

THST 2352/MDGK 3352/EURO 2352
ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN SPIRITUALITY
(August 30-December 13, 2018) UNH 2330

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Fall Semester 2018
Loyola Marymount University
Office UH 3731

Thurs. 7:10 – 10:10 PM

Office Hours: I will be generally available one hour prior to the class in the Theology Dept. Office (U.H. 3731). Please call and make an appointment. You may email me at frbakas@stsophia.org.
I DO NOT RESPOND TO MY LMU EMAIL. Please email me your papers as a Word document only.

Course Description:

This course is an introduction to the rich spiritual tradition of Eastern Orthodox Christianity. We will examine principles of spiritual direction, as well as various dimensions of spirituality of the desert fathers and monastic traditions. Readings and discussions will focus on the hesychastic tradition, prayer, liturgical piety, Iconography, and the Sacramental life. The use of the icon in corporate and personal devotional prayer, and the Jesus prayer in lay spirituality will be highlighted.

The fundamental principles of Orthodox Christian Spirituality are often very similar to those in the whole of Christendom. The methods and practices may differ in the Orthodox and the Catholic worlds. The differences do not bear on the chief points. On the whole, there is one Christian spirituality of the One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church, with variations of stress and emphasis.

The spiritual life we will study, review and discuss will be in the light and context of the doctrines of the Eastern Orthodox Church. This name applies to the “sister churches” whose faith is expressed by the decisions of the Seven Ecumenical Councils, and who maintain communion with the Patriarchates of Constantinople, Antioch, Alexandria and Jerusalem.

Course Core Area: Faith and Reason (IFTR/INT)

Student Learning Outcomes:

Through lectures, class discussion, reflection papers, midterm, and a term paper, students will:

1. Demonstrate familiarity with the beginnings and historical development of the Orthodox Christian dogma and spirituality.
2. Understand the intellectual underpinning of Orthodox spirituality.
3. Understand the liturgical and contemplative elements of Orthodox spirituality.
4. Understand the historical beginnings of Asceticism and Mysticism.

5. Understand the role of the icon in the spiritual journey of the Orthodox Christian.
6. Understand the meaning of the Holy Mysteries of Orthodox Christianity.
7. Recognize and value the various symbolisms of the Orthodox faith.
8. Examine and evaluate critically the diverse ways in which religious beliefs and practices change across time and space.
9. Understand and value the richness and complexity of theological and religious traditions in light of contemporary issues and diverse voices.
10. Reflect critically on what he/she has learned to demonstrate reasoned judgment and respect for human dignity in working as ethical, compassionate leaders with and for others to build a more just world.
11. Acquire and demonstrate understanding of analytical and critical language in formulating reasoned arguments.
12. Demonstrate the capacity to do research and write on a given topic in the area of spirituality, and cite/reference according to the Chicago Manual of style.
13. Acquire the knowledge and experiences that can bring about life-changing (and life-long) patterns of spiritual growth.

Required Texts (all texts are on reserve at the LMU library)

- **Ware, Kallistos.** The Inner Kingdom. St. Vladimir's Seminary Press, 2000
- **Ware, Kallistos.** The Orthodox Way. St. Vladimir's Seminary Press, 1979
- **Laird, Martin.** Into the Silent Land, Oxford University Press.
- **Bacovcin, Helen.** (Translator). The Way of a Pilgrim. . Doubleday, 2003.

Prerequisites: None

Course Expectations:

1. Regular attendance and participation in the discussions (come to answer questions)
Each absence will result in a one-point deduction. Tardiness is treated as a one-half absence. No one is permitted to leave class early. To do so will be considered a one-half absence. Three absences for any reason will lower your grade one letter. Absenteeism for any reason in excess of 50% of classes will result in failure in the course.
2. Attendance of an Orthodox Liturgical service
3. Two 2-3 page Reflection papers on 3 of the basic texts. (see requirements for the papers)
4. A Midterm
5. A Research Term paper of 10-12 pages.

**CLASS READING ASSIGNMENTS AND PREPARATION
FALL SEMESTER 2018**

By: August 30th – Read

Orthodox Way

Sign Posts on the Way – Pg. 7 – 10

God as Mystery – Pg. 11 – 25

Inner Kingdom – Pg. 1-18

Into the Silent Land -Pg. 1 - 12

The Way of the Pilgram - Pg. 1 -18

By: September 6th – Read

Inner Kingdom – Pg. 25 – 42

Into the Silent Land – Pg. 13 – 24

The Way of the Pilgram - Pg. 19 -38

By: September 27th - Read

Orthodox Way - God as Man, Pg. 67-87

Inner Kingdom - Pg. 69-74

Into the Silent Land - Pg. 49-60

By: October 4th – Read

Orthodox Way –God as Spirit, Pg. 89 -104

Inner Kingdom Pg. 75-88

Into the Silent Land – Pg. 61-72

The Way of the Pilgram -Pg. 98-117

By: October 11th – Read

Orthodox Way –God as Prayer, Pg. 105-132

Into the Silent Land -Pg.73 - 84

The Way of the Pilgram -Pg.118-206

By: October 18th – Read

Orthodox Way – God as Eternity, Pg. 133 – 139

Inner Kingdom – Pg. 111 – 126

Into the Silent Land - Pg. 85 - 96

By: September 13th – Read

Orthodox Way – God as Trinity, Pg. 27 – 41

Inner Kingdom – Pg. 43 – 58

Into the Silent Land – Pg. 25 - 36

The Way of the Pilgram - Pg.39 - 57

By: September 20th - Read

Orthodox Way - God as Creator, Pg. 43 -66

Inner Kingdom - Pg. 59 - 68

Into the Silent Land -Pg. 37 - 48

The Way of the Pilgram -Pg. 58 -77

By: October 25th – Read

Inner Kingdom – Pg. 127 – 152

Into the Silent Land – Pg. 97 - 108

By: November 1st – Read

Inner Kingdom – Pg. 153 – 180

Into the Silent Land -Pg. 109 - 125

By: November 8th – Read

Inner Kingdom – Pg. 181 – 192

Into the Silent Land - Pg.126 - 142

November 22nd - No Class

By: November 30th – Read

Inner Kingdom – Pg. 193 – 215

December 9^h – Review

December 6th – Final Term Paper

NOTE:

- Topics for the Reflection papers must be based on your readings from the required texts and the lectures.
- For the Research Paper you can select from the list below or any theme related to the class with the approval of the Professor.
- Prepare a paragraph for the Research Paper explaining your choice of the topic. You will present this paragraph to the class on Thursday, October 18th .

Course Revisions/Modifications: If necessary, this syllabus and its contents are subject to revision at the professor’s discretion. Students are responsible for any announcements, changes, or modifications in class.

Assignment Due Dates:

1st reflection paper due: Thursday, September 20th (on a topic of your choice)
Midterm : Thursday, October 18th
Selection of topic for the Research Paper: – Presented in class on Thursday, October 18th
2nd reflection paper due: Thursday, November 8th
(based on your experience attending an Orthodox Liturgy)
Research Paper due: Thursday, December 13

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Grading Policy: Reflection papers will each count for 10% of your grade. The Midterm will count for 25%. Your Research Paper will count for 45% of your grade. Your class participation including attendance at one Orthodox Liturgical service will count for 10% of your grade. I expect reflection papers and term paper to be handed in on the due date, unless prior arrangements are made.

GRADE ASSESSMENT

A=100-92; A- = 91-90; B+ =89-87; B=86-78; B- =77-76; C+ =75-74; C=73-67; C- =66-65; D = 64-58; F=57-0

A grade of “C” or higher is required for this course to count for Core credit.

PLEASE NOTE: THIS IS A FOUR UNIT CORE 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 at least ten hours to write/revise each paper and the annotated bibliography. The Research paper will require at least 20 hours to do the research, to write it and revise it.

“Spirituality is understood to encompass both the inward activity of the spiritual disciplines and the outward activity of social involvement” (Mt. 6:6; James 1:27)

“Our life consists not in the pursuit of material success but in the quest of worthy spiritual growth. Our entire earthly existence is but a transitional stage in the movement toward something higher. Material laws alone do not explain our life or give it direction. The laws of physics and physiology will never reveal the indisputable manner in which the Creator constantly, day in and day out, participates in the life of each of us, unfailingly granting us the energy of existence; when this existence leaves us, we die. In the life of our entire planet, the divine spirit moves with no less force: this we must grasp in our dark and terrible hour”.

Alexander Solzhenitsyn

“We each carry within our hearts a divine element. Torn from the womb of existence and ushered, crying, into this world, we spend all our energies in the pursuit of a state of happiness. This restless, incessant drive is no more than that divine element within us seeking its origin.”

St. Simeon the New Theologian 949-1022AD

The general course outline in content will be as follows:

A. HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT

1. The scriptural element
2. The “primitive Christian” element
3. The intellectual element
4. The early monastic element
5. The liturgical element
6. The contemplative element

B. THE ESSENTIALS

1. Aim and means of Christian life
2. Divine grace and human will
3. Asceticism and Mysticism
4. Prayer and Contemplation
5. The Holy Mysteries
6. The communion of saints
7. The stages of spiritual life

C. THE BAPTIZING CHRIST

1. Jesus and the water of life
2. Baptismal Grace
3. The forgiving and healing Christ

4. The re-creating Christ

5. Our incorporation into Christ

6. The spring of the soul

D. CHRIST – THE SENDER OF THE SPIRIT

1. The grace of Pentecost

2. The anointing

3. The seal

4. The new spiritual senses

5. The charismatic life

6. Pentecost and illumination

7. Praying to the Holy Spirit
and praying in the Holy Spirit

8. The Christ of the Spirit

E. CHRIST OUR PASSOVER

1. The Paschal Lamb

2. The Supper of the Lamb

3. The Blood of the Lamb

4. The Marriage of the Lamb

5. The Triumph of the Lamb

Research Paper Ideas to choose from:

1. The desert movement and monasticism and the role of the Holy Fathers
2. The aim and means of The Christian Life
3. The theology of sin in the context of Orthodox Spirituality
4. Enslavement of the Passions
5. The role of Divine Grace and Human will
6. The role of Contemplative prayer in Orthodox Christianity
7. Compare Apophatic and Cataphatic approaches to God in Eastern and Western Traditions
8. The role of Liturgical Worship in Orthodox Spirituality
9. Ritual and symbolism in the sacraments of Orthodox Spirituality
10. Theosis and salvation: a comparison between the Western and Eastern Church approach
11. The role of matter in Orthodox Theology and Iconography
12. Asceticism: A comparison between Eastern and Western Christianity

A student can choose another topic as long as it is relevant to the material covered and has the approval of the professor.

Bibliography:

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

Recommended:

- **Markides, Kyriacos.** The Mountain of Silence. Image Books, 2002
- **Ware, Kallistos.** The Orthodox Church. London: Penguin Books, 1987.
- **Arthur Holden** (Editor) Christian Spirituality: The Classics

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

- **The Sayings of the Desert Fathers.** trans. Benedicta Ward. Kalamazoo, Michigan, Cistercian Publications
- **To Love as God Loves,** by Roberta Bondi
- **Soul Feast:** An Initiation for Christian Spiritual Life by Mayone Thompson
- **The Mountain of Silence:** A Search for Orthodox Spirituality by Kyriacos C. Markides. Image book, N.Y.
- **Inner River:** A Pilgrimage to the Heart of Christian Spirituality by Kyriacos C. Markides – Image Book, N.Y.
- **Christian Meditation:** Experiencing the Presence of God by James Finley, Harper Collins
- **Behold the Beauty of the Lord** by Henri J. M. Nouwen. Ave Maria Press
- **The Way of the Heart:** Desert spirituality and contemporary ministry- Henry J.M. Nouwen- The Seabury Press
- **Grace in the Desert: Awakening to the Gifts of Monastic Life** by Dennis Patrick Slattery- Jossey-Bass Publisher
- **Confronting and Controlling Thoughts According to the Fathers of the Philokalia,** by Anthony M. Coniaris, Light & Life Publication
- **God's Path to Sanity** by Dee Pennock, Light and Life Publication

GENERAL INFORMATION - Fall 2018

POLICY FOR CLASS BEHAVIOR, AND 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!