

St Vladimir's Seminary
Elective Course Descriptions – Spring 2026

BIBLICAL LANGUAGES 200

Credits: 3 credits

Dr John Barnet

Reading Biblical Greek. This course completes the introduction to the fundamentals of Biblical Greek grammar. Students finish their study of the tenses of the indicative mood and are introduced to the third declension, non-indicative verbal forms, and intermediate-level concepts in Greek syntax. Parsing and vocabulary building are emphasized. In addition to continuing work on grammar and syntax, students begin to read extended passages from the Greek New Testament.

Prerequisite: Biblical Languages 100 or permission of the instructor.

Mondays, 9:15am-12:00pm

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

Mondays, 2:00-4:45pm

CHURCH HISTORY 361

Credits: 3 credits

The Rev. Dr Anthony Roeber

Orthodox Christianity in North America. This course is intended to prepare Eastern and Oriental Orthodox for ministry in North America by examining the challenges posed by a pluralistic society shaped by secular as well as Roman Catholic and Protestant beliefs and practices. To do so we read together Orthodox Christians and the Rights Revolution in America along with selected primary and secondary sources. We examine different kinds of rights claims within and beyond the Church, pluralism, marriage and gender and four shifting stages of mission and evangelism starting with the Russian Mission to the First Peoples. The course traces the dilemmas created by “diaspora” identities. We engage the debates over autocephaly, and the inadequate number of bishops, priests, and deacons in both Oriental and Eastern Orthodox communities. The Catholic philosopher Charles Taylor’s response to the challenges of secularism, the Orthodox philosopher Charles Malik’s analysis, and the Reformed philosopher Nicholas Wolterstorff’s critiques of rights claims in society at large and within the Orthodox Church also inform our discussions. The course requires keeping up with the reading and active discussion.

Prerequisite: Church History 110.

Hybrid (online-residential) course. Synchronous: Thursdays 6:45-9:30pm & onsite

The onsite intensive will be held Monday, March 16 through Friday, March 20. Attendance at all onsite sessions is mandatory.

LITURGICAL THEOLOGY 442

Credits: 3 credits

The Right Rev. Dr Vasily (Permiakov)

Holy Anaphora. This graduate seminar will study the origins, development, and theology of the holy anaphora (eucharistic prayer), the central prayer of the eucharistic liturgy in the majority of Christian traditions. The course will examine the early textual evidence for the eucharistic prayer in the pre-Nicene period, and subsequently will closely focus on the structural components and theological themes of the classic fourth century Christian anaphoras (St Basil, St James, St John Chrysostom, St Mark, Roman Canon). The study of the core components of the anaphoral prayer (Sanctus, words of institution, epiclesis, etc.) will serve as a basis for the discussion regarding the development of the eucharistic doctrine of the Church.

Limited enrollment. Prerequisite for M.Div. and M.A. students: Second-year standing, minimum cumulative GPA of 3.5, and permission of the Dean. Proficiency in Greek required.

Hybrid (online-residential) course. Asynchronous & onsite

The onsite intensive will be held Monday, March 16 through Friday, March 20. Attendance at all onsite sessions is mandatory.

NEW TESTAMENT 445

Credits: 3 credits

The Rev. Dr George Parsenios

Paul and His Churches in an Age of Syncretism. This exegetically based seminar will focus on particular texts in the Pauline letters and particular circumstances in the Pauline communities in order to clarify and reflect on the pastoral work of the Apostle Paul, and especially the character and work of Paul as a shaper of communities and as a guide in moral formation. Particular attention will be given to reading Paul in light of contemporary Greek and Roman popular philosophers, in order to examine the ways in which Paul relies on, but also transforms, ancient patterns of psychology.

Limited enrollment. Prerequisite for M.Div. and M.A. students: Second-year standing, minimum cumulative GPA of 3.5, and permission of the Dean. Proficiency in Greek required.

Hybrid (online-residential) course. Asynchronous & onsite

The onsite intensive will be held Monday, March 16 through Friday, March 20. Attendance at all onsite sessions is mandatory.

OLD TESTAMENT 325

Credits: 3 credits

Dr Michael Legaspi

Wisdom. In this course, we will study books of the Old Testament commonly referred to as the “wisdom literature” of the Old Testament: Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs, Job, Sirach, and Wisdom of Solomon. In each case, we will seek to understand not only what is distinctive about each book but also how each contributes to a broader, Scriptural conceptualization of what wisdom is. In addition to close study of the books themselves, we will also consider their characteristic vocabulary, literary structure, and historical backgrounds—as well as patristic homilies and commentaries and the use of wisdom texts in the liturgical life of the Church.

Prerequisite: OT100.

Wednesdays, 2:00-4:45pm

PATRISTICS 430

Credits: 3 credits

The Very Rev. Dr Bogdan G. Bucur

Augustine's Treatise On the Trinity: Text, Context, Theological Significance. This ThM seminar examines Augustine's fundamental work *De Trinitate* by discussing its text by taking into account its polemical

context, as well as its creative appropriation of earlier Latin trinitarian reflection articulated by Tertullian, Novatian, Hilary of Poitiers, Gregory of Elvira, and Ambrose of Milan.

Limited enrollment. Prerequisite for M.Div. and M.A. students: Second-year standing, minimum cumulative GPA of 3.5, and permission of the Dean. Proficiency in Latin required.

Wednesdays, 2:00-4:45pm

SACRED ARTS 305

Credits: 3 credits

Dr Rossitza Schroeder

Learning to Read Icons. This is an introductory course about one of the most prolific forms of religious visual art—the icon. We will look into its origins, the paradoxical marriage of matter and spirit and its profound symbolism. We will also consider the ways in which icons are involved in liturgical celebrations as well as in the private lives of various Orthodox communities.

Prerequisite: None.

Hybrid (online-residential) course. Synchronous: Wednesdays 6:45-9:30pm & onsite

The onsite intensive will be held Monday, March 16 through Friday, March 20. Attendance at all onsite sessions is mandatory.

SACRED ARTS 310

Credits: 3 credits

The Very Rev. Dr J. Sergius Halvorsen

The Sacred Art of Narrative. We understand the world and our place in the world, through the stories we tell each other, and the stories we tell ourselves. This class explores what makes some narratives sacred, and how sacred narrative works in the context of other sacred arts and the context of Liturgy. Topics covered include: an introduction to narrative theology and an investigation of the sacred art of narrative in scripture, ascetical “sayings,” hagiography and contemporary stories of faith. In addition to investigating narrative as critical readers and listeners, students will also learn about the sacred art of narrative through applied practice as they develop and tell their own stories of faith.

Prerequisites: None.

Mondays, 9:15am-12:00pm

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.

Limited enrollment. Prerequisite for M.Div. and M.A. students: Second-year standing, minimum cumulative GPA of 3.5, and permission of the Dean. Proficiency in Greek required.

Mondays, 2:00-4:45pm