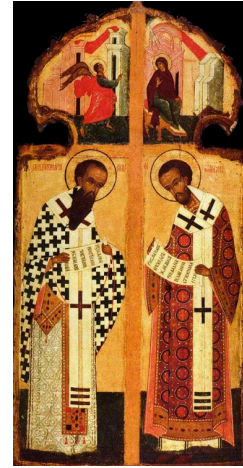


HISTORY OF EASTERN CHRISTIANITY (RGH3/6430HF)

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Note: This is an abbreviated syllabus. A full detailed syllabus with course requirements will be distributed at the first class.

Description:

A history of Eastern Christianities through the study of the life and works of major early authors who shaped Eastern Christian traditions, including Origen, Aphrahat, Athanasius, Cyril of Alexandria, the Cappadocians, Maximus the Confessor, Simeon the New Theologian, Nicholas Cabasilas, Gregory Palamas. Lectures-seminars, short synthesis papers, major paper. Advanced degree students enroll in RGH6430H. [Cross-listed to the Theology Department].

Basic Degree Goals:

1. To read primary- and secondary-sources historically-critically and understand the basic principles of historiography.
2. To acquire or further develop a “historical consciousness” of the period under study by being able to explain, date and contextualize significant events, people and doctrines in the formation of Byzantine and Slavic Christianity.
3. To know the central doctrines and traditions which have become normative for the modern Eastern Orthodox tradition.
4. To judge or reflect upon this Tradition’s relevance for Christian unity.
5. To enjoy studying Eastern Christianity.

Advanced Degree goals:

1. To read primary- and secondary-sources historically-critically with a fair degree of sophistication and be able to apply the principles of historiography.
2. To further develop a “historical consciousness” of the period under study by being able to explain, date and contextualize significant events, people and doctrines in the formation of Byzantine and Slavic Christianity.
3. To know the central doctrines and traditions which have become normative for the modern Eastern Orthodox tradition, and be able to relate them to other developments in Eastern Christianity and Western Christianity.

4. To judge or reflect upon this Tradition's relevance for Christian unity.
5. To enjoy studying Eastern Christianity.

Course texts:

1. John Meyendorff. *Byzantine Theology: Historical Trends and Doctrinal Themes*. NY: Fordham, 1979.
2. Jaroslav Pelikan. *The Spirit of Eastern Christendom*. Vol. 2. *The Christian Tradition: A History of the Development of Doctrine*. Chicago: Chicago, 1974.
3. Selected photocopies [details & cost to be announced in class].

The textbooks available through Crux Bookstore [behind Wycliffe College].

Course Evaluation, Requirements & Due Dates:

a. Reflection paper #1	15%
b. Reflection paper #2	15%
c. Research Essay	50%
d. In-Class/Tutorial Participation	20%

a. Reflection Paper #1: Due: The day of the corresponding lecture/tutorial reading.

The reflection paper is to be based on both the lecture and primary source readings for only one of the Weeks between #2 to #6 (you choose) and should be 2 pages long. See "Essay Requirements" below.

b. Reflection Paper #2: Due: The day of the corresponding lecture/tutorial reading.

The reflection paper is to be based on both the lecture and primary source readings for only one of the Weeks between #7 to #11 (you choose) and should be 2 pages long. See "Essay Requirements" below.

c. Research Essay: Due: Week # 12 (last class).

The research paper is to be 8-10 pages (BD students) and 18-20 pages (AD students), 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.

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 Explained:

i. Research Essays must include a title page, an introduction/thesis paragraph, the main body of text (ideas, arguments, critique), endnotes or footnotes, a conclusion/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."

ii. *Reflection Papers* include the same elements as a research paper, with the addition of some subjective (personal, spiritual and pastoral) reflections (do not include a title page and bibliography). The "Reflection" dimension, which should be 10-15% of the paper, includes some

subjective (personal, spiritual and pastoral) reflections. The goal of these is to get you to think pastorally and creatively, and to say the most in the least amount of space. Do not forget the “reflection” aspect!

All written work is to be typed and double-spaced, and is based on 12 pt. font. If the papers are longer than required, I will only read the first four equivalent pages. For a formatting reference guide, see Kate L. Turabian. *A Manual For Writers of Term Papers, Theses and Dissertations*. Chicago: Chicago, 1973.

Grading Policy Explained:

Papers are evaluated according to the TST grading scale, which can be found at: <http://www.regiscollege.ca/current/policies_03>. Written work will be returned to students in class. After the completion of the course, any remaining written work can be picked up at the Regis College receptionist’s desk.

Late papers will be penalized one letter-grade point for every week (and part thereof) they are late. Courseload and/or workload are generally not acceptable reasons for late papers, extensions or SDFs. Plagiarised essays will receive a failing mark, and students may be subject to academic disciplinary measures.

COURSE OUTLINE

1. Introduction

- methodology and researching in patristics; tradition and doctrine; NT witness; kerygma and doctrine.

2. Apostolic & Apologetic Literature **⊂ The Beginnings of the Church (0-150)**

- Ignatius: ministry and ecclesiological themes in Eastern Christianity; Irenaeus: christology, cosmology and soteriology.

3. Alexandria: Clement, Origen, and Athanasius

- Origen & Scripture, philosophy and cosmology; Athanasius and christological terminology; the Imperial Church; the early councils; early monasticism.

4. The Armenian and Syriac Traditions (350-400) and John Chrysostom

- Aphrahat; Bardaisan; Ephraim the Syrian; Jacob of Edessa; Philoxenus.

5. Cappadocians and Their Influence (350-400)

- the Cappadocians and Hellenism; christology & pneumatology; spirituality; eschatology; Macrina.

6. Christology Unfolds, the Theotokos and Eastern Schisms (431-500)

- Theodore Mopseustia; Nestorius; Ephesus (431); Cyril; Chalcedon (451); modern Assyrian and Oriental Orthodox churches.

7. Pseudo-Dionysius, the Later Councils and Maximus the Confessor (500-700)

- monotheletism and cosmology; Constantinople II (553) and III (680).

8. Iconoclastic Crisis and the Triumph of Orthodoxy at Nicea II (700-787)

- John of Damascus; Theodore the Studite; Theodore Abu Q'urrah; icons and christology.

9. Ninth to Eleventh Centuries

- Photius, the *filioque* and primacy; crises in E & W; importance of Byzantine monasticism.

10. The Later Byzantine Hesychastic & Liturgical Traditions (1100-1400)

- Symeon the New Theologian; Gregory Palamas; the sacking of Constantinople.

11. Attempts at Ecclesial Communion & the Last Flourishing of Byzantium (-1453)

- Nicholas Cabasilas; councils of Lyons, Florence and the fall of Byzantium.

12. The Spread of Christianity to Kievan-Rus' (800-1600) & Conclusion

- Cyril & Methodius; the conversion of the Slavs; encounter and unions with the West; overview of themes; later developments.

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHIC RESOURCES**PRIMARY SOURCES - COLLECTIONS OF WORKS**

- Ancient Christian Writers [ACW]*. Westminster, MD: Newman; New York: Paulist, 1946-.
- Christian Classics Ethereal Library*: <http://www.ccel.org/fathers2/> [note: there are some typographical errors with the texts].
- The Fathers of the Church [FC]*. Ed. R.J. Deferrari et al. Washington: CUA, 1947-.
- The Loeb Classical Library*. London: Heinemann, 1914-.
- A Select Library of the Nicene and Post Nicene Fathers of the Christian Church [NPNF]*. Ed. Philip Schaff et al. New York: Christian Literature, 1886-1890.
- Sources chrétiennes [SC]*. Paris: Cerf, 1942-present. [indexed according to author; French trans. of Latin/Greek texts].

MAJOR REFERENCE SOURCES

- The Blackwell Dictionary of Eastern Christianity*. Ed. K. Parry et al. Oxford: Blackwell, 1999.
- The Encyclopedia of Early Christianity*. Ed. Everett Ferguson. NY: Garland, 1990.
- The Encyclopedia of the Early Church*. 2 vols. Ed. Angelo Di Berardino. Trans. A. Walford. Cambridge: James Clarke, 1992.
- Florovsky, Georges. *The Collected Works of Georges Florovsky*. 14 vols. Belmont: Nordland & Vaduz: Büchervertriebsanstalt, 1972-1989.
- Kadel, Andrew. *Matrology: A Bibliography of Writings by Christian Women From the First to the Fifteenth Centuries*. New York: Continuum, 1995.
- The Oxford Dictionary of Byzantium*. 3 vols. Ed. Alexander P. Kazhdan et al. New York: Oxford University Press, 1991.
- Patrinacos, Nicon D. *A Dictionary of Greek Orthodoxy*. Trans & rev. Nicon D. Patrinacos. Pleasantville, N.Y.: Hellenic Heritage, 1987.
- Philokalia. English. Selections*: Title: *Prayer of the Heart : Writings from the Philokalia From the Complete Text / Compiled by Saint Nikodimos of the Holy Mountain and Saint Makarios of Corinth*. Trans & ed. G.E.H. Palmer, Philip Sherrard, and Kallistos Ware. Boston: Shambhala; NY: Random House, 1993.
- Quasten, Johannes. *Patrology*. 4 vols. Allen, TX: Christian Classics, 1996. [biographical and bibliographic entries as well as references to christology].
- Roberson, Ronald.. *The Eastern Christian Churches*. Rome: Pont. Istitutum Studiorum Orientalium, 1990. [Invaluable brief histories and intros to all of the Eastern churches, both Orthodox and Catholic.]
- Tsirpanlis, Constantine N. *Introduction to Eastern Patristic Thought & Orthodox Theology*. Theology & Life 30. Collegeville: Liturgical, 1991.