

St Vladimir's Seminary
Elective Course Descriptions – Fall 2018

Fall 2018

BIBLICAL LANGUAGES 313

Credits: 3 credits

REV. DR GEORGE PARSENIOS

The Letters of John. The goal of this course is to introduce students to reading Biblical Greek. In the first half, the course will focus on completing the student's skill in introductory Greek grammar, introducing non-indicative verbal forms and intermediate-level concepts in Greek syntax. In the second half, it will concentrate on performing extended readings from the Letters of John. The course will also include significant parsing exercises and an emphasis on building vocabulary. *Prerequisite: One year of Biblical or Classical Greek.*

Thursday, 9:15a-12:00p

CHURCH HISTORY 361 (461)

Credits: 3 (3) credits

REV. DR ANTHONY ROEBER

Orthodox Christianity in North America. This course begins with Orthodox Christianity in the Kievan Rus, the emergence of Moscow by the 15th century, and the issues created by the “Unia” of 1596. The political, ethnic, and religious history of “Ruthenia” provides the context for understanding the migration of Slavic-speaking Orthodox to North America that altered the Alaska mission to the First Peoples of North America. Twentieth-century attempts at constructing a pan-Orthodox Church; the emergence of “jurisdictions”; debates over autocephaly and primacy then allow an analysis of the current relationship of the OCA, ROCOR, and the Russian Patriarchal Parishes to the non-Slavic Orthodox of North America. *Prerequisite: Church History 110.*

Wednesday, 9:15a-12:00p

LITURGICAL MUSIC 323

Credits: 3credits

MRS ROBIN FREEMAN

Advanced Choral Conducting. Advanced techniques of choral conducting are introduced and practiced, drawing on music from the Orthodox liturgical tradition. Choral rehearsal and conducting techniques are developed through individual and group practice in supervised class sessions. Emphasis is placed on the mastery of advanced conducting mechanics, such as developing a gestural vocabulary of expression and independent use of the left hand to indicate cues, accents, and dynamics. Techniques specific to Orthodox liturgical music, such as conducting stichera, arranging music, and pitch-giving, will be addressed. Students will conduct in class regularly, in chapel choir rehearsals, and in chapel services at set points in the semester. *Prerequisite: Liturgical Music 321 or permission of instructor.*

Class schedule determined by enrollment

LITURGICAL THEOLOGY 331 (431)

Credits: 3 (3) credits

DR GRANT WHITE

The Sanctification of Life. The aim of this course is to provide students with a historical, theological, and pastoral 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 learn of the diversity in these rites and their enactment among the various Orthodox

traditions, as well as of the challenges this diversity poses for Orthodox Christianity in North America (but not limited to North America) as it responds to the pastoral, formational, and missional challenges facing the Church in the 21st century. *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, August 27. *The onsite intensive will be held Monday, October 29 through Friday, November 2. Attendance at all onsite sessions is mandatory.*

LITURGICAL THEOLOGY 366

Credits: 3 credits

REV. DR VARGHESE M. 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*. *Jurisdictional requirement for M.Div. candidates of the Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church.*

Prerequisite: None.

Wednesday, 9:15a-12:00p

NEW TESTAMENT 445

Credits: 3 credits

REV. DR GEORGE PARSENIOS

Paul and His Churches in an Age of Syncretism. This exegetically based course 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 psychagogy. *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.*

Thursday, 2:00-4:45p

PASTORAL THEOLOGY 371

Credits: 3 credits

VERY REV. DR CHAD HATFIELD

Mission and Evangelism. This introductory survey places special emphasis on the theology, history, and praxis of mission in various contexts, from 9th-century Moravia to 20th-century Africa and post-communist Eastern Europe. Contemporary issues in evangelization are explored in the light of the Church's missiological tradition. *Prerequisite: None.*

Thursday, 9:15a-12:00p

PATRISTICS 413

Credits: 3 credits

VERY REV. DR JOHN BEHR

St Irenaeus. A detailed study of various aspects of the theology of St Irenaeus (scriptural exegesis, triadology, Christology, creation, anthropology) in the context of the 2nd century. *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, 2:00-4:45p

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, 2:00-4:45p**SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY 320 (420)**

Credits: 3 (3) credits

VERY REV. DR J. SERGIUS HALVORSEN

Faith and Science. This course investigates the relationship between Orthodox Christianity and scientific inquiry. Students will critically reflect on the historical emergence of science as a discipline distinct from theology, and how major discoveries in the natural sciences have shaped the discourse concerning Christianity in public life. Topics covered in the class include: cosmology; evolution; genetics; classical and quantum physics; sociology; medicine; neurobiology and the science of consciousness. Students will consider how scientific discovery affects theological understanding, and how Christian faith guides the application of science and technology. Providing students with a foundation in scientific discourse, this course will also give students an opportunity to craft Orthodox Christian apologetics. *Prerequisite for M.Div. and M.A. students: Second year standing or permission of instructor.*

Tuesday, 9:15a-12:00p**Spring 2019 (projected)****APOLOGETICS 315 (415)**

Credits: 3 (3) credits

VERY REV. DR SERGIUS HALVORSEN

Orthodox Apologetics. This course teaches applied strategies for "serving Christ, His Church, and the world" by placing students in contexts of real-world ministry with people who are struggling with questions of faith. Special emphasis is placed on ministering to people outside of the Orthodox Church. Students will reflect critically on scripture, patristic and contemporary apologies (e.g. St. Justin Martyr), and texts on spirituality, conversion, and apologetic theory. From analysis of these texts, students will learn strategies and principles for ministering to those who reject or struggle with Christian faith. The student's ability to apply these strategies are focused and refined through personal interaction with people who are not members of the Orthodox Church: such as atheists, agnostics, doubters, inquirers, lapsed, "spiritual but not religious," or unchurched. *Prerequisite: Second-year standing in the M.Div. or M.A. program.*

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.*

BIBLICAL LANGUAGES 319 (419)

Credits: 3 (3) credits

REV. 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.*

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.*

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.” *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 associate dean for academic affairs.*

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.*

LITURGICAL MUSIC 321

Credits: 3 credits

MRS ROBIN FREEMAN

Choral Conducting. Basic techniques of choral conducting are introduced and practiced, drawing on music from the Orthodox liturgical tradition. Conducting techniques are developed through individual and group practice in supervised class sessions. Emphasis is placed on the mastery of conducting mechanics, such as posture of the conductor, the conducting planes, the ictus, the preparatory gestures, eye contact, meters, releases, fermatas, cues, and dynamics. Techniques specific to Orthodox liturgical music, such as conducting chant and pitch-giving, will also be introduced. The topics of style and interpretation as applied to conducting technique will be introduced. Students will conduct in class regularly and in chapel services at set points in the semester. *Prerequisite: Permission of instructor.*

LITURGICAL THEOLOGY 368 (468)

Credits: 3 (3) credits

DR GRANT WHITE

Liturgy and Mission. What does liturgical life have to do with mission? This is a question answered in different ways in different Christian traditions. This course will explore the question from Orthodox Christian theological, biblical, liturgical, historical, missional, and pastoral perspectives, with the goal of constructing an Orthodox Christian response to this question in the service of the Church's mission around the world today. *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 14.

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, one year of Biblical or Classical Greek, minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.5, and permission of associate dean for academic affairs..*

PATRISTICS 380

Credits: 3 credits

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.*

SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY 338 (438)

Credits: 3 credits

DR PETER BOUTENEFF

Orthodox Identity and Difference. This course seeks to explore what it means to be an Orthodox Christian today, in a secular and pluralistic society that in many respects appears to challenge the historic institutions and values of the Orthodox Church. Initial readings and lectures will trace the ways in which Orthodoxy has responded to challenges posed by the modern world from the 18th century onward, whether by way of reaction or by adoption and adaptation. Student presentations and discussion sessions will focus on specific contemporary issues, such as the role of the Church in public life, the challenge of ecumenism and inter-faith

relations, problems in inter-Orthodox relations, the issue of “modernism,” and the place of the Church in post-Communist Eastern European society. *Prerequisite: Second-year standing in the Master of Divinity or Master of Arts program.*