

St Vladimir's Seminary
Elective Course Descriptions – Spring 2018

APOLOGETICS 315 (415)

Credits: 3 (3) credits

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.*

Tuesday, 9:15-11:45a

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.*

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 or permission of instructor.*

Tuesday, 6:55-9:25p

BIBLICAL LANGUAGES 316 (416)

Credits: 3 (3) credits

REV. DR GEORGE PARSENIOS

Readings in Patristic Greek Literature. This course will introduce students to a diverse selection of Greek texts outside of the New Testament; emphasis will be placed on the various genres of Patristic and Byzantine Greek. Exposure to different forms of literature—hagiographic, apologetic, epistolary, apocalyptic—as well as various styles will equip students for further study and research in Patristic Greek literature. Classes will be devoted primarily to translation and grammatical exegesis; exercises in sight-reading will increase fluency. In addition, the course will prepare them for further research by introducing current issues in scholarship, tools for research, and available lexica and editions. *Prerequisite: One year of Biblical or Classical Greek.*

Thursday, 1:00-3:30p

CANON LAW 342

Credits: 3 credits

VERY REV. DR ALEXANDER RENTEL

Contemporary Issues in Canon Law. Interdisciplinary examination of the conciliar movement from the nineteenth to the twenty-first centuries leading to the Holy and Great Council in Crete in 2016. The course will seek to understand the theological presuppositions of the movement and measure these presuppositions against the canonical tradition. Special attention will be paid to the Council in Crete, its decisions and message. *Prerequisite: None.*

Wednesday, 9:15-11:45a

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 grade point average of 3.5, and permission of associate dean for academic affairs.

Wednesday, 1:00-3:30p

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 a hospital setting. *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 at least 400 hours. Prerequisite: Second-year standing in the M.Div. program and permission of associate dean for academic affairs.*

CLINICAL PASTORAL EDUCATION 325

Credits: 2 credits

REV. ADRIAN BUDICA

Level I ACPE Clinical Pastoral Education. Elective registration for M.Div. students who seek academic credit for a half unit of Level I ACPE-accredited Clinical Pastoral Education in a parish setting. *In order to receive academic credit, which also partially fulfills the degree program requirement for parish ministry, students must register for CPE 325 and successfully complete a Level I ACPE-accredited half unit of at least 240 hours. Prerequisite: Second-year standing in the M.Div. program and permission of associate dean for academic affairs. Students must be concurrently assigned to a parish placement providing qualified onsite supervision and parish-based pastoral care opportunities, as approved by the CPE supervisor.*

Tuesday, 9:15-11:45a, for group sessions

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.*

Tuesday, 7:30-8:45p (Ten class sessions, beginning Tuesday, January 16)

LITURGICAL THEOLOGY 360 (460)

Credits: 3 (3) credits

DR GRANT WHITE

Orthodox Liturgical Theology: Historical and Pastoral Perspectives. What is Orthodox liturgical theology, and what does it have to do with the life of the church? This course will discuss the development of Orthodox liturgical theology in the twentieth century and the reception in the past quarter-century of the thought of a range of proponents of Orthodox liturgical theology as well as theologians in other traditions, including (but not limited to): Alexander Schmemmann, John Meyendorff, Paul Meyendorff, Paulos Mar Gregorios, Robert Taft, Dennis Fagerberg, Geoffrey Wainwright. After this overview, the course will turn to consider the content and structure of Orthodox liturgical theology in light of the pastoral and missional challenges facing the Church 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 15. *The onsite intensive will be held Monday, April 16 through Friday, April 20. Attendance at all onsite sessions is mandatory.*

LITURGICAL THEOLOGY 365

Credits: 3 credits

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.*

Thursday, 6:45-9:15p

OLD TESTAMENT 304 (404)

Credits: 3 (3) credits

VERY REV. DR EUGEN PENTIUC

Hosea. This course examines the call of Hosea and his message, reflecting on the love of God for unfaithful Israel, and the role of the school of Hosea in the rise of biblical prophecy. The course also introduces students to “The Bible in Its Tradition,” the first digital Study Bible produced by École Biblique (see www.bibest.org), and to a new translation of Hosea based on Hebrew, Greek, Syriac, and Latin versions, along with a wide array of interpretive notes. Students will be given the opportunity to contribute notes and reflections to the ongoing research on the book of Hosea. *Prerequisite: Old Testament 100.*

Wednesday, 9:15-11:45a

PATRISTICS 471

Credits: 3 credits

DR PETER BOUTENEFF

Dionysius the Pseudo-Areopagite. A seminar on a theologian whose influence upon the theology and life of the Church is undeniably huge, particularly in the areas of liturgy, cosmology, and mystical theology. After surveying the sources of his thought and closely examining the body of his writings, the course will

explore aspects of his influence over the centuries. *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.*

Monday, 1:00-2:15p (Ten class sessions, beginning Monday, January 15)