

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

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**BIBLICAL LANGUAGES 202**

Credits: 3 credits

DR JOHN BARNET

*Introduction to New Testament Greek.* Basic New Testament Greek grammar with exegesis of selected passages. *Prerequisite: Biblical Languages 201 or permission of instructor.*

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

**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.*

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

**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.*

**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. *Prerequisite: Second-year standing in the M.Div. or M.A. program.*

**Monday, 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.*

## 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 16. *The onsite intensive will be held Monday, March 27 through Friday, March 31. Attendance at all onsite sessions is mandatory.***

## 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 16. *The onsite intensive will be held Monday, March 27 through Friday, March 31. Attendance at all onsite sessions is mandatory.***

## 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.*

**Wednesday, 8:00-9:15p (Ten class sessions, beginning Wednesday, January 18)**

## 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.*

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

#### 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.*

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

#### 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.*

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

#### 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.*

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

#### 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.*

**Wednesday, 1:00–3:30p**

**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.*

**Monday, 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 17)**