**LOYOLA MARYMOUNT UNIVERSITY**

**Fall 2023**

**Orthodox Christian Spirituality**

**CATH 3252/MDGK 3352/THST 3252**

**TUESDAY/THURSDAY 6:00-7:40 PM**

**4 Semester Hours**

**Instructor:** Fr. Michael K. Courey, D.Min.

Phone:310-749-2810 Email: [michael.courey@lmu.edu](mailto:michael.courey@lmu.edu)

Office Location: UH 3731 (Enter at 3700: Huffington Ecumenical Institute)

Office Hours: Tuesday/Thursday 1:00-3:00 PM and by appointment

**University Core** fulfilled: Integrations: Faith and Reason

**Course Description:** Students will be introduced to the rich spiritual tradition of Eastern Orthodox Christianity. The principles of spiritual development and various dimensions of spirituality will be examined. Principal topics and sources will range from the biblical texts, the oral and written sayings of the desert fathers and mothers, and ancient as well as modern monasticism.

**Student Learning Outcomes:** 1) to gain knowledge of the theological foundation of Orthodox Christian spirituality; 2) to enhance listening and communication skills on aspects presented in lecture format with an emphasis on a systematic theological approach; 3) to be exposed to major figures who have contributed to the written tradition of Orthodox Christian spirituality; 4) to develop writing skills from selected topics.

**Prerequisites: None**

**Required Texts:**

Climacus, John, *The Ladder of Divine Ascent* (Mahwah, New Jersey: Paulist Press, 1982)

Mathewes-Green, Frederica, *The Jesus Prayer* (Brewster, Massachusetts: Paraclete Press, 2009)

Markides, Kyriacos C., *The Mountain of Silence: A Search for Orthodox Spirituality* (New York, New York: Doubleday, 2001)

Palamas, Gregory, *The Triads* (Makwah, New Jersey: Paulist Press, 1983)

Skobtsova, Mother Maria, *Essential Writings* (Maryknoll, New York: Orbis Books, 2003)

Spidlik, Tomas, *The Spirituality of the Christian East: A Systematic Handbook* (Kalamazoo, Michigan: Cistercian Publications, 1986)

Swan, Laura, *The Forgotten Desert Mothers* (Mahwah, New Jersey: Paulist Press, 2001)

Symeon The New Theologian, *The Discourses* (Mahwah, New Jersey: Paulist Press, 1980)

**Course Work/Expectations: 4-CREDIT HOUR POLICY**

At LMU, **one credit hour** is defined as a minimum of 3 hours of work by an average student per week for a 15-week semester. That means that a 4-unit class must average a minimum of 12 hours of work a week and a **minimum total of 180 hours of work for the semester (inclusive of class contact time)**. Typically, this will mean one hour of classroom instruction and two hours of out-of-class student work each week for each unit of a course. This course meets for three hours per week and **expects a minimum of 12 hours per week on class-related assignments.**