



Patriarch Athenagoras Orthodox Institute Spring 2015 Course Offerings

SPPT 2010 Prayer of the Heart – His Eminence Metropolitan Nikitas and Dr. Olga Louchakova Schwartz - Monday 9:40 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

The course introduces students to the Prayer of the Heart, often referred to as the Jesus Prayer, and various other spiritual disciplines and practices related to this ancient art. Students will examine the historical development, prominent personalities of the “hesychastic tradition”, phrases and expressions associated with the discipline, theological concepts related to the practice, as well as metaphysical concepts.

Expressions such as “the incomprehensible God, theosis, purity, emptiness, inner being, and spiritual guide” will be studied, as they relate to the Prayer of the Heart. Psychological aspects which relate to prayer disciplines will be included, including introspection and revelation. While emphasis will be given to the Eastern Orthodox understanding of the Prayer of the Heart and its development, students will also examine “the mystical experience” in other traditions, including Gnosticism, Neoplatonism, Merkava and Sufism.



STRA 4647 Theology and Visual Arts in Orthodox Churches – Drs. John Klentos and Rossitza Schroeder - Tuesday 9:10 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

This course will explore the intersection between theology and the visual arts in the Orthodox Church. Students will learn the history of the various visual arts in the Orthodox Christian Church (e.g., icons, mosaics, frescos, vestments, sculptures) from their pre-Christian roots through the theological formative period of Iconoclasm into modern times. Not only were the visual arts formed by theological ideas and controversies, they played (and continue to play) a major role in communicating the Orthodox Christian faith and forming believers in a particular spiritual tradition. Students will explore this relationship by integrating History, Theology, Visual Arts, Liturgy, and Spirituality.

The course will be a combination of lecture and discussion with many visual examples. Students will be evaluated on the basis of (1) participation in class discussions, (2) three written assignments of 5-10 pages each, and (3) an in-class presentation.

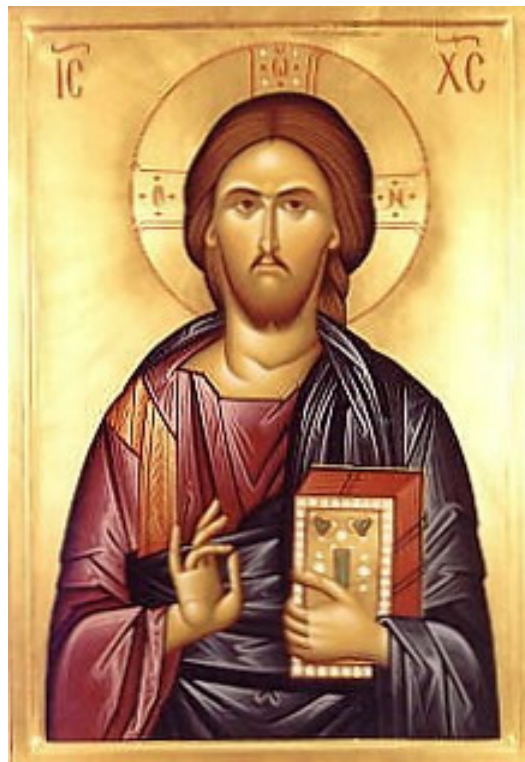
RSST 3260 Orthodox Churches in Dialogue – Metropolitan Nikitas Lulias Tuesday - 12:40 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

This course will examine various aspects of dialogue and the Orthodox Churches. The study of “dialogue” will include: the relationship of the Orthodox Churches among themselves, the dialogue with world religions and other faith communities, the dialogue with other Christian bodies, and the dialogue with governments. Students will be required to read various statements which have come as a result of “dialogue” and reflect on these. The class will also try to understand how the Orthodox Church sees other faiths and religious traditions and how she relates to them.

While the course will have a number of lectures, the students will be required to make presentations, as well as participate in class discussion. A paper (10-15 pages) will be required.

SPHS 4915 Orthodox Christian Theology of Person – Dr. John Klentos Thursday - 9:40 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Using a combination of liturgical, patristic, and modern texts, this course will explore how the Eastern Orthodox Church understands the human person and the person’s place in creation. Topics include creation according to God’s image and likeness, the fall, salvation, and eschatological vocation. In addition to addressing the striking differences between traditional Eastern and Western understandings of the human person, it will also address areas such as salvation, the environment, gender, and sexuality. Liturgical texts offer a popular vision of the human situation and the Christian ideal. Ecumenical statements and modern writers bring traditional theological perspectives into dialogue with today’s issues. Seminar format. Evaluation will be based on classroom participation, weekly written reflections, and one synthesis paper.



STLS 4955 Healing, Death, and Dying –Metropolitan Nikitas Lulias – Thursday 12:40 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

An examination of healing and restoration (spiritual and physical) through the various rituals and practices of the Eastern Orthodox Christian tradition. Students will also study the services and rites associated with dying and death, as well the theological understanding of life, death and the afterlife. Students will read various services. Patristic commentaries and contemporary theological reflections on matters related to these issues. The course will follow a lecture-discussion format and emphasis is given to class participation. A well-developed paper is required (15-20 pages) in which students reflect on a subject, as agreed on with instructor.

ST 4320 Orthodox Christianity and Modern Science - Dr. Michael Epperson – Tuesday 11:10 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. This course explores the nature of the relationship between modern science and Orthodox Christian theology, with particular emphasis given to recent advances in fundamental physics and cosmology. In dialogue with the western scholastic tradition, we will not only engage in comparison and contrast; we will also examine the extent to which both traditions can be correlated as mutually supportive, complementary approaches that together enable unique solutions to problems not easily attended to by either tradition exclusively.

SP 2501 Orthodox Spirituality and the Body – Mother Melania – Thursday 9:40 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

A certain Orthodox bishop, when asked to explain Orthodox spirituality, replies “Orthodox spirituality is physical.” He then goes on to explain how, when he was a young boy about to serve as an acolyte for the first time, his priest taught him to bow to his knees while entering the altar. Thus, the young boy and future bishop learned the importance of uniting soul and body in whatever we do.

This course will explore this Orthodox insistence on unity of action of soul and body. Starting with the theological underpinnings of the Incarnation of Christ and man as microcosm, we will then examine monastic and lay piety and the role of the five senses in Christian life and particularly in the Divine Liturgy.

This course is designed as a forum for discussion, in which students dialogue with Chrysostom and each other, learning from their peers in a supportive atmosphere. Evaluation will be based on weekly written reflections, participation in classroom discussions, and one large or two smaller essays.

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