

Eastern Christian Doctrines RGT3563/6563HF

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Outline: A comprehensive synthesis of primarily the Byzantine Orthodox doctrinal tradition. Themes include: the sources of Tradition, creation, eschatology, anthropology, soteriology, Christ, the Holy Spirit, the Trinity, liturgy and sacraments, ecclesiology and East-West ecumenism. Lectures, seminars, short papers, research paper. Prerequisite: Three courses from the Theological or Historical Departments. [Offered in alternate years].

Course Evaluation, Requirements & Due Dates:

a. Reflection paper #1	20%
b. Reflection paper #2	20%
c. Research Essay	45%
d. In-Class tutorial participation	15%

a & b. Reflection papers:

Reflection papers are based on the reading or topic listed below, and should be 1.5-2 pages. See "Essay Requirements" below.

i. First paper: Reflection paper on the Lecture/ Tutorial readings for only one (your choice) of the classes between weeks #2-6. **Due:** Day of the respective tutorial.

ii. Second paper: Reflection paper on the Lecture/ Tutorial readings for only one (your choice) of the classes between weeks #7-11. **Due:** Day of the respective tutorial.

c. Research Essay:

i. Basic Degree students: The research paper is to be 8-10 pages, and should conform to the "essay requirements" listed below. The essay topic can be either on the theology of an author(s), theological doctrine(s), or event(s) from the period under study. **Due:** Week 11 (December 6).

ii. Advanced Degree students: Same as c.i. (above), but with a 12-15 page paper.

d. In-class participation in lectures and tutorials:

Lectures will be the first hour of the class, while the tutorials will immediately follow the lecture. Students will be expected to discuss and critique the readings during the lecture and tutorial sessions.

Essay Requirements:

Research Essays must include a title page, an introductory/thesis paragraph, the main body of text (ideas, arguments, critique), endnote or footnotes, a concluding/summary paragraph, and a bibliography. The research essays are composed of synthesis and critical analysis of a

theme/idea/event in systematic theology and/or historical theology, and are presented from an objective point of view. The level of discourse for research essays is "systematic theology." All written work is to be typed and double-spaced, and is based on 12 pt. font. Plagiarised essays will receive a failing mark.

Reflection Papers include the same basic elements as a research paper, with the addition of some subjective (personal, spiritual and pastoral) reflections, but no title page and bibliography. They are intended to synthesize the respective weekly readings, conveying "the most information in the least amount of space."

For a formatting reference guide, see: Kate L. Turabian. *A Manual For Writers of Term Papers, Theses and Dissertations*. Chicago: Chicago, 1973.

Course Texts:

The textbook can be found at Crux bookstore (behind Wycliffe College) at a discount.

1. John Meyendorff. *Byzantine Theology: Historical Trends and Doctrinal Themes*. [BT] NY: Fordham, 1983.
2. Selected articles and chapters [photocopied course-pack: more info in first class].

COURSE OUTLINE

1. Introduction

- methodology; researching in Eastern Christianity; the churches of Eastern Orthodoxy; some definitions = orthodox, theology-doxology, method in theology, apophaticism-kataphaticism; is there a "systematic" Eastern Orthodox theology?

2. The Sources of Tradition

- Tradition & traditions; the nature of revelation; foundations; biblical exegesis and inspiration; ecumenical councils and canon law; development of doctrine.

Readings:

Meyendorff. *BT*. Introduction: "The Character and Sources of Theology in Byzantium." 1-18.

Georges Florovsky. "The Function of Tradition in the Ancient Church." *Greek Orthodox Theological Review* 9/2 (1963) 181-200.

John Breck. "The Patristic Setting for a 'Theoria' of Hermeneutics." *The Power of the Word in the Worshipping Church*. Crestwood: SVS, 1986. 49-92.

3. Creation, Anthropology & Eschatology (I)

- creation of the cosmos; man-woman and their relationship to God and the world; the fall and sin; divine energies-grace; eschatology; the economy of salvation.

Readings:

Alexander Heidel. *The Babylonian Genesis: The Story of Creation*. Chicago: Chicago, 1951. Selections: 18, 42-47. [An early Babylonian account of creation].

Book of Genesis. Chps. 1 & 2.

Meyendorff. *BT*. 1: "Creation" (129-137).

John Zizioulas. "Preserving God's Creation: Three Lectures on Theology & Ecology." *King's Theological Review* 12 (1989) 1-5; 41-45.

4. Creation, Anthropology & Eschatology (II)

- continuation of creation themes; the notion of person in patristic theology; being in communion.

Readings:

Meyendorff. BT. 11: "Man [sic.]" (138-150).

Panayiotis Nellas. Chp. 1: "The Image of God" & Chp. 2: "The Garments of Skin." In *Deification in Christ: Orthodox Perspectives on the Nature of the Human Person*. Trans. N. Russell. Crestwood: St. Vladimir's, 1987. 21-66.

5. Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit (I)

- the early councils & christology; the Assyrian and Oriental Orthodox traditions; the gifts of the Spirit; relationship between christology and pneumatology.

Readings:

Meyendorff. BT. 2: "The Christological Issue" (32-42) & 12: "Jesus Christ" (151-167).

Ronald Roberson. "The Contemporary Relationship Between the Catholic and Oriental Orthodox Churches." In *The Eastern Christian Churches: A Brief Survey*. 5th ed. Rome: Ed. Orientalia Christiana, 1995. 211-237.

6. Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit (II)

Readings:

Meyendorff. BT. 13: "The Holy Spirit" (168-179).

John Zizioulas. "Christ, the Spirit & the Church." In *Being as Communion: Studies in Personhood and the Church*. Crestwood, NY: St Vladimir's, 1985. 123-142.

Dumitru Staniloae. "The Holy Spirit and the Sobornicity of the Church." In *Theology and the Church*. Trans. R. Barringer. Crestwood: St. Vladimir's, 1980. 45-71.

Yves Congar. "St. Simeon the New Theologian: An Experience of the Spirit." In *I Believe in the Holy Spirit: The Experience of the Spirit*. Vol. 1. Trans. D. Smith. London: Geoffrey Chapman; NY: Seabury, 1983. 93-103.

7. The Triune God

- the development of triadology in the early church; the notion of person; divine energy/grace; trinitarian communion; hesychasm; *filioque*.

Readings:

Meyendorff. BT. 14: "The Triune God." (180-190).

John Zizioulas. "The Doctrine of God the Trinity Today: Suggestions for an Ecumenical Study." In *The Forgotten Trinity*. Ed. A.I. Heron. London: BCC/CCBI, 1991. 19-32.

Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity. "The Greek and Latin Traditions Regarding the Procession of the Holy Spirit." *PCPCU - Information Service* 89 (1985) 88-92.

8. Sacramental and Liturgical Theology (I)

- the notion of sacrament-*mysterion*; the liturgical cycle and *lex orandi-lex credendi*; Baptism, Chrismation and Eucharist.

Readings:

Meyendorff. BT. 9: "Lex Orandi," Chp. 15: "Sacramental Theology: The Cycle of Life" & Chp. 16: "The Eucharist." 115-125, 191-200, 201-211.

Robert Taft. "The Spirit of Eastern Christian Worship." In *Beyond East and West: Problems in Liturgical Understanding*. Washington: Pastoral, 1984. 111-126.

9. Sacramental and Liturgical Theology (II) - Icons

- the iconoclastic controversy; modern theology of icons; icons of Christ, Mary and saints; the theology of festal icons.

Readings:

Meyendorff. BT. 3: "Iconoclastic Crisis." 42-53.

Gennadios Limouris. "The Microcosm & Macrocosm of the Icon: Theology, Spirituality & Worship in Colour." In *Icons: Windows on Eternity*. Ed. G. Limouris. Geneva: WCC, 1990. 93-123.

John Baggley. "The Paradise That is Within the Cave [The Nativity]." In *Festival Icons for the Christian Year*. Crestwood: St. Vladimir's, 2000. 31-39.

10. Ecclesiology (I)

- the development of institutions; canonical sources; papal and patriarchal primacies; eucharistic or communion ecclesiology; mission; communion of saints & Mary.

Readings:

Meyendorff. BT. 6: "Ecclesiology: Canonical Sources." 79-90.

Georges Florovsky. "The Catholicity of the Church." *Collected Works of Georges Florovsky: Bible, Church, Tradition*. Vol 1: 37-55.

John Zizioulas. "The Mystery of the Church in the Orthodox Tradition." *One in Christ* 24 (1988) 294-303.

11. Ecclesiology (II)

- primacy; communion (and cult) of saints; the Mother of God-Theotokos; mission-*martyria*.

Readings:

Meyendorff. BT. 17: "The Church in the World." 212-223. AND, on Mary-Theotokos, review pages 147-149, 165.

Eamon McManus. "Aspects of Primacy According to Two Orthodox Theologians." *One in Christ* 36 (2000) 234-250.

Colin Davey. "Statements on Primacy and Universal Primacy by Representatives of the Orthodox Churches." *One in Christ* 35 (1999) 378-382.

Emmanuel Clapsis. "Ecclesiology & Ethics: Reflections by An Orthodox Theologian." In *Orthodoxy in Conversation: Orthodox Ecumenical Engagements*. Geneva: WCC; Brookline: Holy Cross, 2000. 173-190.

Sergius Bulgakov. "The Virgin & the Saints in Orthodoxy." In *The Orthodox Church*. Crestwood: St. Vladimir's, 1988. 116-128.

12. Soteriology, Eschatology: Conclusion

- eschatology; vision of God; soteriology; summary of the course.

Readings:

Meyendorff. BT. 7: "Schism Between East & West," & "Antinomies." 91-102, 224-227, & review BT. 218-223 [on eschatology].

Vladimir Lossky. Chp. 10: "The Way of Union," and Chp. 11: "The Divine Light." *The Mystical Theology of the Eastern Church*. Crestwood: St. Vladimir's, 1991. 196-235.

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Some reference works:

The Blackwell Dictionary of Eastern Christianity. Ed. Ken Parry et al. Oxford: Blackwell, 1999.
A Dictionary of Greek Orthodoxy. Trans & rev. Nicon D. Patrinos. Pleasantville, N.Y.: Hellenic Heritage, 1987.

Fahey, Michael A. "Orthodox Ecumenism and Theology: 1970-1978." *Theological Studies* 39 (1978) 446-485.

Fahey, Michael A. "Orthodox Ecumenism and Theology: 1978-1983." *Theological Studies* 44 (1983) 625-692.

Oxford Dictionary of Byzantium. 3 vols. Ed. Alexander P. Kazhdan et al. New York: Oxford University Press, 1991.

Ware, Timothy [Kallistos]. *The Orthodox Church*. Rev. ed. Harmondsworth: Penguin, 1987.

Selected Journals Dealing with Eastern Christianity:

Byzantinische Zeitschrift

Byzantinoslavica

Byzantion

Diakonia

Dumbarton Oaks Papers

Eastern Churches Journal

Eastern Churches Quarterly

Eastern Churches Review

Greek Orthodox Theological Review

Irénikon

Journal of the Moscow Patriarchate

Keston Research Institute / Keston News Service

Logos: A Journal of Eastern Christian Studies

One in Christ

Orientalia Christiana Analecta

Orientalia Christiana Periodica

Ostkirchliche Studien

Put'

Religion in Eastern Europe
Revue des études byzantines
Revue des études grecques
St. Vladimir's Theological Quarterly
Sobornost'
Sources chrétiennes
Sourozh
Vizantia
Vizantiskii vremennik

Books & Articles:

- Afanas'ev, Nicholas. "Una Sancta." *Irénikon* 36 (1963) 436-475.
- Afanas'ev, Nicolas. "The Church Which Presides in Love." *The Primacy of Peter*. Ed. John Meyendorff et al. London: Faith Press, 1963. 57-111.
- Afanas'ev, Nicolas, John Meyendorff et al. *The Primacy of Peter*. London: Faith Press, 1963.
- Aghiorgoussis, Maximos. "Christian Existentialism of the Greek Fathers: Persons, Essence and Energies in God." *Greek Orthodox Theological Review* 23 (1978) 15-41.
- Aghiorgoussis, Maximos. "Orthodox Soteriology." In *Salvation in Christ*. Ed. J. Meyendorff & R. Tobias. Minneapolis: Augsburg, 1992. 35-40.
- Baggley, John. *Doors Of Perception: Icons and their Spiritual Significance*. Crestwood: St. Vladimir's, 1988,
- Baggley, John. *Festival Icons For The Christian Year*. London : Mowbray, 2000.
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- Berdyaeu, Nikolai. *The Destiny Of Man*. Trans. Natalie Duddington. New York: Harper & Row, 1960.
- Bobrinskoy, Boris. *The Mystery Of The Trinity: Trinitarian Experience and Vision in the Biblical and Patristic Tradition*. Trans. Anthony Gythiel. Crestwood, N.Y.: St. Vladimir's, 1999.
- Bouwen, Francis. "The Eastern Catholic Churches." *Dictionary of the Ecumenical Movement*. Ed. Nicholas Lossky. Geneva: W.C.C.; Grand Rapids: Eedermans, 1991.
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- Brown, Leslie. *The Indian Christians of St. Thomas: An Account of the Ancient Syrian Church of Malabar*. Cambridge: Cambridge, 1982.
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- Bulgakov, Sergei. *Sophia, the Wisdom of God: An Outline of Sophiology*. Hudson, N.Y.: Lindisfarne Press, 1993. [Trans.? from an unpublished mss.]

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- Cabasilas, Nicholas. *A Commentary on the Divine Liturgy*. Trans. J.M. Hussey and P.A. McNulty. Crestwood, N.Y. : St. Vladimir's Press, 1998.
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- Chaillot, C. & A. Belopopsky, eds. *Towards Unity: The Theological Dialogue Between the Orthodox Church and the Oriental orthodox Churches*. Geneva, 1991.
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- Clapsis, Emmanuel. "The Papal Primacy." *Greek Orthodox Theological Review* 32 (1987) 115-130.
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