

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

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**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: New Testament 102 or permission of instructor.*

**Monday & Wednesday, 1:00-2:15p**

**BIBLICAL LANGUAGES 319 (419)**

Credits: 3 (3) credits

DR GEORGE PARSENIOS

*Greek Christian Poetry.* Poetry in the ancient world was both a critical medium for the dissemination of religious belief and an essential raw material of theological reflection. This course will consider two major poetic works in the early Christian tradition—the Psalms and related biblical poetry, and Melito of Sardis' *Peri Pascha*—and their relationship to Greek poetic and rhetorical conventions. The Psalms will be considered both as a translated poetic text and as a primary source for Christian theological development. *Peri Pascha* will be studied as an early example of the adaptation of biblical and non-biblical Greek poetic traditions into an original work of Christian theology. *Prerequisite: One year of Biblical or Classical Greek.*

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

**CANON LAW 312 (412)**

Credits: 3 (3) credits

VERY REV. DR ALEXANDER RENTEL

*Ecclesiology and Church Order.* Explores the necessary connection between the principles of Orthodox ecclesiology and the canonical norms that govern the life of the Church. Issues investigated include the structure of the local churches and their mutual bonds; regional and universal primacies; and factors contributing to failures and shortcomings in the application of canonical principles to concrete situations. *Prerequisite: Canon Law 203 or permission of instructor.*

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

**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. *Program requirement for M.Div. students, elective for M.A. students. Prerequisite: Second-year standing in the M.Div. or M.A. program.*

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

## CHURCH HISTORY 379

Credits: 1 credit

REV. DR VARGHESE 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.

*Prerequisite: Church History 110 or permission of instructor.*

**Thursday, 8:10-9:25p (Ten class sessions, beginning Thursday, January 21)**

## CHURCH HISTORY 433

Credits: 3 credits

PROF. RICHARD SCHNEIDER

*Modern Historiography and the Dilemma of the Church Historian.* Contemporary historical study has been revolutionized by the challenges of cultural analysis, *mentalité*, and the “New Literary Turn”; in recent historiographical methodology, post-modern textual hermeneutics prevails and competing schools of thought compel equal validity. Must writers of Church History—especially Orthodox scholars—succumb to this hermeneutic relativism? If so, what happens to “History as Theology”? Indeed, what happens to “truth” as Critical Thought? The central challenge of this seminar concerns the question of the role—and in the early 21st century, the validity—of Church History as a way of “doing theology.”

*Prerequisites for M.Div. and M.A. students: Second-year standing, minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.5, and permission of associate dean for academic affairs.*

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

## CLINICAL PASTORAL EDUCATION 300

Credits: 6 credits

**[Note: Beginning summer 2016, CPE 300 and CPE 301–302 will be offered for 4 credits only.]**

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: Liturgical Art 101 or permission of instructor.*

**Tuesday, 8:10-9:25p (Ten class sessions, beginning Tuesday, January 19)**

## 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 101 or permission of instructor.*

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

## LITURGICAL THEOLOGY 331 (431)

Credits: 3 (3) credits

DR PAUL MEYENDORFF

*The Sanctification of Life.* The aim of this course is to provide students with a historical and theological overview of the sacramental life of the Church that flows out of the Christian identity we acquire in baptism and the eucharist. We will examine confession and penance, monastic tonsure, marriage, the anointing of the sick, the consecration of churches, the sanctification of matter, the liturgy of death, concluding with a brief introduction to the sanctification of time through the daily, weekly, and annual cycles. Students will become aware of the rich diversity that exists among the various Orthodox traditions, as well as of the challenges this poses for Orthodoxy in America as it struggles with coming to terms with this internal diversity, while at the same time welcoming and integrating significant numbers of new converts. *Prerequisite: Liturgical Theology 102 (may be taken concurrently).*

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

## LITURGICAL THEOLOGY 366

Credits: 1 credit

REV. DR VARGHESE DANIEL

*The Liturgical Calendar and Feasts of the West Syriac Tradition.* This course introduces students to the annual cycle of seasons and major feasts of the West Syriac tradition, focusing primarily on the mystery of incarnation: Annunciation, Birth, Baptism, Passion, Death, Resurrection, Ascension, and Pentecost. Also treated are the remembrances and celebrations of the lives of the saints, especially the *Theotokos*. *Prerequisite: None.*

**Thursday, 6:45-8:00p (Ten class sessions, beginning Thursday, January 21)**

## OLD TESTAMENT 304 (404)

Credits: 3 (3) credits

VERY REV. DR EUGEN PENTIUC

*Hosea.* This course will examine the call of Hosea and his message, reflecting on the love of God for unfaithful Israel, and consider the role of the school of Hosea in the rise of biblical prophecy.

*Prerequisite: Old Testament 100.***Wednesday, 9:15-11:45a**

## PASTORAL THEOLOGY 322

Credits: 3 credits

VERY REV. DR NICHOLAS SOLAK

*Parish Revitalization.* This course will examine various issues related to the spiritual health and vitality of the North American Orthodox parish. Particular focus will be given to the health of the parish priest and his family, the role of sound pastoral theology and ascetical practice, and guidance in creating and

sustaining a healthy parish. The course will consider the proven approaches, practices and principles for achieving parish health, growth, and vibrancy. The course will emphasize the structures, processes, and climate of parishes engaged with revitalization. *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 18**

***The onsite intensive will be held March 7-12, as follows: Monday-Thursday, 1:00-4:30p; Friday, 9:15-11:45a & 1:00-4:30p; Saturday, 9:15-11:45a & 1:00-2:30p. Attendance at all sessions is mandatory.***

#### PATRISTICS 473

Credits: 3 credits

VERY REV. DR JOHN BEHR

*St Maximus the Confessor.* A seminar course focused on a close reading of the primary texts (in translation—though some knowledge of Greek will be helpful). Texts to be studied include: “Two Centuries on Theology and the Incarnate Dispensation of the Son of God,” “The Church's Mystagogy,” the “Commentary on Our Father,” and selected “Ambigua” and “Questions to Thalassius.” *Prerequisite for M.Div. and M.A. students: Second-year standing, minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.5, and permission of associate dean for academic affairs.*

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

#### 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.*

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

#### SPIRITUALITY 375

Credits: 1 credit

VERY REV. DR JOHN BEHR AND DR KATE BEHR

*Death in Literature.* Bring out your Dead! This course will examine the depiction of death in western literature. Students will explore literary representations of death in various genres, including poetry, fairytale, fiction, and film, against a background of social history and medicine. Do attitudes change? Is death the adversary, the lover, the companion, or the unacknowledged corpse in the corpus?

*Prerequisite: None.*

**Tuesday, 8:10-9:25p (Ten class sessions, beginning Tuesday, January 19)**

#### SYRIAC 302

Credits: 3 credits

THE VERY REV. DR EUGEN PENTIUC

*Introduction to Syriac.* This course is designed to introduce the student to the fundamentals of the grammar of the Syriac language. This will be accomplished by working systematically through an introductory grammar. Class work will consist primarily of formal grammatical drills and simple reading passages from the Syriac Bible and early Syriac Literature. Emphasis will be placed on acquiring the vocabulary and the grammatical structure of the language, while some time will also be given to introducing the student to Syriac literature and culture. *Prerequisite: Syriac 301.*

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

## 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.*

**Tuesday, 6:45-8:00p (Ten class sessions, beginning Tuesday, January 19)**