

### Course Information Sheet and Syllabus

This course will focus on a range of Patristic and Byzantine texts that have been foundational for shaping the Eastern Orthodox Christian tradition. The course will begin with appropriate introductory background from the Greek philosophical and patristic traditions. In addition to primary texts from figures such as St. Gregory of Nyssa, (Pseudo) Dionysius the Areopagite, SS. Maximus the Confessor, John of Damascus and Gregory Palamas, we will also explore a significant range of relevant contemporary secondary literature by authors such as Vladimir Lossky, Basil Krivocheine, John Meyendorff, Kallistos Ware, David Bradshaw, etc.

The course will focus around the following themes: the relation between philosophy and theology, God (particularly the themes of divine simplicity; the distinction between the divine essence, persons, and energy; and transcendence and immanence), the relation between God and created beings; human knowledge of God; and deification as the end of human life. While I am particularly interested in presenting these authors within the Eastern Christian tradition since it unfamiliar to most professional philosophers, I will make ongoing efforts to compare and contrast Eastern Christian ways of understanding these topics and primary authors from those found in the Western Christian (particularly the Scholastic tradition) and the Neoplatonic traditions.

**Readings:** David Bradshaw, *Aristotle East and West*, Cambridge, 2004.

Gregory Palamas, *The Triads*, Paulist Press

(The bulk of the readings will be available either on-line, via e-reserve; Marquat or email.)

**Requirements:** (1) A comprehensive in class final exam patterned after the PhD comps, (2) a position paper (about 4-5 pages), and (3) a longer research paper (about 12-15 pages exclusive of notes), (4) a seminar presentation of the first draft of the research paper; (5) regular attendance and participation in class, which will also include preparing brief comments on one article/reading for various sections of the course for class discussion. I anticipate that the comments will be about 250-300 words

I will assign topics for the position paper. Students are expected to design the project for the longer paper, consult relevant secondary sources and primary texts, etc. For the final paper, students will be expected to utilize some secondary literature in one foreign language. (I trust that even first year students are working on a language.) I will collect drafts of the position paper and the final paper, critique them, and allow you to make revisions in light of my comments for the final version of these papers. Also, you will present the first draft of your final paper to the class at the end of the semester. This will allow you to revise the paper in light of peer feedback as well. More details on this later. ALL WRITTEN MATERIAL WILL BE SUBMITTED AND RETURNED VIA THE D2L DROPBOX.

The final paper and the exam will be worth 100 points each; the position paper will be worth 50 points; the presentation will be worth 75 points; class participation will be worth 50 points Regular attendance is required. The grade cutoff points for the position paper and class participation are: A/48; AB/45; B/41; BC/38; C/35. The cutoff points for the final paper is: A/94; AB/88; AB/83; BC/78; C/73. The cutoff points for the final exam are 'contextual' and take into account student performance on the exam. The grade cutoff points for the seminar presentation are: A/75; AB/72; B/69; BC/66; C/63. The grade cutoff points for the final grade are the sum of the respective cutoff points on the assignments. I will provide more detail on these requirements upon assigning them.

I expect all assignments to be handed in according to deadline. I reserve the right to modify deadlines (set them at a later date) if that benefits the class. Final versions of assignments submitted late without prior approval will be penalized 5 points (position paper) and 10 points (final paper). Should you have two other finals on the day of our final, see me and we can rearrange it.

The requirements will likely be an exegetical paper (about 5 pages), and in-class presentation on an assigned reading, and a major seminar project --presented in class and as a final paper.

### Tentative Course Schedule

*Unit 1: Introduction: Eastern Orthodox Christian Philosophy (Jan 16-Feb 6)*

Vladimir Lossky, *The Mystical Theology of the Eastern Church*, Chaps. 1 & 11 selections (E-reserve)

Vladimir Lossky, *The Vision of God*, Chap 1 (E-reserve)

Kallistos Ware, "God Hidden and Revealed: The Apophatic Way and the Essence-Energies Distinction"  
*Eastern Churches Review*, 1975 (E-reserve)

Olivier Clement, "The Vocation of Man" (From the *Roots of Christian Mysticism*) (pdf file via email)  
Norman Russell "Partakers of the Divine Nature" (2 Peter 1:4) in the Byzantine Tradition  
[http://www.myriobiblos.gr/texts/english/Russell\\_partakers.html](http://www.myriobiblos.gr/texts/english/Russell_partakers.html)  
H. Tristram Englehardt, Jr.: "Critical Reflections on Theology's Handmaid: Why the Role of Philosophy in Orthodox Christianity is so Different" (pdf file via email);  
Patristic Texts on Philosophy: St. Justin Martyr and St. Clement of Alexandria (pdf file via email)

(All subsequent material apart from the books by David Bradshaw and St. Gregory Palamas will be provided in electronic format)

*Unit 2: The Cappadocian Fathers (Feb 8-22)*

David Bradshaw, *Aristotle East and West*, ch 6 (Background reading)

Primary:

St. Basil the Great, Letter 232

St. Gregory the Theologian, Oration 28 (pdf via email)

St. Gregory of Nyssa, "On Not Three Gods"; *Life of Moses* (selections) (pdf via email)

Secondary:

Bradshaw, *Aristotle East and West*, Ch 7, 153-178

Basil Krivochene, "Simplicity of the Divine Nature and the Distinctions in God, According to St. Gregory of Nyssa," *St. Vladimir's Theological Quarterly* 21(1977)

Lucian Turcescu, "The Concept of Divine Persons in Gregory of Nyssa' To His Brother Peter, on the Difference Between Ousia and Hypostasis," *Greek Orthodox Theological Review* Spring (1997)

(Addendum: Patristic Teachings on Charity and the Love of the Poor) Feb. 22

We will spend one session in seminar format on this material. Read what you can. The material covered here is integral to the teachings of the Cappadocian Fathers and St. John Chrysostom.. You will not, however, be responsible for this material on the final examination.)

St. Basil, Sermon on "I Will Pull My Barns Down (Luke 12:16-18)

St. Gregory the Theologian, "Oration 14", On the Love of the Poor" read secs 1, 4-18, 23-25, 27, 29-30

St. Gregory of Nyssa, On the Love of the Poor 2: "On the saying: Whoever Has Done it to One of These Has Done it to Me." (Matt. 25:40)

St. John Chrysostom -- selection from Homily 5 from *Eight Homilies on Genesis*.

(Archbishop) Anastasios Yannoulatos, Chapter 6, "The Dynamic of Universal and Continuous Change" from *Facing the World*

Georges Florovsky, "St. John Chrysostom: Prophet of Charity"

John D. Jones, "Confronting Poverty and Stigmatization: An Eastern Orthodox Perspective"

*Unit 3: (Pseudo)-Dionysius the Areopagite (Feb. 27- March 6)*

Primary:

Dionysius the Areopagite: *Divine Names* ch. 1 and 2, *Mystical Theology* 1. (selected texts from other works). This material will be in pdf format.

Secondary:

Bradshaw, *Aristotle East and West* pp. 179-186

John D. Jones, "An Absolutely Simple God? — Frameworks for Reading Pseudo-Dionysius Areopagite," *The Thomist* 69.3(July 2005): 371-406. (on line via Marquat)

Alexander Golitzin, Dionysius Areopagita: A Christian Mysticism?

<http://www.marquette.edu/maqom/Lumxida.html>

*Unit 4: St. Maximus the Confessor (March 8-27)*

Primary:

*Ambiguum* 7

*Four Centuries on Love* 1.1-42, 81-100; 2.1-8

*Two Centuries on Knowledge* 1.1-16; 2.1-4

*Ad Thalassum* 60 (selection)

Secondary:

David Bradshaw, *Aristotle East and West* pp. 187-207

Lars Thunberg, *Microcosim and Mediator* pp. 309-320

Joseph Farrell, "Plurality of Goods: the Refutation of Definitional Simplicity" from *free Choice in St. Maximus the Confessor*, pp.131-154

*Unit 5: St. John of Damascus (March 29)*

Primary:

St. John of Damascus -- *Three Treatises on the Divine Images*, selections TBA, Fr. Elijah Mueller will be guest lecturer for this session.

Secondary:

Andrew Louth, "John's Doctrine of Icons" from *St. John Damascene: Tradition and Originality in Byzantine Thought*

Adian Hart, "The Icon and Art"

<http://www.aidanharticons.com/articles/The%20Icon%20and%20Art.pdf>

*Unit 6: St. Gregory Palamas/Eastern Mystical Tradition (April 3-24)*

Primary:

John McGukin, *The Book of Mystical Chapters: Theoretikos* 1-20; *Gnostikos* 90-100

St. Symeon the New Theologian, *Hymns of Divine Love*, Hymn 25

St. Gregory of Palamas,

Readings from the Triads (pp. 57-111 in Paulist Press Vol.);

*Capita physica, theologica, moralia et practica* (selections)

Sermon on the Transfiguration (selection)

"Declaration of the Holy Mountain"

Secondary:

David Bradshaw, *Aristotle East and West*, "The Uncreated Light" pp. 207-220

David Bradshaw, *Aristotle East and West*, pp. 221-242

Kallistos Ware, "How Do We Enter the Heart, and What Do We Find when We Enter?" in *Merton and Hesychasm: the Prayer of the Heart* (B Dieker and JJ Montaldo, eds)

John Myendorff, "An Existential Theology" from *A Study of Gregory Palamas*

M Edmund Hussey, "The Persons—Energy Structure in the Theology of St. Gregory Palamas" *St. Vladimir's Theological Quarterly* 18(1974): 22-8.

*Seminar Presentations: April 24-May 1*

Supplemental Reading: Bogdan Bucur, "Foreordained from All Eternity: The Mystery of the Incarnation According to Some Early Christian and Byzantine Writers" (Draft of article exploring texts arguing that the Incarnation was foreordained by God from eternity and independent of the Fall) (FYI only)

Supplemental Reading Material (Western Sources) (To be used for comparing Eastern and Western sources and teachings)

Augustine, *De Trinitate*, Book VI.4, 6-7; *City of God* Book 7, chapter 6

John Scotus Eriugena, *Periphyseon*, Book 1 selections

Thomas Aquinas, selections from *Summa theologiae*

Pope Benedict XII, the Apostolic Constitution, "Benedictus Deus"

Duns Scotus, Selections from *Duns Scotus* by Richard Cross

Meister Eckhart, Sermons DW 48 and 52

Note well: I will be out of town on the last day of class (May 3) and for the final exam scheduled for Tuesday May 8. I always schedule a social gathering/final exam review at my house prior to the final. So, we'll set something up for Sat April 28- Monday, April 30.

**Additional Info:** My Office is in Coughlin Hall 137; tele. Ext is 5938. My EMAIL [john.jones@marquette.edu](mailto:john.jones@marquette.edu). My academic website is at: <http://academic.mu.edu/phil/jonesj/>. Office hours will be TTh 11:15AM -12:15 PM and 3:30-4:00 PM. I am available at other times during the week for appointments. If my office hours are not convenient for you, please let me know in person or by E-MAIL and we can set up an appointment.