

**St Vladimir's Seminary**  
**Elective Course Descriptions – Fall 2017**

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**Fall 2017****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.*

**Tuesday, 6:45-9:15p****BIBLICAL LANGUAGES 312**

Credits: 3 credits

REV. DR GEORGE PARSENIOS

*The Parables of the Kingdom.* 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 training in basic 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 Parables of Jesus in the Synoptic Gospels, with discussion of the form and meaning of the Parables. The course will also include significant parsing exercises and an emphasis on building vocabulary. *Prerequisite: One year of Biblical or Classical Greek.*

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

**CHURCH HISTORY 344 (444)**

Credits: 3 (3) credits

THE REV. DR ANTHONY ROEBER

*History of the Church of Antioch.* This course focuses on the history and theology of the Patriarchate of Antioch with special attention devoted to the emergence of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America. The first half of the course explores the transition from a Syriac to an Arabic language and cultural experience and its consequences; the relationship of the Patriarchate to other Orthodox (Chalcedonian and Miaphysite) and issues with the dominant Islamic populations of the Middle East as well as Maronite, Catholic, and Protestant groups. The second half of the semester explores the history of the Archdiocese from the arrival of scattered immigrant communities, the foundational role of St Raphael Hawaweeny, the fracturing of the Antiochians, to the unification of the Archdiocese under Metropolitan Philip Saliba and the question of a pan-Orthodox Church in the United States and the “diaspora” issue. *Prerequisite: Church History 110.*

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

## CHURCH HISTORY 379

Credits: 3 credits

THE REV. DR VARGHESE M. DANIEL

*Introduction to the History of Indian Christianity.* The two-thousand-year history of Christianity in India, especially of Orthodox Christianity, is generally unknown to many in the West and even in the East. This general introduction focuses on the historical figures and events, including relations with foreign Churches, that have shaped the history of Indian Christianity. The origin, development, and witness of the Indian Churches worldwide, especially the Malankara Churches in America, will also be treated.

*Jurisdictional requirement for M.Div. candidates of the Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church.*

*Prerequisite: None.*

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

## ETHICS 340 (440)

Credits: 3 (3) credits

REV. DR PHILIP LEMASTERS

*The Ethics of Politics, Poverty, and Peacemaking.* This course introduces students to Orthodox responses to persistent spiritual and moral challenges posed by engagement in political and social life. With particular attention to matters related to poverty and peacemaking, the course challenges students to discern how to respond faithfully to practical problems that both manifest and contribute to the brokenness of human souls and societies. Students will read seminal texts from the patristic period to today and also give attention to the relationship between the Church's liturgical life and philanthropic witness. *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 Sunday, October 29 through Saturday, November 4. Attendance at all onsite sessions is mandatory.***

## NEW TESTAMENT 318 (418)

Credits: 3 (3) credits

DR GEORGE PARSENIOS

*The Spiritual Gospel and the Divine Apostle: The Theology of John and Paul in Conversation.* The Gospel of John and the Letters of Paul present compelling and elaborate theological visions. They also share several major points of overlap that invite comparison. This course will put John and Paul into conversation on such issues as eschatology; the purpose and function of the Law of Israel; the preexistence of Christ; the Johannine emphasis on "abiding" in Christ and the Pauline emphasis on the life "in Christ"; the work of the Spirit; the relationship between the Spirit and Jesus; the titles of Jesus, especially "Son of God"; the use of Scripture; and many others. *Prerequisite: New Testament 102.*

**Thursday, 1:00-3:30p**

## NEW TESTAMENT 430

Credits: 3 credits

VERY REV. DR JOHN BEHR

*John, the Paschal Gospel.* A study of the Gospel of John informed by the readings of both ancient interpreters of the Gospel, especially those who traced their theological lineage to the Evangelist, such as Melito and Irenaeus, and also modern (and post-modern) scriptural scholarship and philosophy, in particular the phenomenology of Michel Henry. The course will examine the celebration of Pascha among John's followers and consider what it means to read John's Gospel as a Paschal Gospel and the Prologue as a Paschal Hymn. *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**

### OLD TESTAMENT 321

Credits: 1 credit

THE VERY REV. DR HARRY PAPPAS

*The Psalms: Prayer Book of the Church.* This course explores the meaning and use of the Psalms in their Old Testament context, the writings of the New Testament, and the life of the Church. Class time will include prayer, lecture, and discussion. Attention will be given to personal as well as corporate appropriation for today, through an examination of how the Psalms were prayed and understood through various eras of the Church, both ancient and modern. *Prerequisite: None.*

**Monday, 1:00-2:15p (Ten class sessions, beginning Monday, August 28)**

### PASTORAL THEOLOGY 320

Credits: 3 credits

DR DANIEL HINSHAW

*Ministry to the Sick and Dying.* The Christian understanding regarding sin, suffering, and death revolutionized the care of the sick. Secularization has made it increasingly difficult for Christians to navigate a health care system that is often dismissive of traditional Christianity. The goal of this course is to help clergy and lay professionals work more effectively within the secular health care system. With Orthodox Christian anthropology as a foundation, the physical, psychosocial and spiritual aspects of suffering in the context of serious life-threatening illness and the phenomena of grief and bereavement will be explored. Theoretical knowledge will be applied in a practical and highly interactive case-based format during the onsite intensive week. The remainder of the online course will focus on spiritual care of the seriously ill and dying. *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 Sunday, October 29 through Saturday, November 4. Attendance at all onsite sessions is mandatory.***

### PATRISTICS 471

Credits: 3 credits

DR PETER BOUTENEFF

*Dionysius the Pseudo-Areopagite.* A seminar on a theologian whose influence upon the theology and life of the Church is undeniably huge, particularly in the areas of liturgy, cosmology, and mystical theology. After surveying the sources of his thought and closely examining the body of his writings, the course will explore aspects of his influence over the centuries. *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**

### SPIRITUALITY 370

Credits: 1 credit

DR KATE BEHR

*Theology in Children's and Young Adult Literature.* This course will explore children's and young adult literature from the nineteenth century to the present day. We will reflect on the stories told, considering what they tell the reader (explicitly or implicitly) about God and the world, good and evil, sin and salvation. *Prerequisite: None.*

**Wednesday, 8:10-9:25p (Ten class sessions, beginning Wednesday, August 30)**

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**Spring 2018 (projected)**

APOLOGETICS 315 (415)

Credits: 3 (3) credits

REV. DR SERGIUS HALVORSEN

*Orthodox Apologetics.* This course teaches applied strategies for “serving Christ, His Church, and the world” by placing students in contexts of real-world ministry with people who are struggling with questions of faith. Special emphasis is placed on ministering to people outside of the Orthodox Church. Students will reflect critically on scripture, patristic and contemporary apologies (e.g. St. Justin Martyr), and texts on spirituality, conversion, and apologetic theory. From analysis of these texts, students will learn strategies and principles for ministering to those who reject or struggle with Christian faith. The student’s ability to apply these strategies are focused and refined through personal interaction with people who are not members of the Orthodox Church: such as atheists, agnostics, doubters, inquirers, lapsed, "spiritual but not religious," or unchurched. *Prerequisite: Second-year standing in the M.Div. or M.A. program.*

BIBLICAL LANGUAGES 200

Credits: 3 credits

DR JOHN BARNET

*Reading Biblical Greek.* This course completes the introduction to the fundamentals of New Testament Greek grammar. By the end of this semester students should be able to: 1) recognize the distinguishing lexical features of verbs, nouns, and adjectives; 2) identify their grammatical form and syntactical function; 3) recall basic vocabulary, based on the frequency of occurrence in the New Testament; 4) competently read New Testament Greek aloud, using modern pronunciation; and 5) parse and translate selected passages of the Greek New Testament. *Prerequisite: Biblical Languages 100 or permission of instructor.*

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 or permission of instructor.*

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 342 (442)

Credits: 3 (3) credits

VERY REV. DR ALEXANDER RENTEL

*Contemporary Issues in Canon Law.* Interdisciplinary examination of the conciliar movement from the nineteen to the twenty-first centuries leading to the Holy and Great Council in Crete in 2016. The course will seek to understand the theological presuppositions of the movement and measure these

presuppositions against the canonical tradition. Special attention will be paid to the Council in Crete, its decisions and message. *Prerequisite: Second-year standing in the Master of Divinity or Master of Arts 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.*

#### 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 333 (433)

Credits: 3 (3) credits

PROF. RICHARD SCHNEIDER

*Orthodox Iconology in the Context of General Culture.* Orthodox iconology understands visual imagery primordially in a scriptural/liturgical/exegetical framework, but Orthodox culture in the world outside the church walls displays iconographic figures everywhere—in private houses, in illustrated books, on pilgrimage tokens, on instruments of state (e.g., money), and even on personal objects of adornment. This course explores the paraliturgical use and exegetical meaning of visible expressions of Orthodox faith in the world at large, asking how faith and the general social context interpenetrate and influence each other. The place of the church building in the totality of the cityscape, in particular, will be examined. *Prerequisite: Liturgical Art 311 (may be taken concurrently) or permission of instructor.*

#### LITURGICAL THEOLOGY 333 (433)

Credits: 3 (3) credits

DR GRANT WHITE

*Daily Prayer in the Church.* Christians have obeyed the Pauline command to “pray without ceasing” in a variety of ways through the centuries. This course provides an introduction to the history and theology of the daily office from the ancient Church to the 20<sup>th</sup> century, with particular attention to the development of the Byzantine divine office. This course will pay particular attention to the question of the practice of the daily office in parish settings today and to the pastoral, theological, and liturgical challenges such practice entails. *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 15. *The onsite intensive will be held Sunday, April 15 through Saturday, April 21. Attendance at all onsite sessions is mandatory.***

## LITURGICAL THEOLOGY 365

Credits: 3 credits

THE REV. DR VARGHESE M. DANIEL

*The Sacraments of the West Syriac Tradition.* This course offers instruction and theology of the Sacraments in West Syriac Tradition. The course treats the in-depth historical and theological insights of the Sacraments based on the Bible, Patristics, and worship. It also illustrates each tread of all sacraments, elements, preparations, roles of priest, deacon and the congregation. While seminary practice is covered, parish practices and the parish setting are reviewed. *Jurisdictional requirement for M.Div. candidates of the Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church. Prerequisite: None.*

## OLD TESTAMENT 304 (404)

Credits: 3 (3) credits

VERY REV. DR EUGEN PENTIUC

*Hosea.* This course examines the call of Hosea and his message, reflecting on the love of God for unfaithful Israel, and the role of the school of Hosea in the rise of biblical prophecy. The course also introduces students to “The Bible in Its Tradition,” the first digital Study Bible produced by École Biblique (see [www.bibest.org](http://www.bibest.org)), and to a new translation of Hosea based on Hebrew, Greek, Syriac, and Latin versions, along with a wide array of interpretive notes. Students will be given the opportunity to contribute notes and reflections to the ongoing research on the book of Hosea. *Prerequisite: Old Testament 100.*

## PATRISTICS 464

Credits: 3 credits

VERY REV. DR JOHN BEHR

*St Gregory Nazianzus.* A close reading of a wide variety of the writings of St Gregory the Theologian, from homilies for particular occasions, festal and otherwise, to theological homilies, poetry, and epistles. His writings will be examined in the context of late fourth century historical events and contemporary theological literature. *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.*

## SPIRITUALITY 316

Credits: 3 credits

DR PETER BOUTENEFF

*Prayer and Sanctity.* The Church’s Tradition features rich resources on the meaning and practice of prayer, primarily through the ascetical writings. Additionally, through the lives of the saints and their liturgical hymnography, the Church teaches about what it means to live a holy life in a broken world. Rather than see prayer as a means to the “end” of sanctity, both are simultaneously process and goal, mutually nourishing each other. Through thoughtful exploration of the Church’s teaching, we will seek to gain insight that will nourish our own lives as well as the people to whom we minister to the glory of God. *Prerequisite: None.*

## SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY 434

Credits: 3 credits

PROF. RICHARD SCHNEIDER

*Modern and Post-Modern Critical Thought and Orthodox Praxis.* Beholding the incarnation of the Word of God is the foundation of Orthodox Christianity. However, this “beholding” requires encountering the Word through words; saving knowledge comes through catechetical encounter with texts. Consequently, the Orthodox must not only grapple with the issue of understanding Truth as revealed in “text” but also evaluate the appropriateness of various methodologies of reading. What is/are our text(s)? Why do we privilege certain texts over others? What constitutes our “Canon of Truth”? Can a text have a referent in

“reality” and hence be a Saving Word? With the dominance of critical theory in recent times, these questions must be approached in reference to a variety of schools of thought about “text” and “reading”—historicism and “new historicism,” hermeneutics, structuralism, deconstruction, post-colonialism, feminism, reader-reception, iconology and symbolic form. The purpose of this seminar is to introduce students to the classic writings of these schools and apply their methodologies to texts from Scripture, liturgy, and church history. *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.*