

SPRING 2017

COURSE TITLE: THE GREEK ORTHODOX TRADITION

COURSE NUMBER: MDGK 3350 / THEO 3221 / EURO 3221

DAYS/TIMES: Thu 7:10 – 10:10 p.m.

INSTRUCTOR: Fr. John S. Bakas; email: frbakas@stsophia.org

CLASSROOM: UNH 1403

OFFICE: UNH 3731, Huffington Ecumenical Institute

CORE AREA: Faith & Reason (IFTR/INT)

COURSE DESCRIPTION/PRINCIPAL TOPICS:

This course examines the unbroken dogmatic tradition of the Greek Orthodox Church, its liturgy and its place in the religious life of the United States. The course approaches the study of the Greek Orthodox Church, also known as the Orthodox Church or Byzantine Christianity, from the theological, historical, cultural, and artistic perspectives. The students will study the Greek Orthodox Tradition in the context of the Roman, Byzantine and Ottoman Empires and the political and cultural changes that were taking place. “Orthodoxy” includes all the religious traditions that for two millennia have been the forms of Christianity practiced in the Balkans, Eastern Europe and Russia and the Middle East.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

The student will:

- study the establishment of the Church in the early days of Christianity
- become familiar with the early “diversities”, heresies and schisms – and examine the ultimate Schism of Christianity (1054)
- discover the role played by historical processes and events at the beginning and during the development of Orthodoxy.
- analyze & understand the dogma of the Greek Orthodox Church and the doctrines formulated by the seven Ecumenical Councils
- be introduced to the Christological and Trinitarian issue and the Iconoclastic Crisis
- study the Sacraments and the theology of the Patristic Fathers.
- study the liturgy used in the Orthodox Christian faith & understand how liturgical music and iconography are manifestations of every search for ultimate meaning
- visit Saint Sophia Cathedral to attend an Orthodox liturgy
- learn the meaning of the symbols used in the sacramental life of the Church and its iconography
- understand the symbolism and metaphorical conventions of ecclesiastical literary texts
- value the existential importance of ultimate questions
- understand the search for God as a culturally and historically embedded process
- be able to analyze the meaning of theological ideas and religious institutions in light of one or more disciplines that inform, explicate or challenge these ideas
- be able to compare different perspectives on religious, ecclesial, and spiritual traditions
- value the meaning of *koinonia* as both Sacrament and Society

PREREQUISITES/RECOMMENDED BACKGROUND: None

REQUIRED TEXTS:

1. Ware, Timothy, *The Orthodox Church* - Penguin Books (Paperback-1997)
2. Payton R. James, *Light from the Christian East* Inter Varsity Press (ISBN: 978-0-8308-2594-3)
3. Schmemmann, Alexander, *The Eucharist* - (SVLAD Press)

Additional materials will be distributed by the professor during the semester

JANUARY

- Thurs 12th Review course requirements. Lecture on the Greek Orthodox Church, general scope and overview. Payton (p. 11-27)
Schmemmann (11-26)
- Thurs 19rd Weekly reading assigned from **Ware text**, except where otherwise noted.
Intro and beginnings – Christianity (p. 1-17)
The Establishment of the Church (p. 18-30)
Payton (p. 27-42)
Schmemmann (27-43)
- Thurs 26th The Sources of Faith (p. 195-207)
God – The Meaning of the Divine (p. 208-217)
Payton (p. 43-86)
Schmemmann (43-58)

FEBRUARY

- Thurs 2nd The Sources of Faith (p. 195-207)
God – The Meaning of the Divine (p. 208-217)
Payton (p. 87-119)
Schmemmann (58-73)
- Thurs 9th Man – In What Image? (p. 218-224)
Jesus Christ (p. 225-229)
Payton (p. 120-131)
Schmemmann (73-88)
- Thurs 16th The Holy Spirit – Sanctifier (p. 229-238)
The Church – The body of Christ (p. 239-254)
Payton (p. 132-154)
Schmemmann (88-99)
Review for Midterm
- Thurs 23th The Holy Spirit – Sanctifier (p. 229-238)
The Church – The body of Christ (p. 239-254)
Payton (p. 155-165)
Schmemmann (99-113)
MIDTERM EXAM

MARCH

- Thurs 2nd Saints, Icons and Relics (p. 254-263)
 Payton (p. 166-192)
 Schmemmann (113-127)
- Thurs 9th **Spring Break – Read the below**
 Iconoclastic Controversy (p. 30-34)
 Schmemmann (127-142)
- Thurs 16th Sacraments (pg. 274-296)
- Thurs 23rd Sacraments-continued –
 Payton (p. 193-205)
 Schmemmann (143-156)
 During break e-mail me a outline draft of your term paper
- Thurs 30th Schmemmann (156-170)
 Complete draft outline of your research paper

APRIL

- Thurs 6th The Divine Liturgy – Holy Communion, Vestments and sacred Utensils
 Payton (p. 206-217)
 Schmemmann (171-185)
 True – False Quiz
- Thurs 13th **Easter Break – Read below**
 Sts. John Chrysostom (p.195-234; Gregory of Nyssa (p. 137-160;
 Basil the Great (p. 112-136);-Payne txt
 Schmemmann (186-211)
- Thurs 20th The Great Schism (p. 43-60)
 Reunion of the Christian Faith (p. 61-72)
 The Church under Islam (p. 87-101)
 Schmemmann (212-245)
- Thurs 27th **Term Paper Due**
 Review For Final Exam

MAY

- Thurs 4th **FINAL EXAM**

GRADING POLICY: Mid-term Exam = 20%

Quizzes = 15%
Term Paper = 30%
Final = 35%

COURSE WORK/EXPECTATIONS:

1. Regular attendance and participation in the class discussions. (come to answer questions)
2. Mid-term and Final exams. Quizzes on the Required reading
3. The texts assigned are to be read carefully in advance of the lecture. Each student will write a Term Paper (8-10 pages), on a topic from the list below. A student may select a topic outside the list as long as it is relevant to the material covered in the class and with the permission of the Professor.
The term paper will be submitted first as a Draft Outline and then as a Final.

PLEASE NOTE: THIS IS A FOUR UNIT COURSE: One unit is defined by LMU as a minimum of three hours of work by an average student per week for a fifteen-week semester. That means that this Four-Unit class should average a minimum of TWELVE HOURS OF WORK PER WEEK and a minimum of 180 hours of work for the semester (inclusive of class contact time). I recommend that you set aside the indicated time to prepare for every class (the heavy reading requirement and reading responses will take up a lot of time). Give yourself a minimum of 20 hours to write/revise your Term paper and the annotated bibliography. You will need at least these many hours to do the research, to write it and revise it.

COURSE REVISIONS/MODIFICATIONS: If necessary, this syllabus and its contents are subject to Revision by the Professor. Students are responsible for any announcements, changes, or modifications in class.

Research Paper Ideas to choose from:

1. Reasons for Emperor Constantine's conversion to Christianity.
2. The development and purpose of concepts of heretic and heretical theology
3. Significant issues and outcomes from the Council of Nicaea
4. The place of Holy Tradition in Orthodox Christianity
5. The meaning of apophatic and cataphatic theology in Orthodox Christianity
6. The meaning of salvation from the Roman Catholic vs. the Greek Orthodox points of view
7. The purpose of Holy Relics in the church
8. Icons: The sanctification of matter
9. The root causes of the iconoclastic controversy
10. The pre-eminent sacraments of the Orthodox church and their purpose
11. The role of the Fathers in the Orthodox church
12. Primary causes of the Great Schism of 1054
13. The place of the Orthodox church under Islam
14. Papal claims and the Great Schism
15. Prayer and *Hesychasm* as a means to *Theosis*

Bibliography:

In addition to the bibliographies contained in the Required Texts, you may want to consult also:

Recommended:

- Benz, Ernst , The Eastern Orthodox Church – Its Thought and Life
- Binns John, An Introduction to The Christian Orthodox Churches
- Meyendorff, John, Byzantine Theology
- Zernov, Nicholas, Eastern Christendom

Additional Bibliography (these books may help you in the research for your term paper):

1. The Early Christian Fathers – A selection from their writings, Edited by Henry Bettenson, Oxford University Press
2. The Human Presence: Ecology and the Age of the Spirit, by Gregorios Poulos Mar
3. The Mystical Theology of the Eastern Church, by Vladimir Lossky
4. The early Church, by Henry Chadwick

GENERAL INFORMATION – Spring 2016

POLICY FOR CLASS BEHAVIOR, ATTENDANCE and PARTICIPATION:

For the majority of students, the following information is unnecessary. However, for the occasional few who need it, the following policies must be clearly stated:

I expect you to be present at every class meeting, be alert, pay attention, take notes, and engage actively in the subject discussed. Students who sleep may be asked to leave. Students who read material for other classes or who are studying for other classes may be asked to leave. Occasional light talk is acceptable, but students who annoy others or the professor may be asked to leave. Do not bring your dinner to class! Drinking of pop, coffee or tea is permissible. Students may not leave while class is in session unless there is a provable emergency. Students are not to pack books or put on coats before the professor has dismissed the class, or else they will be penalized at the professor's discretion. In short, I expect you to conduct yourself according to the standards of academic collegiality: respect for staff, professors and your fellow students. I expect you to keep up with all the reading assignments: THE SEMESTER "FLIES BY QUICKLY".

Students are expected to attend classes as a minimal requirement for class fulfillment. Accordingly, roll will be taken at the beginning of class. Be on time!

One unexcused absence is permitted during the semester. For two absences you may be marked down one full grade off the final semester totals (for example, an A goes to a B); three absences may result in a second grade reduction off the final grade (a B lowers to a C); if you miss four or more times, you will be failed (F for the course)

Be aware of Plagiarism. The University is very severe on this issue, and so am I.

Plagiarism is defined as "the attempt to pass off words or ideas which are not one's own as original, by not giving credit to their source".

Laptops: No laptops are allowed without express permission of instructor; to be used only for note taking.

Cell Phones: They are to be turned off during class time.

Americans with Disabilities Act: Students with special needs as addressed by the Americans with Disabilities Act who need reasonable modifications, special assistance, or accommodations in this course

should promptly direct their request to the Disability Support Services Office. Any student who currently has a documented disability (physical, learning, or psychological) needing academic accommodations should contact the Disability Services Office (Daum Hall Room 224, 310-338-4535) as early in the semester as possible. All discussions will remain confidential. Please visit <http://www.lmu.edu/dss> for additional information.

Academic Honesty: Academic dishonesty will be treated as an extremely serious matter, with serious consequences that can range from receiving no credit for assignments/tests to expulsion. It is never permissible to turn in any work that has been copied from another student or copied from a source (including Internet) without properly acknowledging the source. It is your responsibility to make sure that your work meets the standard of academic honesty set forth in the “LMU Honor Code and Process” which appears in the LMU Bulletin 2010-2011. See:

http://www.lmu.edu/about/services/registrar/Bulletin/Bulletins_in_PDF_Format.htm.

Suggestions for preventing plagiarism are found at:

http://library.lmu.edu/Services_for_Faculty/Preventing_Plagiarism_links_for_faculty.htm

Have a great semester!