

Course Outline: Fall 2018

Theology 3350A & 5350A, Eastern and Orthodox Church History
Location: W102
Day(s): Mondays
Time: 2:30-5:20



Huron
THEOLOGY

Instructor(s): The Revd Canon Lizette Larson-Miller, PhD
Contact info: llarson3@uwo.ca

Course Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this course, a student should be able to:

- adequately trace the historical development of Eastern Christianity
- Articulate the key differences between Eastern and Western Christianity
- Describe the challenges particular to Eastern Christianity in the 21st century
- Understand the orthodoxy and orthopraxis relationship in Eastern Christianity
- Communicate the theology of icons and embodied worship
- Write clearly on some of the unique elements of Eastern Christianity

Course Description:

Eastern & Orthodox Church History

This course will survey the history of Eastern Christianity in its great diversity.

Reviewing the geography, theology, liturgy, and art of Greek- and Syriac-speaking Christianity (with some attention to Armenian, Coptic, and Arabic-speaking Christianity), students will have an introduction for further study or for greater understanding of the complexity of the Middle East today. In three unequal sections, the traditions of Byzantine Christianity, Eastern Catholicism, and Oriental Orthodoxy will be reviewed via history and theology, with art, liturgy, architecture, and music being primary vehicles for that historical theology and spirituality. The term will conclude by turning to contemporary issues particularly focused on Oriental Orthodox communities.

Throughout the course, videos, art, and music will play a part in class sessions.

Course Materials:

There are two required texts and a number of articles or chapters found on the course OWL site

Joan Roccasalvo, *The Eastern Catholic Churches: An Introduction to their Worship and Spirituality*. Collegeville: Liturgical Press, 1992.

Timothy (Kallistos) Ware, *The Orthodox Church (new edition)*. London: Penguin Books, 1997.

Assignments & Method of Evaluation of Assignments:

This course is primarily focused on presentation and conversation, with writing and field work as the secondary elements.

- Presence and participation (meaning prepared presence – having read and reflected on the readings) is the primary element of assessment. Readings are listed below in the syllabus (35%)
- The short paper due on October 1 is an informed reflection based on the initial readings in the course (see syllabus and additional information) 5%
- A final paper (8-10 pages, 3000 words) on a focused topic within Eastern Christianity is due at the end of term (20%) A brief summary and presentation of your paper will come towards the end of term – paper need not be concluded for presentation (10%) More specific information forthcoming
- An experience of field work is required, note the several parts:
 - the visit can be done as an individual or with a classmate (no more than two of you using the same site). Visit an Eastern Christian Church for a liturgy-follow a basic outline of liturgical ethnography, reflect on the experience following the ethnographic tool – related to art, architecture, music, icons, kinesthetic embodiment), placing it within an eastern catholic, oriental orthodox, or byzantine orthodox trajectory. This will require a conversation with the priests or informed lay members to help you understand what is going on (and to hear their interpretation of practice). Many students have found it helpful to go more than once.
 - the follow-up is to write up your reflections following the guidelines (to be handed out separately) and share your experience in class. The visits can take place at any point during the term. (30% combined)

Syllabus

Monday, September 10 Historical overview

Introduction, road map, orthodoxy, orthopraxis, Catholicism

Beginning of history section of Ware

READ: chapter 2 of Roccasalvo, *The Eastern Catholic Churches*

(it would be helpful to read the first 2 chapters of Ware for this class also)

Monday, September 17 *Theodore of Tarsus*

No class – Ottawa Clergy Conference

In preparation for the large overview of history next week (history of Eastern Christianity in the first millennium, use this time to read ahead...

READ: first 4 chapters of Ware (or 3 and 4 if first two above)

First 39 pages of *Eastern Orthodox Christianity: The Essential Texts* (this is an introduction that sets some context for the Ware chapters)

In addition – this class time is to be used to prepare for the field work – read through the ethnographic tool and the list of churches in the area of London

Monday, September 24

History through schisms (conversation based on readings above, plus for today)

READ: Ware, chapter 5

“Holy Objects”, “Missions to the North: Balkans and Rus”

“Iconoclastic Controversy”

“Filioque” (in *Essential Texts* – these three are together on OWL)

Monday, October 1

No class – Brandon Clergy Conference and SCP

Eastern Christianity through schisms and nationalism

READ: Ware, chapters 7, 8, 9

“Orthodox Nationalism and Fundamentalism” (*Essential Texts*)

WRITE: 3 page reflection (750 words) on both the advantages and disadvantages of churches closely tied to a single cultural and/or ethnicity and/or national identity (use Ware and Roccasalvo, as well as OWL readings for references). Also, note the recent tensions in the news between the Russian Orthodox and Ukrainian Orthodox churches

Monday, October 8, **Thanksgiving** and reading week – no class

Monday, October 15, *Teresa of Avila*

Reflections on national churches and review of Eastern Church history

Using historical readings above and your reflection paper assignment

Monday, October 22

Theology, ecclesiology, eastern Catholicism

READ: Roccasalvo, chapters 1 & 5

Andrew Louth, Chapters 1,2, 3

Monday, October 29, *Sts. Simon and Jude*

Theology continued, theology as praise of God

READ: Louth 4, 5, 6

Monday, November 5

Orthodox worship in the Eastern traditions begins with the body

READ: Louth, chapter 7

Roccasalvo, chapters 3 & 4

Monday, November 12

Orthodox worship in the Eastern traditions continued

Art and architecture as theology

READ: Robert Taft, “The Meaning of it All”

Pauly Maniyattu, introduction and chapter 4, *Heaven on Earth*

Alan Doig, “The Emergence of the Byzantine Rite and the Church Building As Sacrament”

Monday, November 19

No class – AAR

Your field trip should be pretty much be completed by this point – if not, make sure you have at least one visit (preferably two) to your church of choice by the end of November

Monday, November 26

The visual, aural, and kinesthetic dimensions of incarnational Christianity

READ: Noreen, “Shaping the Sacred”

Maranci, “Sacred Art in Armenia”

Audio recordings in class

Monday, December 3

Oriental Orthodoxy today

READ: Mar Bawai Soro, “General Introduction” (9-28)

Field work, liturgical ethnography presentations – last today

(Monday, December 10) – extra gathering

Presentations of papers

Final paper due today

Field work, historical/theological analysis paper due today

Eastern Churches in the greater London area (a work in progress)

Eastern Catholic

Croatian Catholic Community

1105 Wellington Road South

??Holy Apostolic Catholic Assyrian Church, Mar Zaia

182 Hale Street

St. Joseph Chaldean Catholic Church

89 Charles Street

?Our Lady of Czestochowa Church

219 Hill Street

Oriental Orthodox

St. Paul’s Coptic Orthodox Church

1151 Royal York Road

Ancient Church of the East, St. Shmooni

100 Clinton Street, **Hamilton**

St. Mary's Syriac Orthodox Church (Malankara)
2521 Tedlo Street, **Mississauga**

?St. Peter's Syriac Orthodox Church of Canada (Antiochene)
1550 S. Gateway Road 315, **Mississauga**

Mar Gregorios Syriac Orthodox Congregation (Malankara)
Dundas & Wellington (?)

?St. Thomas Orthodox Church (Keralite-Malankara)
23 Brownlea Avenue, **Toronto**

St. Barsaumo Syrian Orthodox Church (Syrian)
50 Ennis Street, **Toronto**

Byzantine Orthodox

Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Community
133 Southdale Road West

Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Holy Trinity
151 King Edward Avenue

Holy Transfiguration Church (Antiochene Orthodox Church)
465 Horton Street East

Russian Orthodox Church of Christ the Savior (ROCOR)
140 Fairview Avenue

Required elements for Huron University College

1. **Accommodation for absences:**

a) **Non-medical absences:**

Best not to miss class, full stop. IF necessary, one absence is allowed (There are 11 class sessions, 10 full, plus two field trips). After the one absence, further absences will drop grade point.

b) **Medical absences:** See also the Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness

—Undergraduate Students, at <http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/medical.pdf>)

For work representing 10% or more of the overall grade for the course, Students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds for any missed tests, exams, participation components and/or assignments worth 10% or more of their final grade must apply to the Academic Counselling office of their home Faculty and provide document. Academic accommodation cannot be granted by the instructor or department.

For the UWO Student Medical Certificate (SMC), see <http://studentservices.uwo.ca> > Medical Documentation, and for Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness, see: http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf Huron University

College Academic Counselling website (www.huronuc.on.ca) or from the Dean's Office or Academic Services Centre at Huron.

For work representing less than 10% of the overall grade for the course:
no documentation is required

Additional Statements:

1. Statement on Use of Electronic Devices during Tests and Exams

It is not appropriate to use technology (such as, but not limited to, laptops, PDAs, cell phones) in the classroom for non-classroom activities. Such activity is disruptive and is distracting to other students and to the instructor, and can inhibit learning. Students are expected to respect the classroom environment and to refrain from inappropriate use of technology and other electronic devices in class.

2. **Statement on Academic Offences:** Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following web site:
http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholastic_discipline_grad.pdf

3. Plagiarism-detecting Software/Computer Marking:

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).

Support Services:

- UWO Registrar's Office: <http://www4.registrar.uwo.ca>
- School of Graduate and Post-Doctoral Studies: www.grad.uwo.ca
- Huron's Faculty of Theology, Office of the Dean:
http://www.huronuc.on.ca/faculty_of_theology/info_for_current_students
- Faculty of Theology: srice@uwo.ca, 519-438-7224, ext. 289
- Huron's Writing Skills Centre: http://www.huronuc.on.ca/student_life/writing_services
- UWO Student Support and Development Services:
http://communications.uwo.ca/current_students/student_services.htm
- Mental Health website at Western: <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/>

As part of a successful graduate student experience at Western, we encourage students to make their health and wellness a priority. Western provides several on campus health-related services to help you achieve optimum health and engage in healthy living while pursuing your graduate degree. For example, to support physical activity, all students, as part of their registration, receive membership in Western's Campus Recreation Centre. Numerous cultural events are offered throughout the year. For example, please check out the Faculty of Music web page <http://www.music.uwo.ca/>, and our own McIntosh Gallery <http://www.mcintoshgallery.ca/>. Information regarding health- and wellness-related services available to students may be found at <http://www.health.uwo.ca/>. Students seeking help regarding mental health concerns are advised to speak to someone they feel comfortable confiding in, such as their faculty supervisor, their program director (graduate chair), or other relevant administrators in their unit. Campus mental health resources may be found at http://www.health.uwo.ca/mental_health/resources.html.