

Patriarch Athenagoras Orthodox Institute Fall 2014 Class Offerings



Lamentation in Ancient Greek and Christian Traditions – Metropolitan Nikitas Lulias & Dr. Alexandra Turkington, Monday 12:40 – 3:30

This course will serve as a study of the tradition and evolution of the lament in ancient Greek Literature and Christian hymnology and writings. Focus will be primarily, but not only, on women and their expression of lament. Issues pertaining to the continuity of the lamentation tradition within the ancient Greek and later Christian tradition will be examined, including the theological, historical and poetic messages. The course combines lecture and seminar formats. Evaluation will be based on preparation and class participation, an in-class presentation of a lament in the classical or Christian traditions, and a final reflection paper.



Orthodox Christian Church: History and Theology – Dr. John Klentos, Tuesday 9:40 – 12:30

This course is an introductory survey of the history and theology of the Orthodox Christian Church. Beginning with the Church's pre-Byzantine roots, the course will sketch the development of Eastern Orthodox Christianity through the Christological, Trinitarian, and iconoclastic controversies.

Historical inquiry will be given to topics such as sin, salvation, and eschatology, as well as Byzantine art, music, and liturgy. The course combines lecture and seminar formats. Evaluation is based on classroom participation, one short paper, a classroom presentation, and a final synthesis paper.

Passion and Resurrection – Metropolitan Nikitas Lulias Tuesday, 12:40 – 3:30

The course will examine various aspects of ecclesiastical and folk literature and song related to the passion and resurrection of Jesus. While some of the original texts are in Greek and Slavonic, they will be read and examined in translation. Students will read from Ephraim the Syrian, Romanos the Melodist, and other liturgical poets. There will be a careful examination of the characters, especially the persons of Christ and Mary, in the passion/resurrection literature. Students will study the "kontakion" style of ecclesiastical poetry and be encouraged to develop a similar form of expression, as part of the course work.

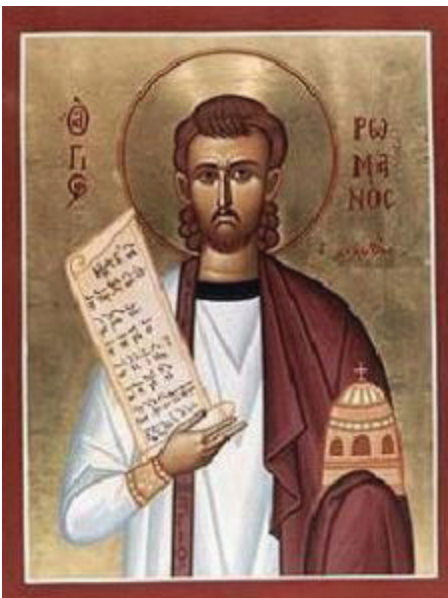
Chrysostom and Social Justice – Mother Melania Salem Tuesday, 2:10 – 5:00

St. John Chrysostom is justly celebrated for his intense concern for the poor and disenfranchised. However, some of his views (such as his attitude toward women) are written off as being due to the limitations of time and culture. Using English translations of Chrysostom's homilies, this course will examine his views on the social fabric in relation to his overarching concern that his flock will attain the kingdom of heaven and to his understanding of what it means to be human.

Students will be invited to examine their conceptions of social justice in light of their own basic presuppositions and understandings of humanity. The course will be discussion driven. Evaluation will be based on weekly written reflections, participation in classroom discussions, and one research paper

Orthodox Christian Theology of Person – Dr. John Klentos Thursday, 9:40 – 12:30

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 (presented to the class).



Theology in Poetry: Hymnology – Metropolitan Nikitas Lulias Thursday, 12:40 – 3:30

This course will study the expression of theology in and through hymnology, particularly of the Byzantine tradition. How does the medium affect the message when poetry rather than philosophical discourse is used to communicate theological ideas? How are people's spiritual lives affected when the Church's teaching is communicated by hymns passed on in the home rather than through clergy's speaking?

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