

**St Vladimir's Seminary**  
**Elective Course Descriptions – Spring 2022**

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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: Biblical Languages 100 or permission of instructor.*

**Thursday, 9:15a–12:00p****CHRISTIAN EDUCATION 204**

Credits: 3 credits

THE REV. DR J. 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.*

**Tuesday, 2:00p–4:45p****CHURCH HISTORY 420**

Credits: 3 credits

DR. IONUȚ-ALEXANDRU TUDORIE

*Confessing the Orthodox Faith (15th-18th centuries).* A seminar course focused on a close reading of the most authoritative texts produced after the Fall of Constantinople (May 29, 1453) and during the long process of building confessional identity of the Eastern Orthodox Church (16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> centuries), including: “The Confession of Faith of Gennadios II” (1455/1456), “The Replies of Jeremias II to the Augsburg Confession” (1576/1579/1581), “The Confession of Faith of Metrophanes Kritopoulos” (1625), “The Minutes of the Synod in Constantinople” (1638) in response to “The Eastern Confession of the Christian Faith” by Kyrillos Loukaris (1629/1633), “The Orthodox Confession of the Catholic and Apostolic Eastern Church” by Peter Mohila (1638/1642), “The Confession of Dositheos II” (1672), and “The Theological Dialogue between the Nonjuror Anglicans and the Eastern Church” (1716-1725). The scrutiny into this long process of confession-building of the Eastern Orthodox Church would reveal the obvious shift from the Byzantine-Latin polemical discourse to the “symbolic books” that explored new ways of “answering the questions that were never asked before.” *Prerequisite for M.Div. and M.A. students: Second-year standing, minimum cumulative GPA of 3.5, and permission of the Academic Dean.*

**Monday, 2:00p–4:45p**

## ETHICS 305

Credits: 3 credits

DR MATTHEW S. VEST

*Christian Morality and Bioethics*. This course examines topics in bioethics within the context of the canon of faith in the Orthodox tradition. Students will be introduced to basic concepts and language pertaining to issues such as: marriage and sexuality, abortion, IVF, surrogacy, genetic engineering, transgenderism, physician assisted suicide, end of life ethics, and more. Orthodox ethical teaching, stemming from theological presuppositions, will be contrasted with common secular theories of bioethics. Throughout the course, the aim is not to develop a list of ethical norms or theoretical principles external to the Church but rather to seek moral-ascetical paths of virtue amidst the challenges and opportunities of highly technologized modern medicine. *Prerequisite: Second-year standing.*

**Hybrid (online-residential) course, beginning online Monday, January 10. *The onsite intensive will be held Monday, March 14 through Friday, March 18. Attendance at all onsite sessions is mandatory.***

## LITURGICAL THEOLOGY 492

Credits: 3 credits

DR VITALY PERMIAKOV

*Liturgical Mystagogy in the Eastern Christian Tradition*. This graduate seminar focuses on the origin and development of liturgical exegesis and the genre of liturgical commentaries in the patristic and Byzantine tradition. Beginning with the symbolic interpretation of the Temple in the Hellenistic Jewish texts, the seminar will concentrate on the close reading of the major liturgical commentaries of the Eastern Christian tradition: Cyril of Jerusalem, Dionysius the Areopagite, Maximus the Confessor, Germanus of Constantinople, Nicholas Cabasilas, Symeon of Thessalonica and others. The goal of the course will be to discern fundamental exegetical and theological principles in the interpretation of Christian worship, and to assess the relevance of this honored theological tradition for the Orthodox Church today. *Prerequisite for M.Div. and M.A. students: Second-year standing, one year of Biblical or Classical Greek, minimum cumulative GPA of 3.5, and permission of the Academic Dean.*

**Wednesday, 2:00p–4:45p**

## PATRISTICS 315

Credits: 3 credits

THE REV. DR BOGDAN BUCUR

*Exegesis of Theophanies and Doctrinal Articulation in Early Christianity*. This course will consider whether the articulation of doctrine during the first four centuries of the Christian era may be viewed as largely coextensive with the early Christian exegesis of biblical theophanies. Students will investigate the literature emerging from the major polemical contexts in which early Christian doctrine was forged—anti-Jewish, anti-dualistic, anti-modalistic, anti-subordinationist—along with a number of catechetical and doxological materials, seeking to understand why and in what ways recourse to Old Testament theophanies was deemed relevant to the various arguments set forth. *Prerequisite: Second-year standing in the M.Div. and M.A. program.*

**Wednesday, 2:00p–4:45p**

## PATRISTICS 380

Credits: 3 credits

THE REV. DR VARGHESE M. DANIEL

*Introduction to the West Syriac Fathers*. This course offers an introduction about the life and teachings of the West Syriac Fathers, including Ephrem the Syrian, Jacob of Serugh, Severus of Antioch, Philoxenos of Mabbug, and Isaac the Syrian. Students will learn their spiritual and theological writings and contributions especially to worship and liturgy of Syriac Fathers. *Jurisdictional requirement for M.Div. candidates of the Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church. Prerequisite: None.*

**Wednesday, 9:15a–12:00p**

## SACRED ARTS 311

3 credits

DR ROSSITZA B. SCHROEDER

*The Life of Christ in Orthodox Iconography.* This class will consider the ways in which the various Orthodox peoples talk about and image the life of Christ. We will approach the topic diachronically and across a wide geographic span—from the Near East to Greece and Italy and from North Africa to Russia. We will consider a number of artistic representations and their ability to not only illustrate but also to exegete. The course will revolve around the formation, content and icons of the main Christological feasts of the Orthodox Church. Thus the iconography of the Infancy of Christ, His life and ministry, and His Death and Resurrection will be thoroughly studied by looking at images on wood panels, frescoes, mosaics and manuscript illuminations. *Prerequisites: None.*

**Hybrid (online-residential) course, beginning online Monday, January 10. *The onsite intensive will be held Monday, March 14 through Friday, March 18. Attendance at all onsite sessions is mandatory.***

## SACRED ARTS 430

Credits: 3 credits

DR HARRISON RUSSIN

*Theology and Vernacular Culture in Medieval Christianity, East and West.* Working primarily in English translations and modern editions, this course will trace “modes” of theology, with a particular eye to understanding how vernacular works were influenced by and in turn influenced the development of theological thought. Each class session will work through a work of music, art or architecture, or literature, oriented toward understanding how that piece displays a particular theological background and in turn has the potential to influence theology. Works to be considered include: various musical settings of the Creed in Greek, Latin, and vernacular languages; medieval English works such as *Piers Plowman*, *Canterbury Tales*, Julian of Norwich, and the *Cloud of Unknowing*; Dante’s *Divine Comedy*; Russian lives of saints (particularly lives of Holy Fools); middle Byzantine icons and *ekphrasis*; and the earliest essays of Renaissance painting. *Prerequisite for M.Div. and M.A. students: Second-year standing, minimum cumulative GPA of 3.5, and permission of Academic Dean.*

**Wednesday, 9:15a–12:00p**