

New Skills Courses in 2018–2019

LITURGICAL SKILLS 101A–102A

Credits: 3 credits per semester

REV. DN JOHN EL MASSIH

Ecclesiastical Chant and Arabic of the Antiochian Archdiocese. The course is divided into two sections. In the ecclesiastical chant section, students are introduced to the basics of Byzantine music, including the diatonic scale, Byzantine notation, and the system of parallage (solfège). Students memorize the main festal apolytikia, particularly the eight resurrectional tones. In the Arabic section of the course, students learn the alphabet, including how read and write all Arabic letters depending on their position in a word. After learning the alphabet, students to read and chant common words and hymns in Arabic as encountered in liturgical services. *Jurisdictional requirement for M.Div. candidates of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese. Prerequisite: None.*

LITURGICAL SKILLS 211A–212A

Credits: 3 credits per semester

REV. DN JOHN EL MASSIH AND REV. NICHOLAS BELCHER

Antiochian Liturgical Arts. This course introduces students to the teleturgical aspects of priesthood, combining instruction in chant, language, and movement. Instruction will focus on the liturgical celebrations of Vespers, Orthros, and Divine Liturgy, as served in accordance with the Typikon and taxis of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese. *Jurisdictional requirement for M.Div. candidates of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese who are ordained or preparing for ordination. Prerequisite: Liturgical Skills 101A–102A or permission of instructors.*

LITURGICAL SKILLS 221A–222A

Credits: 3 credits per semester

REV. NICHOLAS BELCHER

Antiochian Liturgical and Pastoral Practice. This course instructs students on how to celebrate the divine services of Lent, Holy Week, and the Pentecostarion, in accordance with the Typikon and taxis of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese. Also introduced are sacraments and occasional services of the Church, such as house blessings and hospital visits. The course examines sensitive pastoral issues faced in parish life and introduces students to the practical matter of parish administration in the Antiochian Archdiocese. *Jurisdictional requirement for M.Div. candidates of the Antiochian Christian Archdiocese who are ordained or preparing for ordination. Prerequisite: Liturgical Skills 201A–202A or permission of instructor.*

LITURGICAL SKILLS 101

Credits: 3 credits

MRS ROBIN FREEMAN, VERY REV. DR ALEXANDER RENTEL, AND MR HARRISON RUSSIN

Introduction to the Liturgical Music and Practice of the Orthodox Church. This course is designed to lay the foundation for music literacy and to teach vocal production through Orthodox liturgical reading and singing. Fundamentals of healthy vocal production, which include proper posture and breathing, tone production, and diction, will be acquired through individual and group practice. Individual singing and reading problems will be assessed. Students will improve their aural and musical skills through classroom and individual practice, and by critiquing student performances. The liturgics section of the course introduces students to the liturgical life of the Eastern Orthodox Church. After a general presentation on the setting of the liturgy, the Church building, and the material things of the liturgy, such as sacred objects and vestments, the course will explore the general structure of Vespers and Matins, in their daily and resurrectional forms, and the Divine Liturgy. Also introduced are the cycles of the Church Year (daily, weekly, monthly, and annual) and the Church's liturgical books. *Required for all M.Div. and M.A. candidates, regardless of jurisdiction. Prerequisite: No musical background is required or expected.*

LITURGICAL SKILLS 210

Credits: 3 credits

MRS ROBIN FREEMAN, VERY REV. DR ALEXANDER RENTEL, AND MR HARRISON RUSSIN

Intermediate Liturgical Music and Practice of the Orthodox Church in America. This course continues to build on the foundation of vocal production and musical literacy taught in Liturgical Skills 101. Students will be introduced to the eight stichera tones and the eight troparion tones, while continuing to develop a healthy, reliable vocal technique. The liturgics part of the course provides further instruction in the celebration of the central services of the daily office, concentrating on the various forms of Vespers and the Divine Liturgy (St John Chrysostom and St Basil), and the liturgical year (feasts of the Baptist, the Theotokos, and Nativity-Theophany). Services as performed by a priest alone, with concelebrating priests, and with or without deacon(s) are studied. Other issues, such as the arrangement of the church building for worship, instruction of readers, singers and acolytes in their duties, and movements of the choir and the congregation during processions are also addressed. While seminary practice is the primary focus of the course, parish practice and setting are also reviewed. *Required for all M.Div. candidates in the Orthodox Church of America. Prerequisite: Liturgical Skills 101 or permission of instructors.*

LITURGICAL SKILLS 211

Credits: 3 credits

MRS ROBIN FREEMAN, VERY REV. DR ALEXANDER RENTEL, AND MR HARRISON RUSSIN

Advanced Liturgical Music and Practice of the Orthodox Church in America. Advanced techniques of chanting are introduced and practiced, drawing on music and texts from the Orthodox Church in America. Fundamentals of healthy vocal production introduced in Liturgical Skills 101 will be further developed through individual and group practice. Emphasis is placed on reading and singing in front of others. Individual singing and reading problems will be assessed. Students will improve their aural and musical skills through critiquing student performances. The liturgics section of this course offers continued instruction in the celebration of the cycles of worship, concentrating on the Nativity-Theophany Cycle, Matins, and the particular services of the Lenten-Paschal seasons, and is intended to prepare students for ordination to the diaconate and the priesthood. *Required for all M.Div. candidates in the Orthodox Church of America. Prerequisite: Liturgical Skills 210 or permission of instructors.*

LITURGICAL SKILLS 220

Credits: 3 credits

VERY REV. DR ALEXANDER RENTEL, MRS ROBIN FREEMAN, AND MR HARRISON RUSSIN

Liturgical Music and Practice of the Orthodox Church in America for Clergy. Advanced techniques of clergy chanting are introduced and practiced, drawing on music and texts from the Orthodox Church in America. Fundamentals of healthy vocal production introduced in Liturgical Skills 101, which include proper postural alignment and breathing, tone production, and diction, will be further developed through individual and group practice. Repertoire will be focused on the special responses and melodies sung by the clergy in parish life. The liturgics section of this course will offer instruction in the celebration of baptisms, the reception of converts, baptismal liturgies, confession, visitation of the sick, weddings, funerals, and the blessing of miscellaneous objects. The presentation of each topic will cover both the rule from the service books and discussion of pastoral practice. *Required for all M.Div. candidates in the Orthodox Church of America who are ordained or preparing for ordination. Prerequisite: Liturgical Skills 211 or permission of instructors.*

THEOLOGICAL WRITING 100

Credits: 0 credits

DR TRACY GUSTILO

English Grammar for Biblical Greek. This course is intended to help students master basic English grammar essential for first-year Greek studies. After a review of parts of speech, students will learn to parse and diagram sentences. Sentence-level writing and editing skills will also be addressed through

analyzing the sentences of classic writers and using them as models for imitation. One of the course outcomes is to understand how sentences work (in any language). *Required for all students enrolled in Biblical Languages 100. Prerequisite: None.*

THEOLOGICAL WRITING 101

Credits: 0 credits

DR TRACY GUSTILO

Introduction to Reading and Writing Theologically. This intensive reading and writing course will immerse students in different kinds of theological texts and responses. Students will read, dissect, and discuss various models, possibly including, but not limited to, reflections, exegesis, research, critical review, and analysis. They will read and write in class and out of class, practicing, applying, and refining what they have learned. Students will improve their writing by reviewing traditional grammar, mechanics and syntax; by learning techniques for constructing good paragraphs; and by practicing outlining. Lecture/Seminar/Workshop format. *Required for all entering M.Div. and M.A. degree candidates. Prerequisite: None.*