

THEOLOGY & SPIRITUALITY OF ICONS

RGH 3755/6755HS

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Description: The history of the iconoclastic controversy and ecumenical councils, especially for the development of christology. History of early Christian art and icons. Readings from Nicea II, Theodore the Studite, John of Damascus and Theodore Abū Qurrah. Iconography and spirituality. Byzantine & Ukrainian icons. Writing an icon. Museum/Church visit. Weekly slide-shows. Lectures-seminar, reflection papers, major paper. [Cross-listed to Theology].

Goals: To situate the debate about icons within a historical context, and relate the iconoclastic debates to the developments in christology. To critically analyse and reflect upon the theology of ecumenical councils, church authors and modern theologians. To gain an appreciation of symbolism, aesthetics and art in the Eastern Christian tradition.

Course Evaluation, Requirements & Due Dates:

a. Reflection paper #1	20%
b. Reflection paper #2	20%
c. Research Essay	40%
d. In-Class tutorial participation	20%

a & b. Reflection papers:

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

i. First paper: Due: Week # 4 (Jan. 24). Reflection paper on the Lecture/Tutorial readings of Theodore the Studite (only).

ii. Second paper: Due: Week # 7 (Feb. 21). Reflection paper on only one icon of either Christ, Mary or a Saint. Describe everything you see or read in the icon. Assume that you are interpreting the icon for someone who is entirely unfamiliar with Eastern iconography. Please provide a black-and-white photocopy of the icon and its source/location.

c. Research Essay:

i. For BD 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 theological history and development of iconography, or a theological interpretation of any icon(s) of your choosing. Keep in mind that such an icon(s) should yield enough information for an 8-10 page essay. Please provide a black-and-white photocopy of the icon and its

source/location. **Due:** Week 11 (March 11).

ii. For AD students: As above, with the exception that the essay shall be 12-15 pages in length.

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. This is a very important part of your evaluation!

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 in 11-12 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 no 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. For a guide to style, grammar and composition in general, see: William Strunk. *The Elements of Style*. Rev., intro. and a chapter on writing by E.B. White. 2. ed. New York: Macmillan, 1972. Or, Joseph M. Williams. *Style: Toward Clarity and Grace*. Chicago: Chicago, 1990.

Course Texts:

- a. Baggley, John. *Festival Icons for the Christian Year*. Crestwood: St Vladimir's, 2000.
- b. Nouwen, Henry. *Behold the Beauty of the Lord*. Notre Dame, IN: Ave Maria, 2000.
- c. Photocopied course-pack [To be discussed in first class].
- d. Some icons discussed in class can be found on my web-site:

[http:// individual.utoronto.ca/jskira/syllabus-icons.htm](http://individual.utoronto.ca/jskira/syllabus-icons.htm)

The books by Baggley and Nouwen can be bought at Crux Books (behind Wycliffe College).

COURSE OUTLINE

1. Introduction & Overview

- course requirements; overview of materials; web-resources; introductory video (23 min.).

2. Historical Background: Christology & Iconoclasm

- the prohibition of images in the Scriptures; the christological context; Dura-Europas.

A. Lecture & Tutorial Readings:

Baggley, John. *Doors of Perception*. Chp. 2: 6-20.

Pelikan, Jaroslav. "Graven Images: Ambiguity of the Iconographic Tradition." *Imago Dei: The Byzantine Apologia for Icons*. Chp. 2: 41-66.

Old Testament readings: Ex. 20.4, 20.23; Deut. 27.15; Numb. 21.4-9; Ex. 25.18; Ezek. 40, 41.

B. For Further Reading:

Sahas, Daniel. *Icon and Logos*. Introduction. [selections].

Sendler, Egon. "The History of the Icon." *The Icon: Image of the Invisible*. Chp. 1: 7-36.

Pelikan, Jaroslav. "The True Image." *Jesus Through the Centuries*. Chp. 7: 83-94.

3. The Triumph of Orthodoxy: The Iconophile Position (I)

John of Damascus (676-749); Theodore Abū Qurrah (755-830); Iconoclastic council of 754; St. Catherine's monastery (Sinai) & St. Sophia's (Constantinople); types of icons of Christ.

A. Lecture & Tutorial Readings:

Cormack, Robin. "In the Shadow of St. Sophia: Byzantine Art in the Sixth Century and Its Aftermath, 527-680." *Byzantine Art*. Chp. 2: 37-62, 66-73.

John of Damascus. *On the Divine Images*. (Selections: 13-28).

Nouwen, Henry. *Behold the Beauty of the Lord*. Intro. & Chp. 1 (On Christ).

Icons of Christ.

B. For Further Reading:

Baggley. *Doors of Perception*. Chp. 3.

Ouspensky/Lossky. *The Meaning of Icons*. Icons of Christ: 69-75.

4. The Triumph of Orthodoxy: The Iconophile Position (II)

- the Council of Nicea II (787) and the Sunday of Orthodoxy; Theodore The Studite (759-826); types of icons of Theotokos-Mary.

Due: Reflection paper #1.

A. Lecture & Tutorial Readings:

Sahas. *Icons and Logos*. (Selections on Nicea II: 92-97, 154-157, 176-180).

Theodore the Studite. *On the Holy Icons*. (Selections: 20-23, 26-33, 38-41).

Nouwen. *Behold the Beauty of the Lord*. Chp. 2 (on Mary).

Icons of Mary.

For Further Reading:

Ouspensky/Lossky. *The Meaning of Icons*. Icons of Mary: 76-104.

5. Spirituality of Icon Writers & Praying with Icons

- prayer: before writing an icon, and for the consecration of icons; beginning to read & write icons.

A. Lecture & Tutorial Readings:

Baggley, John. *Festival Icons for the Christian Year*. Chp. 1 (Introduction).

Cavarnos, Constantine. "The Function of Icons." *Orthodox Iconography*. Chp. 3: 30-48.

Limouris, Gennadios, ed. "A Prayer Recited Before Painting an Icon." *Icons: Windows on Eternity*. 159.

"Prayer for the Blessing of Icons."

Quenot, Michel. "Preparation & Materials, etc." *The Icon*. 83-91, 111-119.

Video: *How to Write an Icon*. (Sheptytsky Institute of Eastern Christian Studies). (1 selections).

For Further Reading:

Quenot. Chp. 4: "The Theological Elements of An Icon." *The Icon*.

6. Iconography in Kyivan-Rus'

- Ukrainian and Russian Icons (11th - 15th centuries); St. Sophia's (Kyiv); Rublev's Trinity.

A. Lecture & Tutorial Readings:

Zibawi, Mahmoud. "From Rus' to Russia." *The Icon*. Chp. 8: 125-144.

Baggley. *Festival Icons*. Chp. 4 & 5 (Nativity & Presentation).

Nouwen. *Behold the Beauty of the Lord*. Chp. 1 (Rublev's Trinity).

Icons: Rublev's Trinity.

B. For Further Reading:

Evdokimov. "Andrei Rublev's Icon of the Holy Trinity." *The Art of the Icon*. Chp. 24: 243-257.

Baggley. *Doors of Perception*. Nativity icon: pp.122ff.

*** NO CLASSES: Reading Week (Feb. 14-18). ***

7. Evolution of Architecture, Iconostases and Festival Icons

- ancient, medieval and modern icon-screens; initial stages of writing an icon.

Due: Reflection paper #2.

A. Lecture & Tutorial Readings:

Evdokimov, Paul. "The Church Building." *The Art of the Icon*. Chp. 12: 143-161.

Baggley. *Festival Icons*. Chp. 2, 3 & 16 (On Mary).

Icons of the Iconostasis & of Saints.

Video: *How to Write an Icon* (2 selections).

B. For Further Reading:

Quenot. *The Icon*. [Iconostasis and Festal icons]. Chp. 1: 47-64 only.

Ouspensky/Lossky. *The Meaning of Icons*. Icons of Iconostasis & Saints: 105-141 & 141-216.

8. Festival Icons of Christ & Development of Colours and Perspectives in Iconography

- laws of colour and inverse-perspective; stages of writing an icon.

A. Lecture & Tutorial Readings:

Baggley. *Festival Icons*. Chp. 6 & 7 (Theophany & Transfiguration).

Sendler, Egon. "Geometric Structures," & "The Icon and Laws of Perspective." *The Icon*. Chp. 6 & 8: 87-106, 119-134.

Video: *How to Write an Icon* (3 selections).

B. For Further Reading:

Sendler. Chp. 10: "The World of Colours." & Chp. 12: "Technical Preparation." *The Icon*.

9. Festival Icons & Non-Byzantine Icons

- video: painting and layers.

A. Lecture & Tutorial Readings:

Baggley. *Festival Icons*. Chp. 8 & 9 (Pre-Pascha Icons).

Gregorios, Paulos Mar. "Iconography in Non-European Christianity." *Icons: Windows on Eternity*. 180-187.

Video: *How to Write an Icon* (4 & 5 selections).

B. For Further Reading:

Limouris, Gennadios, ed. *Icons: Windows on Eternity*. [Coptic, Armenian, Moldavian icons]. 170-179.

10. Icons of the Pascha & Completing an Icon

- video: final touches on icons.

A. Lecture & Tutorial Readings:

Baggley. *Festival Icons*. Chp. 10, 11 & 12 (Holy Week icons).

Video: *How to Write an Icon* (6 selections).

B. For Further Reading:

Sendler. Chp. 13: "Painting the Icon." *The Icon*.

11. Liturgy & Icons: A Modern Ukrainian Church

- icons in the liturgical and architectural setting; preparation for church visit.

Due: Final paper.

A. Lecture & Tutorial Readings:

Baggley. *Festival Icons*. Chp. 13-16 (Ascension & Pentecost icons).

Nouwen. *Behold the Beauty of the Lord*. Chp. 4 (Pentecost).

Melone, M.E. "In the Work of Human Hands." *He Dwells in Our Midst*. 29-38.

Video: *The Iconography of Sts. Volodymyr & Olha Ukrainian Catholic Church* (Chicago)
[40min.].

B. For Further Reading:

Evdokimov. "The Church Building." *The Art of the Icon*. Chp. 12: 143-161.

Ouspensky. "Symbolism of the Church." *The Orthodox Ethos*. 153-168.

12. Conclusion: Aesthetics, Architecture and Worship

- Visit to a church to experience iconography in its liturgical and architectural setting.
- The date and place will be announced in class. Note: The date may be moved to an earlier date in the course schedule subject to church availability.

Selected Bibliography

a. Patristic Sources:

- Ancient Christian Writers.* Westminster, MD: Newman; New York: Paulist, 1946-.
- The Fathers of the Church.* Ed. R.J. Deferrari et al. Washington: CUA, 1947-.
- John of Damascus. *On the Divine Images.* Trans. David Anderson. Crestwood: St. Vladimir's, 1980.
- The Loeb Classical Library.* London; Cambridge: 1912-. [orig. language on facing page with English translation].
- A Select Library of the Nicene and Post Nicene Fathers of the Christian Church.* Ed. Philip Schaff et al. New York: Christian Literature, 1886-1890.
- Sahas, Daniel J. *Icon and Logos: Sources in Eighth-Century Iconoclasm* [Nicea II]. Toronto: UofT, 1986. [Also contains an introductory essay on iconoclasm].
- Theodore Abū Qurrah. *A Treatise on the Veneration of the Holy Icons.* Trans. & intro. Sidney H. Griffith. Louvain: Peeters, 1997.
- Theodore the Studite. *On the Holy Icons.* Trans. Catharine P. Roth. Crestwood: St. Vladimir's, 1981.

b. General References on Orthodox Theology, History and Patristics

i. Encyclopaedias & Bibliographies on the Early Church

- Encyclopedia of Early Christianity.* Ed. Everett Ferguson. New York: Garland, 1990.
- Encyclopedia of the Early Church.* 2 vols. Ed. Angelo Di Berardino. Trans. Adrian Walford. Rev. bibliography by W.H.C. Frend. New York: Oxford, 1992.
- The Oxford Dictionary of Byzantium.* 3 vols. Ed. Alexander P. Kazhdan et al. New York: Oxford University, 1991.
- The Oxford Dictionary of the Christian Church.* Ed. Everett Ferguson. New York: Garland, 1990.
- Robinson, Thomas A. with B. Shaw. *The Early Church: An Annotated Bibliography of Literature in English.* ATLA Bibliography Series, 33. Metuchen, NJ: Scarecrow, 1993.
- Quasten, Johannes. *Patrology.* 4 vols. Westminster, MD: Newman, 1951-1986.

ii. Introductions to Theology, History, Spirituality and Liturgy

- Byzantine Daily Worship* [Byzantine Breviary, Three Liturgies, Propers and Offices]. Allendale, NJ & Combermere, ON: Alleluia, 1969.
- Clendenin, Daniel, ed. *Eastern Orthodox Theology: A Contemporary Reader.* Grand Rapids: Baker, 1995. [Selected essays from, for e.g., Florovsky, Lossky, Ware, etc., on topics such as Liturgy, Tradition, Councils, Fathers, Trinity, Ecumenism].
- The Festal Menaion.* Trans. Mother Mary & Kallistos Ware. South Canaan: St. Tikhon's Seminary, 1998. [See the introduction by Georges Florovsky on Orthodox worship and feasts. Appendix describes service books of the Eastern Churches].
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- Lossky, Vladimir. *The Image and Likeness of God* [Fr. orig. pub. 1967]. Ed. John Erickson and Thomas E. Bird. Crestwood, NY: St Vladimir's, 1985.

- _____. *The Mystical Theology of the Eastern Church* [Fr. orig. pub. 1944]. Crestwood, NY: St Vladimir's, 1991.
- _____. *Orthodox Theology: An Introduction* [Fr. orig. pub. 1964-1965, "Théologie Dogmatique."]. Trans Ian & Ihita Kesarcodi-Watson. Crestwood, NY: St Vladimir's, 1978.
- _____. *The Vision of God* [Fr. orig. pub. 1960]. Trans. Ashleigh Moorhouse. Crestwood, NY: St Vladimir's, 1983.
- Lozynsky, Taras, ed. *He Dwells in Our Midst: Reflections on Eastern Christianity*. St Catharines: St Sophia Religious Association, 1988.
- Meyendorff, John. *Byzantine Theology: Historical Trends and Doctrinal Themes*. NY: Fordham, 1974.
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- Pelikan, Jaroslav. *The Christian Tradition: A History of the Development of Doctrine*. 5 vols. Chicago: Univ. of Chicago, 1974. [Vol. 1 deals with East and West to 600; Vol. 2 deals with the East 600-1700].
- Schmemmann, Alexander. *For the Life of the World: Sacraments and Orthodoxy*. Crestwood, NY: St Vladimir's, 1973.
- _____. *Liturgy and Tradition: Theological Reflections of Alexander Schmemmann*. Ed. by Thomas Fisch. Crestwood, NY: St Vladimir's, 1990.
- Schulz, Hans-Joachim. *The Byzantine Liturgy*. NY: Pueblo, 1986. [Intro. by Kallistos Ware].
- Špidlík, Tomáš. *The Spirituality of the Christian East*. Trans. Anthony P. Gythiel. Kalamazoo: Cistercian, 1986.
- Taft, Robert. *The Liturgy of the Hours in East and West*. Collegeville: Liturgical, 1986.
- Ware, Timothy [Kallistos]. *The Orthodox Church*. Rev. ed. Harmondsworth: Penguin, 1987.
- Zizioulas, John. *Being as Communion: Studies in Personhood and the Church* [expanded from the Fr. version, orig. pub. 1981]. Crestwood, NY: St Vladimir's, 1985.

c. Books & Articles on Iconography [Almost all are in the U of T library system]

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- Armstrong, AH. "Some Comments on the Development of the Theology of Images." *Studia Patristica* 9 (1963) 117-126.
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- Zhivov, VM. "The Mystagogia of Maximus the Confessor and the Development of the Byzantine Theology of the Image." *St Vladimir's Theological Quarterly* 4 (1987) 349-376.
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D. Selected Icon resources on the Web [in addition to the course-icons on my web-site]

Byzantine Icons

<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/byzantium/images.html>

[Contains a good collection of images, and some icons from specific church and monasteries, e.g. Hagia Sophia, Ravenna. Also contains links to other sites with icons and Byzantine art in general].

Orthodox Christian Fellowship Page (MIT)

<http://www.mit.edu:8001/afs/athena.mit.edu/activity/o/ocf/www/icons.html>

[Basic collection].

Orthodox Christian Page in America

<http://www.ocf.org/OrthodoxPag/icons/icons.html>

[Collection on Christ, Mary, saints].

St. Catherine's Monastery (Sinai)

<http://interoz.com/egypt/Catherines.htm>

[Some images, icons and commentary].

