

St Vladimir's Seminary Elective Course Descriptions – Fall 2024

LATIN 301

Credits: 3 credits

DR HARRISON RUSSIN

Introduction to Latin in the Christian Tradition. This course introduces students to the vocabulary, grammar and syntax of Latin in the Christian tradition. The emphasis will be on translating the Vulgate, but we will also read selections from Latin Church Fathers and hymnography. The goal of this one-semester course is to equip students with the tools to read and understand Latin from the Vulgate and medieval writers. At every point in the semester, we will be reading with an aim for translation and understanding; to that end, we will consult computer software and other aids to read from the beginning. We will go through the textbook, Derek Cooper's *Basics of Latin*, at a rapid pace of about two chapters per week. *Prerequisite: None*

Tuesdays, 2:00pm-4:45pm

LITURGICAL THEOLOGY 366

Credits: 3 credits

THE REV. DR. VARGHESE M. DANIEL

The Liturgical Calendar and Feasts of the West Syriac Tradition. This course introduces students to the annual cycle of seasons and major feasts of the West Syriac tradition, focusing primarily on the mystery of incarnation: Annunciation, Birth, Baptism, Passion, Death, Resurrection, Ascension, and Pentecost. Also treated are the remembrances and celebrations of the lives of the saints, especially the Theotokos. *Jurisdictional requirement for M.Div. candidates of the Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church. Prerequisite: None.*

Wednesdays, 9:15am-12:00pm

NEW TESTAMENT 432

Credits: 3 Credits

THE REV. DR GEORGE L. PARSENIOS

One Crucifixion, Four Passion Narratives. The Canonical New Testament depicts the Passion of Jesus according to four different testimonies. Each Passion account will be explored individually from a theological, literary and historical perspective, in order to grasp the insight that each Gospel provides into the death and resurrection of Jesus. Particular attention will be given to the way in which the Old Testament is employed in the various Passion narratives, in order to see how Christ's Passion took place "according to the Scriptures." Even as we examine each Gospel individually, the course will not lose sight of the unity of the canonical portraits when the four Gospels are read together. *Limited enrollment. Prerequisite for M.Div. and M.A. students: Second-year standing, minimum cumulative GPA of 3.5, and permission of Academic Dean.* **Hybrid (asynchronous online-residential) course, beginning online Monday, August 26. The onsite intensive will be held Monday, Oct 28 through Friday, Nov 1.** *Attendance at all onsite sessions is mandatory.*

OLD TESTAMENT 421

Credits: 3 credits

DR. MICHAEL LEGASPI

Understanding the Psalms: Traditional and Critical Approaches. Few parts of Scripture are as prominent in Christian tradition as the Psalms. Though it is beyond the scope or ambition of an academic course to understand all that this involves, close and formal study of the Psalms can nevertheless deepen and enhance our experience of them. In this course, we will examine scholarly efforts to understand the historical, linguistic, and literary dimensions of the book of Psalms. We will also consider the Psalms within the context of the liturgical life of the Church and turn, in the second half of the course, to patristic homilies and commentaries. Each student will write an extensive research paper on a particular psalm, integrating knowledge of scriptural languages, biblical scholarship, liturgical backgrounds, and patristic interpretation into a coherent and original synthesis.

Limited enrollment. Proficiency in Greek required; knowledge of Hebrew desirable. Prerequisite for M.Div. and M.A. students: Second-year standing, minimum cumulative GPA of 3.5, and permission of the Academic Dean.

Thursdays, 2:00pm-4:45pm

PATRISTICS 406

Credits: 3 credits

THE REV. DR BOGDAN BUCUR

The Apostolic Fathers. This seminar will study a group of early Christian writings that form the corpus known as “the Apostolic Fathers.” While appropriate attention will be given to traditional background issues (authorship, dating, circumstances, etc.) and to the early Christian realities reflected in these writings (the relationship to biblical Israel and early Judaism; mission and conversions; liturgical, and communal life; persecution and martyrdom; orthodoxy and heresy; the crystallization of a Christian symbolic universe; etc.), the main focus will be on the Christology and Pneumatology of these writings. *Limited enrollment. Prerequisite for M.Div. and M.A. students: Second-year standing, minimum cumulative GPA of 3.5, and permission of the Academic Dean.*

Mondays, 2:00pm-4:45pm

SACRED ARTS 301

Credits: 3 credits

DR ROSSITZA SCHROEDER

Introduction to the Sacred Arts of the Orthodox Church. This course considers the context and content of the sacred arts of the Orthodox church. We will study the theoretical postulates of the Byzantine iconophiles as well as the practical concerns of contemporary twenty-first century artists and will examine the meaning and message of church architecture, icons and their materials. The interaction between matter and spirit, ritual and sacred space, icon and viewer will be at the center of our weekly readings and discussions. *Prerequisite: None. Hybrid (asynchronous online-residential) course, beginning online Monday, August 26. The onsite intensive will be held Monday, Oct 28 through Friday, Nov 1. Attendance at all onsite sessions is mandatory.*

SACRED ARTS 331

Credits: 3 credits

DR ANI SHAHINIAN

Christian Martyrs and Martyrdom in Armenian Image and Text. A course on Christian Martyrs and Martyrdom is a study of the testimony, suffering, persecution, and death of Christians for their faith and convictions throughout history, and the expression of that reality in artifacts of illuminated manuscripts, pictorial art, and architecture. Thus, this course on Christian martyrdom incorporates images, material culture, and texts to broaden the access to the history and experience of martyrdom. The course offers the collaboration of the visual arts, including manuscript illuminations, martyria, and written texts to expand our understanding of martyrdom as it unfolds in different periods in history. Martyrologies highlight the intersection between humanity at its best and worst. It provides insights into the depths of human existence. Martyrologies encapsulate truths about what it means to be fully human. This course covers the historical, cultural, and theological contexts of Christian martyrdom, including the motivations of both martyrs and their oppressors as depicted in text and in image. It explores the role of martyrdom in shaping Christian identity, particularly, Armenian Christianity, and the development of the universal church in Armenia. Students will study the testimony, writings, and illuminations of key martyrs and martyrdoms and analyze the theological and ethical issues surrounding their witness. The course also examines the continuing legacy of Christian martyrdom in contemporary society as observed in modern texts, images, and media, and its impact on the church, global Christianity, and the wider world. *Prerequisites: None*

Tuesdays, 2:00pm-4:45pm

SACRED ARTS 376

Credits: 3 credits

DR PETER BOUTENEFF

Religious Themes in Film. The meeting place between high art and popular culture, cinema has become one of most influential art forms of our time. This course will feature weekly film screenings (outside of class meeting times) and rely on engaged in-class discussion. Presenting films and clips from a range of genres and styles, it will analyze ways in which religious themes are treated—explicitly as well as implicitly—in film. *Prerequisites: None.*

Mondays, 2:00pm-4:45pm