

St Vladimir's Seminary
Elective Course Descriptions – Fall 2022

BIBLICAL LANGUAGES 301

Credits: 3 credits

DR. MICHAEL LEGASPI

Introduction to Biblical Hebrew. Advanced scriptural study requires knowledge of biblical languages. Though Greek has been preeminent in the Orthodox churches, knowledge of Hebrew is essential to Old Testament study. This course introduces students to the language of the Old Testament. Topics include Hebrew phonology and morphology, as well as basic vocabulary and the fundamentals of Biblical Hebrew syntax. By the end of the course, students will be able to read simple biblical passages in the Hebrew, consult Hebrew grammars and lexicons intelligently, and make better sense of references to Hebrew words in scholarly literature. *Prerequisite: None*

Tuesdays, 2:00pm-4:45pm

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION 301

Credits: 3 credits

VERY REV. DR CHAD HATFIELD

Orthodox Christianity: Foundational Catechetics. This class is designed to be an introduction to the foundations of Orthodox Christianity as a preparation for those who will engage the need for fresh catechetical teaching and ministries as an important first step in building a stronger base for renewing evangelism and missiology in American Orthodoxy. As an introductory class, the goals will be to become familiar with the historicity, theological continuity, scriptural foundations and moral theology of the Church. *Prerequisite: None*

Thursdays, 9:15am-12:00pm

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: None.* **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.***

LATIN 301

Credits: 3 credits

DR HARRISON RUSSIN

Introduction to Latin in the Christian Tradition. This course introduces students to the vocabulary, grammar and syntax of Latin in the Christian tradition. The emphasis will be on translating the Vulgate, but we will also read selections from Latin Church Fathers and hymnography. The goal of this one-semester course is to equip students with the tools to read and understand Latin from the Vulgate and medieval writers. At every point in the semester, we will be reading with an aim for translation and understanding; to that end, we will consult computer software and other aids to read from the beginning. We will go through the textbook, Derek Cooper's Basics of Latin, at a rapid pace of about two chapters per week. *Prerequisite: None*

Tuesdays, 2:00pm-4:45pm

LITURGICAL THEOLOGY 365

Credits: 3credits

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*

Wednesdays, 9:15am–12:00pm

PATRISTICS 316

Credits: 3 credits

REV. DR BOGDAN BUCUR

Latin Trinitarian Thought from Tertullian to Augustine. This course will examine the trinitarian theology articulated in third-, fourth-, and fifth-century texts by Latin-speaking authors, ranging from Tertullian to Augustine of Hippo. We will consider the polemical contexts of these writings, their theological agendas, and their relation to the councils of the Church, in order to gain an understanding of their enduring contribution to the Christian theological tradition. *Prerequisite: Second-year standing.*

Wednesdays, 2:00pm-4:45pm

PATRISTICS 410

Credits: 3 credits

REV. DR BOGDAN BUCUR

Pre-Nicene Pneumatology. In this seminar we will be reading texts and authors of the first three centuries with an eye to understanding what early Christians meant by the “spirit,” “holy spirit,” “being in the spirit,” and by other terms and images (“fire,” “water,” “oil/ anointing,” “garment,” “paraclete,” “dove,” “angel”, “mother”) used to convey the person, presence, and work of the Holy Spirit. We will be examining experiential, liturgical, credal, and dogmatic references to the Holy Spirit, and consider elements of continuity and discontinuity between early Christian Pneumatology and its roots in Second Temple Judaism, as well as the parallels between the development of Pneumatology and that of Christology. *Prerequisite for M.Div. and M.A. students: Second-year standing, minimum cumulative GPA of 3.5, and permission of academic dean.*

Thursdays, 9:15am-12:00pm

PATRISTICS 475

Credits: 3 credits

VERY REV. DR MAXIMOS CONSTAS

The Philokalia. The *Philokalia* is a collection of Orthodox Christian spiritual writings consisting of both extracts and whole works from thirty-six Church Fathers and ecclesiastical writers from the fourth through the fifteenth century. Compiled on Mount Athos in the eighteenth century (but based on similar collections of material compiled in the Byzantine period), the *Philokalia* has exerted profound influence on modern Orthodox spirituality and is now generally recognized as a definitive expression of the ascetic and spiritual tradition of the Orthodox Church. This course focuses on select works from the *Philokalia*, with special attention to the Prayer of the Heart. *Prerequisite for M.Div. and M.A. students: Second-year standing, minimum cumulative GPA of 3.5, and permission of academic dean.*

Mondays, 2:00pm–4:45pm

SACRED ARTS 301

Credits: 3 credits

DR ROSSITZA SCHROEDER

Discovering Sacred Arts. This course introduces and explores fundamental principles common to the theology and practice of sacred arts. Drawing on expertise of our faculty and guest contributions, course sessions will draw on case studies of specific works of art/architecture/music. We will explore the historical context of

these arts as well as their function within and/or outside the liturgy, in past and present. The course will also introduce issues of aesthetics, canonicity, tradition, innovation. *Prerequisite: None.* **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.*** **Mondays, 2:00pm–4:45pm online for the first 8 weeks of the semester.**

SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY 439

Credits: 3 credits

DR PETER BOUTENEFF

Eastern and Oriental Orthodoxy: History, Theology, Identity. Modern demographics have “Eastern” and “Oriental” Orthodox communities living, worshipping, and studying side-by-side. Our proximity teaches us about both our unity and our disunity. This course examines in-depth the historical and theological issues at play in the relationships between these two church families yesterday and today. It also takes account of the ways in which our churches have formed (and continue to form) their identities, and what these might mean for our spiritual and ecclesiastical communion. *Prerequisite for M.Div. and M.A. students: Second-year standing, minimum cumulative GPA of 3.5, and permission of academic dean.*

Tuesdays, 2:00p–4:45p