**St Vladimir's Seminary**  
**Elective Course Descriptions – Fall 2016**

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**Fall 2016****BIBLICAL LANGUAGES 301**

Credits: 3 credits

VERY REV. DR EUGEN PENTIUC

*Introduction to Biblical Hebrew.* Basic Hebrew grammar with exegesis of selected passages. *Prerequisite: None.*

**Wednesday, 1:00-3:30p****BIBLICAL LANGUAGES 313**

Credits: 3 credits

REV. DR GEORGE PARSENIOS

*The Letters of John.* The goal of this course is to introduce students to reading Biblical Greek. In the first half, the course will focus on completing the student's skill in introductory Greek grammar, introducing non-indicative verbal forms and intermediate-level concepts in Greek syntax. In the second half, it will concentrate on performing extended readings from the Letters of John. The course will also include significant parsing exercises and an emphasis on building vocabulary. *Prerequisite: One year of Biblical or Classical Greek.*

**Thursday, 1:00-3:30p****CLINICAL PASTORAL EDUCATION 300**

Credits: 4 credits

STAFF

*Level I ACPE Clinical Pastoral Education.* Elective registration for M.Div. students who seek academic credit for one unit of Level I ACPE-accredited Clinical Pastoral Education. *In order to receive academic credit, which also fulfills the degree program requirement for hospital ministry, students must register for CPE 300 (or CPE 301–302, if taking Level I CPE over two semesters) and successfully complete a Level I ACPE-accredited unit of 400 hours. Prerequisite: Second-year standing in the M.Div. program and permission of associate dean for academic affairs.*

**DOGMATIC THEOLOGY 456**

Credits: 3 credits

DR PETER BOUTENEFF

*Contextual Theologies.* Every written and spoken expression of theology arises out of a particular context. But what of the recent theologies which are explicitly defined by their context? Theologies shaped by themes (e.g., Liberation, Feminist, and Black theologies) and by regional context (e.g., Asian and African theologies) will be explored in terms of their respective settings, characteristics, and significance. *Prerequisite for M.Div. and M.A. students: Second-year standing, one year of Biblical or Classical Greek, minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.5, and permission of associate dean for academic affairs.*

**Monday, 1:00-3:30p****LITURGICAL THEOLOGY 343 (443)**

Credits: 3 (3) credits

DR GRANT WHITE

*Liturgy and Scripture.* This course will introduce course participants to fundamental historical, theological, and pastoral dimensions of the relationship between scripture and Orthodox Christian liturgical practice. Some of the topics the course will discuss include: functions of scripture in liturgical texts and practices;

canon, ecclesiology, and liturgical development; schools of biblical interpretation in early Christianity and their effects on the development of Christian liturgical traditions; the application of methods of scripture interpretation to interpretation of the Divine Liturgy and the formation of mystagogical traditions; the possible relationships between scripture and Christian formation in Orthodox Christian parish life today. *Limited enrollment. Prerequisite for M.Div. and M.A. students: Second-year standing and permission of associate dean for academic affairs.*

**Hybrid (online-residential) course, beginning online Monday, August 29. *The onsite intensive will be held Monday, October 31 through Saturday, November 5. Attendance at all onsite sessions is mandatory.***

#### MALAYALAM 301

Credits: 3 credits

REV. DR VARGHESE M. DANIEL

*Introductory Malayalam.* Malayalam is a South Indian language spoken by 35 million people. The focus of this course is to teach students to follow the books used during liturgical services conducted in Malayalam. Students are introduced to the Malayalam alphabet, pronunciation, basic grammar, and vocabulary, and are exposed to conversational Malayalam. Special emphasis is given to reading liturgical texts and memorizing words and phrases used in liturgical prayers. *Jurisdictional requirement for M.Div. candidates of the Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church. Prerequisite: Permission of the instructor.*

**Thursday, 6:45-9:15p**

#### NEW TESTAMENT 345 (445)

Credits: 3 (3) credits

REV. DR GEORGE PARSENIOS

*Paul and His Churches in an Age of Syncretism.* This exegetically based course will focus on particular texts in the Pauline letters and particular circumstances in the Pauline communities in order to clarify and reflect on the pastoral work of the Apostle Paul, and especially the character and work of Paul as a shaper of communities and as a guide in moral formation. Particular attention will be given to reading Paul in light of contemporary Greek and Roman popular philosophers, in order to examine the ways in which Paul relies on, but also transforms, ancient patterns of psychagogy. *Prerequisite: New Testament 102.*

**Thursday, 9:15-11:45a**

#### PASTORAL THEOLOGY 319

Credits: 3 credits

REV. DR PHILIP LEMASTERS

*Ministry in a Multi-Faith Context.* How do we minister with and to people who are not Orthodox? Many clergy, chaplains, counselors, educators, and youth workers serve today in settings shaped by religious diversity and perhaps even hostility toward religion. Interfaith dialogue and cooperation are givens in contemporary culture that clergy and lay ministers may not ignore, if they wish to serve faithfully and effectively. Priests and catechists teach inquirers from many different faith backgrounds, while parishioners increasingly incorporate insights from other religions into their worldviews. This course provides students an introduction to the dynamics of practical engagement with adherents of other Christian confessions and of other world religions. It also exposes students to the status of chaplaincy in our religiously diverse society. Students preparing for any form of ministry will benefit from thinking through these challenging issues. *Limited enrollment. Prerequisite: Second-year standing in the M.Div. program and permission of associate dean for academic affairs.*

**Hybrid (online-residential) course, beginning online Monday, August 29. *The onsite intensive will be held Monday, October 31 through Friday, November 4. Attendance at all onsite sessions is mandatory.***

#### PATRISTICS 313 (413)

Credits: 3 (3) credits

VERY REV. DR JOHN BEHR

*St Irenaeus.* A detailed study of various aspects of the theology of St Irenaeus (scriptural exegesis,

triadology, Christology, creation, anthropology) in the context of the 2nd century. *Prerequisite: Patristics 204.*

**Tuesday, 9:15-11:45a**

PATRISTICS 431

Credits: 3 credits

VERY REV. DR JOHN BEHR

*St Gregory of Nyssa.* A seminar course focused on a close reading of the primary texts (in translation, with close analysis of selected passages in Greek), covering the wide range of Gregory's interest: theology, Christology, exegesis, anthropology, asceticism, and spirituality. Texts to be studied include: *Against Eunomius, On the Formation of the Human Being, On the Soul and Resurrection, On Virginity, The Life of Moses, and Commentary on the Song of Songs.* *Prerequisite for M.Div. and M.A. students: Second-year standing, one year of Biblical or Classical Greek, minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.5, and permission of associate dean for academic affairs.*

**Wednesday, 1:00–3:30p**

SPIRITUALITY 376

Credits: 1 credit

DR KATE BEHR

*The Apocalypse in Literature.* This course will explore how literature reflects the end of the world. Anchoring itself in the Book of Revelation, the class will examine various literary interpretations of the Apocalypse in short fiction and novels, paying particular attention to the post-apocalyptic worlds endemic to recent popular young adult literature. *Prerequisite: None.*

**Wednesday, 8:10-9:25p (Ten class sessions, beginning Wednesday, August 31)**

SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY 320 (420)

Credits: 3 (3) credits

REV. DR J. SERGIUS HALVORSEN

*Faith and Science.* This course investigates the relationship between Orthodox Christianity and scientific inquiry. Students will critically reflect on the historical emergence of science as a discipline distinct from theology, and how major discoveries in the natural sciences have shaped the discourse concerning Christianity in public life. Topics covered in the class include: cosmology; evolution; genetics; classical and quantum physics; sociology; medicine; neurobiology and the science of consciousness. Students will consider how scientific discovery affects theological understanding, and how Christian faith guides the application of science and technology. Providing students with a foundation in scientific discourse, this course will also give students an opportunity to craft Orthodox Christian apologetics. *Prerequisite for M.Div. and M.A. students: Second year standing or permission of instructor.*

**Tuesday, 9:15-11:45a**

SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY 338

Credits: 1 credit

DR PETER BOUTENEFF

*Orthodox Identity and Difference.* This course seeks to explore what it means to be an Orthodox Christian today, in a secular and pluralistic society that in many respects appears to challenge the historic institutions and values of the Orthodox Church. Initial readings and lectures will trace the ways in which Orthodoxy has responded to challenges posed by the modern world from the 18th century onward, whether by way of reaction or by adoption and adaptation. Student presentations and discussion sessions will focus on specific contemporary issues, such as the role of the Church in public life, the challenge of ecumenism and inter-faith relations, problems in inter-Orthodox relations, the issue of "modernism," and the place of the Church in post-Communist Eastern European society. *Prerequisite: None.*

**Wednesday, 6:45-8:00p (Ten class sessions, beginning Wednesday, August 31)**

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**Spring 2017 (projected)****BIBLICAL LANGUAGES 302**

Credits: 3 credits

VERY REV. DR EUGEN PENTIUC

*Introduction to Biblical Hebrew.* Basic Hebrew grammar with exegesis of selected passages. *Prerequisite: Biblical Languages 301.*

**BIBLICAL LANGUAGES 316 (416)**

Credits: 3 (3) credits

REV. DR GEORGE PARSENIOS

*Readings in Patristic Greek Literature.* This course will introduce students to a diverse selection of Greek texts outside of the New Testament; emphasis will be placed on the various genres of Patristic and Byzantine Greek. Exposure to different forms of literature—hagiographic, apologetic, epistolary, apocalyptic—as well as various styles will equip students for further study and research in Patristic Greek literature. Classes will be devoted primarily to translation and grammatical exegesis; exercises in sight-reading will increase fluency. In addition, the course will prepare them for further research by introducing current issues in scholarship, tools for research, and available lexica and editions. *Prerequisite: One year of Biblical or Classical Greek.*

**CANON LAW 324 (424)**

Credits: 3 (3) credits

VERY REV. DR ALEXANDER RENTEL

*Ordination, Ministry, and the Canonical Tradition.* An examination of the Orthodox liturgical and canonical tradition in order to understand the function, role, and nature of clerical orders in the Church. Among the topics to be discussed: the various rites of ordination, historical development of clerical offices, liturgical ministry, and clergy in the canonical literature. *Prerequisite: Second-year standing in the Master of Divinity or Master of Arts program.*

**CHRISTIAN EDUCATION 204**

Credits: 3 credits

REV. DR SERGIUS HALVORSEN

*Christian Education and Discipleship.* The work of the Church is to make disciples of all nations, teaching all that Jesus commanded (Mt 28:19-20). This course explores the relationship between discipleship and education through critical reflection on applied practice. Topics covered in the course include, but are not limited: to college ministry; adult education; inquirers classes; preparing catechumens for reception into the Church; the dynamics of religious conversion; volunteer management; and cultivating a spirit of discipleship within an Orthodox Christian Community. To the extent possible, students will integrate class work with work in parish settings during the course. *Prerequisite: Second-year standing in the M.Div. or M.A. program.*

**CLINICAL PASTORAL EDUCATION 300**

Credits: 4 credits

STAFF

*Level I ACPE Clinical Pastoral Education.* Elective registration for M.Div. students who seek academic credit for one unit of Level I ACPE-accredited Clinical Pastoral Education. *In order to receive academic credit, which also fulfills the degree program requirement for hospital ministry, students must register for CPE 300 (or CPE 301–302, if taking Level I CPE over two semesters) and successfully complete a Level I ACPE-accredited unit of 400 hours. Prerequisite: Second-year standing in the M.Div. program and permission of associate dean for academic affairs.*

## ETHICS 330

Credits: 3 credits

DR GAYLE E. WOLOSCHAK

*Bioethics for Ministry.* The goal of the course is to provide students with a foundation in bioethics and to relate questions of bioethics to pastoral ministry. The course will begin by laying the foundations for Orthodox approaches to bioethics. Following this foundational study, the program will then explore particular issues related to bioethics that impact ministries today. *Limited enrollment. Prerequisite: Second-year standing in the M.Div. program and permission of associate dean for academic affairs.*

**Hybrid (online-residential) course, beginning online Monday, January 23.**

## ETHICS 320 (420)

Credits: 3 (3) credits

REV. DR PHILIP LEMASTERS

*The Ethics of Marriage, Family, and Sexuality.* This course introduces students to Orthodox teaching and practice on the controversial issues at stake in our society's contemporary debates about marriage, family, and sexuality. From the very origins of the faith, Christians have challenged cultural trends on these matters that fall short of the exalted vocation of man and woman to participate together in the heavenly Wedding Feast. Drawing on ancient and contemporary authors, the liturgical and sacramental life of the Church, as well as other sources, the course challenges students to engage topics such as: the Eucharistic nature of marriage; same-sex marriage and homosexuality; divorce and remarriage; sexual intimacy before marriage; and the place of procreation and contraception in marriage. By placing these controversial matters in the context of Orthodox ethics, the course will benefit students preparing for many different forms of ministry. *Limited enrollment. Prerequisite for M.Div. and M.A. students: Second-year standing and permission of associate dean for academic affairs.*

**Hybrid (online-residential) course, beginning online Monday, January 23.**

## LITURGICAL ART 311

Credits: 1 credit

PROF. RICHARD SCHNEIDER

*Orthodox Iconology: Iconography within the Context of Worship.* The Orthodox insist on the dogmatic significance of the visual, and only the Orthodox venerate visual images. The task of iconology, the theology of iconography, is to understand why visual imagery is meaningful, a revelation of the Word of God, worthy of veneration and essential in our prayer life. This course is an introduction to how this visual language works: how to "read" its basic elements of image, figure, and compositional values, and thus how to know what is "good" and "bad" iconography. Students will become familiar with the major iconographic themes and types, examine the close link between iconography, visual style, and verbal rhetoric, and finally understand how the visual context in our worship communicates meaning. *Prerequisite: None.*

## LITURGICAL ART 342 (442)

Credits: 3 (3) credits

PROF. RICHARD SCHNEIDER

*Iconology of Orthodox Architecture: Designing Buildings and Iconography for Liturgy.* If Orthodox liturgy and rites are to be recognizable as sacred performance, then the place where they are performed must be recognizable as "sacred space." The study of "sacred space," the subject of this course, must begin with the buildings themselves, identifying the elements that characterize a building as "type" and significant "places" in it, but it must also consider large-scale iconographic programming, a vital part of the ritual definition of "sacred space." This course introduces the student to the significance of "sacred space," in particular architectural structure, placement and media of mural iconography, followed by examination of portable panel icons and liturgical furniture in worship, and consideration of the visual iconology of living humans—gestures, vestments, etc.—engaged in liturgical worship within the structure

defined by the architectural frame and visual program. *Prerequisite: Liturgical Art 311 (may be taken concurrently) or permission of instructor.*

#### LITURGICAL MUSIC 360

Credits: 3 credits

DR PETER BOUTENEFF

*The Music and Faith of Arvo Pärt.* Arvo Pärt draws on his Orthodox Christian roots to compose music that seizes people of all faiths and of none. Through an in-depth study of his music and the sources that directly influence it, this course seeks to deepen appreciation of Pärt's oeuvre as well as give insight into missional questions about Orthodox tradition and contemporary culture. *Prerequisite: None.*

#### OLD TESTAMENT 328 (428)

Credits: 3 (3) credits

VERY REV. DR. EUGEN PENTIUC

*Christ in the Old Testament.* Christ's birth, life, crucifixion, and glorious resurrection were all prophesied centuries earlier in the Old Testament times. The prehistory of Christ in the Old Testament, as taught in patristic tradition, will be examined in the light of modern biblical scholarship. Current methodologies will be used to analyze selected Messianic texts in the Pentateuch, Psalms, and Prophets. *Prerequisite: Old Testament 100.*

#### PASTORAL THEOLOGY 385

Credits: 3 credits

REV. DR VARGHESE M. DANIEL

*Pastoral Care for Immigrant and Ethnic Communities.* This course introduces students to the challenges of pastoral ministry in an immigrant church setting, particularly as encountered in the Malankara community. Students will acquire the practical skills for creating and sustaining ministries to both immigrant families and the youth in their parish. Issues related to culture, language, standard of living, the generation gap, and social change will be examined. Special attention will be paid to the pastoral challenges of ministering to immigrant and non-immigrant believers in the same community. *Jurisdictional requirement for M.Div. candidates of the Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church. Prerequisite: None.*

#### PATRISTICS 472

Credits: 3 credits

VERY REV. DR JOHN BEHR

*Origen.* A detailed study of "the whetstone of us all" (St Gregory the Theologian), looking at his background in Alexandria, the conflict with the Gnostics and the developing ecclesiastical structures there; his theology, exegetical, systemic and spiritual; and his legacy, its positive appropriation and condemnation. *Prerequisite for M.Div. and M.A. students: Second-year standing, one year of Biblical or Classical Greek, minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.5, and permission of associate dean for academic affairs.*

#### SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY 423

Credits: 3 credits

PROF. RICHARD SCHNEIDER

*Truth and Hermeneutics.* A research seminar whose central issue is the potential impact of modern General Hermeneutic theory and Critical Thought methodologies on practice and conception in Orthodox theological studies, in all fields; the core question is whether pluralism of interpretation is acceptable in Orthodox thought. Readings from Gadamer, Lonergan, Ricoeur, *et. al.* and Orthodox writers. *Prerequisite for M.Div. and M.A. students: Second-year standing, one year of Biblical or Classical Greek, minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.5, and permission of associate dean for academic affairs.*

## THEOLOGICAL WRITING 205

Credits: 1 credit

PROF. RICHARD SCHNEIDER

*Pro-Seminar: Academic Research and Research-Writing for Theology.* Graduate students embarking upon their first major research project must know how to articulate a research question, find and assess relevant bibliography, think analytically, and effectively construct and sustain an argument. This course is an intensive practicum designed to build skills in all of these areas, and will cover topics including research methods and tools, the significance of the “state of the question,” the critical appropriation of secondary literature, central issues in analysis, substantiation and interpretation, and advanced problems in academic stylistics. The primary outcome of the course will be the student’s M.A. or M.Div. thesis proposal. *Program requirement for M.A. students and for M.Div. students who elect to write a thesis.*  
*Prerequisite: None.*