Course Syllabus
TRH2455H – Living in the Spirit
Modern Orthodox Spirituality

Toronto School of Theology
University of Toronto

Fall 2018

Instructor Information

Instructor: Dr. Paul Ladouceur
Office Location: Office 317, Larkin Building
Telephone: 416-978-2170 (in-session only; no messages)
Email: 123thabor@gmail.com
Office Hours: By appointment.

Course Identification

Course Number: TRT2455HS
Course Name: Modern Orthodox Spirituality
Course Location: Larkin Building, Room 214.
Class Times: Tuesdays and Fridays, 7pm to 10pm (six week schedule)
First class: Tuesday, September 11, 2018.
Class schedule: September 11, 14, 18, 21, 25, 28.
October 30, November 2, 6, 9, 13, 16.
Prerequisites: None

Course Description

This course covers modern approaches to the Orthodox concept of theosis, the movement of the Christian into complete life in, through, and with God, through Christ and the Holy Spirit. The course focuses in particular on the leading Orthodox spiritual personalities, movements and writings of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. The writings include works of contemplation, monastic and non-monomastic texts, sermons and catecheses. Classroom and online students will be evaluated on the basis of participation and presentations of texts, a review of a modern work of Orthodox spirituality, and a research essay.
**Expanded Course Description**

While maintaining a broad thematic continuity with Orthodox spirituality of the first millennium, the rich corpus of Orthodox spiritual writings since the fourteenth century reflects influences and problems typical of the wide range of historical and geopolitical circumstances of Orthodox Christians over the centuries, nurtured by the religious climates of Russia, Romania, Greece, Mount Athos, the Christian Middle East, and Western Europe and North America. Personalities and writings to be studied will be considered in both their historical and personal contexts and will be situated within broad themes characteristic of modern Orthodox spirituality, such as the “Philokalic” and hesychastic revival beginning in the late eighteenth century, the Jesus Prayer, spiritual guidance, monastic renewal, liturgical spirituality, spirituality in times of revolution, persecution and exile, and spirituality in a secular environment. With modern times there are strong external pressures from contemporary secular culture, from the Enlightenment to scientific positivism, militant and non-militant atheism, existentialism and modernism. Leading figures of the Church – clergy, monastics and lay people – respond to these challenges, witnessing to Christ in their lives and their writings, which have a powerful impact and colour modern Orthodox life.

Readings in a “course pack” of texts will include selections from major Orthodox pastoral and spiritual authors of Russia, Greece, Mount Athos, Romania, Serbia, the Christian Middle East and Western Europe and North America. Authors include St Nicholas Cabasilas, St Nikodemos of the Holy Mountain, St Seraphim of Sarov, Fr Arseny of Russia, Alexander Men, Joseph the Hesychast, Mother Gavrilia, St Silouan the Athonite, Elder Cleopa, Dumitru Staniloae, Matta El-Meskeen, St Nicholas Velimirovitch, Alexander Eltchaninov, St Maria of Paris, Lev Gillet, Elisabeth Behr-Sigel, Paul Evdokimov, Anthony Bloom, Archimandrite Sophrony, Alexander Schmemann, and Kallistos Ware.

**Course Resources**

**Required Reading**

*The Burning Bush: A Modern Philokalia (Readings in Modern Orthodox Spirituality)* (“Course pack”).

**Required Course Books**

One book (for book report) to be selected from the following:


**Recommended Secondary Sources**


John Meyendorff, *St Gregory Palamas and Orthodox Spirituality* (Crestwood NY: St Vladimir’s Seminary Press, 1974).


**Course Portal**

This course uses the University of Toronto’s learning portal known as Quercus. To access Quercus, go to the UofT Quercus login page at https://q.utoronto.ca/ and log in using your UTORid and password. (Alternative login via Portal: https://portal.utoronto.ca/). Once you have logged in to Quercus using your UTORid and password, look for the My Courses module, where you’ll find the link to the website for your Quercus-based courses. Your course registration with ACORN gives you access to the course website at Quercus.

Students should download and familiarize themselves with the introductory guide to Quercus: http://toolboxrenewal.utoronto.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/Quercus-Canvas-Student-Guide.pdf.
See also: https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10701.

Please do not ask the course instructor for assistance in using Quercus.

Please ensure that you are familiar with how to access the system and navigate through it. The portal may be used in the following ways:

- Keeping an updated version of the course syllabus and calendar
- Providing course readings, bibliographies and other handouts
- Sharing additional online resources
- Communicating class notices and updates
- Issuing assignment guidelines and deadlines
- Accepting assignment submissions
- Providing feedback and grades for all assignments and other course requirements

In addition, for the online section, the portal will be used in the following ways:

- Delivering weekly course lectures and seminars (available also for classroom-based students in case of missed classes or for review)
- Enabling student participation and interaction in the blogs, discussion forums and other online communications (see course requirements and evaluation below)

Auditors who do not have a UTORid should speak to the instructor to receive guest access to the course portal.

As in the classroom, online communication must be carried out respectfully and civilly at all times. Writing within the online media of blogs, discussion forums is not an excuse for laziness, lack of proper reflection or uncivility. Arguments must be carefully crafted, respectfully presented and grounded in source texts and solid reflection. Students who fail to adhere to these guidelines will not succeed in this course.

**Course Learning Objectives**

Students successfully completing this course will be able to:

- Name and describe in their historical, geographic and personal circumstances the principal figures (especially saints, elders and other holy men and women) who have marked in Orthodox spirituality from the 14\textsuperscript{th} century to the early 21\textsuperscript{st} century;
- Describe and assess the major features and movements in Orthodox spirituality during this period;
- Identify and discuss the main Orthodox pastoral and spiritual writings from the 14\textsuperscript{th} century to the early 21\textsuperscript{st} century;
- Discuss and assess, following a critical reading and review, a major Orthodox spiritual writing of modern times;
- Identify and appraise the principal primary and secondary sources pertinent to Orthodox spirituality in modern times;
- Acquire an in-depth knowledge and be able to assess the primary and secondary sources relevant to topic of the research essay prepared for the course.
## Programme Outcomes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Outcomes: Knowledge of the Area of Concentration</th>
<th>Course Elements</th>
<th>Programme Outcomes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Students successfully completing this course will be able to:</td>
<td>This outcome will be achieved through these course elements:</td>
<td>This course outcome corresponds to these aspects of the Basic Degree Learning Outcomes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Name and describe in their historical, geographic and personal circumstances the principal figures who have marked in Orthodox spirituality from the 14th century to the early 21st century</td>
<td>Readings, Lectures / seminar discussions, Research essay</td>
<td>Religious heritage, Cultural context, Capacity for ministry, Personal and spiritual formation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Describe and assess the major features and movements in Orthodox spirituality during this period</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Identify and discuss the main Orthodox pastoral and spiritual writings from the 14th century to the early 21st century</td>
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<td>Religious heritage, Cultural context</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discuss and assess, following a critical reading and review, a major Orthodox spiritual writing of modern times</td>
<td>Book review</td>
<td>Religious heritage, Cultural context, Capacity for ministry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Identify and appraise the principal primary and secondary sources pertinent to Orthodox spirituality in modern times;</td>
<td>Readings, Lectures / seminar discussions</td>
<td>Religious heritage, Cultural context, Capacity for ministry</td>
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<tr>
<td>Acquire an in-depth knowledge and be able to assess the primary and secondary sources relevant to topic of the research essay prepared for the course.</td>
<td>Research essay</td>
<td>Religious heritage, Cultural context, Capacity for ministry</td>
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Evaluation

Requirements – Classroom and Online Sections

The final grade for the course will be based on the following areas:

- Attendance and participation in class or online: 20%
- Review of one of the Required Course Books: 30%
- Research essay: 50%

Grading System

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
<th>Numerical Equivalents</th>
<th>Grade Point</th>
<th>Grasp of Subject Matter</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A RANGE: Excellent: Student shows original thinking, analytic and synthetic ability, critical evaluations, and broad knowledge base.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>90-100</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>Profound and Creative: Strong evidence of original thought, of analytic and synthetic ability; sound and penetrating critical evaluations which identify assumptions of those they study as well as their own; mastery of an extensive knowledge base</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>85-89</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>Outstanding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>80-84</td>
<td>3.7</td>
<td>Excellent: Clear evidence of original thinking, of analytic and synthetic ability; sound critical evaluations; broad knowledge base</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B RANGE: Good: Student shows critical capacity and analytic ability, understanding of relevant issues, familiarity with the literature.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>77-79</td>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>Very Good: Good critical capacity and analytic ability; reasonable understanding of relevant issues; good familiarity with the literature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>73-76</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>Good: Adequate critical capacity and analytic ability; some understanding of relevant issues; some familiarity with the literature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>70-72</td>
<td>2.7</td>
<td>Satisfactory at a post-baccalaureate level.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FZ</td>
<td>0-69</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Failure: Failure to meet the above criteria</td>
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Policy on Late Assignments

The instructor reserves the right to deduct up to 2.5% of the final assignment grade for each week that an assignment is late. Students are generally granted a ‘grace week’ provided the instructor is informed of any special circumstances before the assignment deadline.

This penalty is not applied to students with medical or compassionate difficulties; students facing such difficulties are kindly requested to consult with their faculty advisor or basic degree director, who should...
make a recommendation on the matter to the instructor. The absolute deadline for the course is the examination day scheduled for the course. Students who for exceptional reasons (for instance, a death in the family or a serious illness) are unable to complete work by this date may request an extension (SDF = 'standing deferred') beyond the term. An SDF must be requested from the registrar’s office in the student’s college of registration no later than the last day of classes in which the course is taken. The SDF, when approved, will have a mutually agreed upon deadline that does not extend beyond the conclusion of the following term. If a student has not completed work but has not been granted an SDF, a final mark will be submitted calculating a zero for work not submitted.

Course Grades

Consistently with the policy of the University of Toronto, course grades submitted by an instructor are reviewed by a committee of the instructor’s college before being posted. Course grades may be adjusted where they do not comply with University grading policy (http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/grading.htm) or college grading policy.

Policies

**Accessibility.** Students with a disability or health consideration are entitled to accommodation. Students must register at the University of Toronto’s Accessibility Services offices; information is available at http://www.accessibility.utoronto.ca/. The sooner a student seeks accommodation, the quicker we can assist.

**Plagiarism.** Students submitting written material in courses are expected to provide full documentation for sources of both words and ideas in footnotes or endnotes. Direct quotations should be placed within quotation marks. (If small changes are made in the quotation, they should be indicated by appropriate punctuation such as brackets and ellipses, but the quotation still counts as a direct quotation.) Failure to document borrowed material constitutes plagiarism, which is a serious breach of academic, professional, and Christian ethics. An instructor who discovers evidence of student plagiarism is not permitted to deal with the situation individually but is required to report it to his or her head of college or delegate according to the TST Basic Degree Handbook (linked from http://www.tst.edu/content/handbooks) and the University of Toronto Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/AssetFactory.aspx?did=4871. Students will be assumed to have read the document “Avoidance of plagiarism in theological writing” published by the Graham Library of Trinity and Wycliffe Colleges (http://www.trinity.utoronto.ca/Library_Archives/Theological_Resources/Tools/Guides/plag.htm).

**Other academic offences.** TST students come under the jurisdiction of the University of Toronto Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/behaveac.htm).

**Back-up copies.** Please make back-up copies of essays before handing them in.

**Obligation to check email.** At times, the course instructor may decide to send out important course information by email. To that end, all credit students are required to have a valid utoronto email address. Students must have set up a utoronto email address which is entered in the ROSI system. Information is available at www.utorid.utoronto.ca. The course instructor will not be able to help you with this. 416-978-HELP and the Help Desk at the Information Commons can answer questions you may have about your UTORid and password. **Students should check utoronto email regularly for messages about the course. Forwarding** your utoronto.ca email to a Hotmail, Gmail, Yahoo or other type of email
account is possible. Insure that messages from utoronto.ca addresses sent to Hotmail, Gmail or Yahoo accounts are not filtered as spam – set utoronto.ca on the “white” list.

**Email communication with the course instructor.** The instructor aims to respond to email communications from students in a timely manner. Students are responsible to insure that the course instructor has a current valid e-mail address for the student.

**Course Schedule**

Class 1 – Course introduction. Orthodox Spirituality from the 14th to the 18th Centuries.

Class 2 - The “Philocalic Renewal” in Greece, Romania and Russia.

Class 3 - Overview of the impact of the main historical events of the 20th century on Orthodoxy. Spirituality in Russia in the 19th and 20th Centuries.

Class 4 - Spirituality in Russia in the 19th and 20th Centuries (continued).

Class 5 – Spirituality in Greece.

Class 6 – Spirituality on Mount Athos.

Class 7 – Spirituality in Romania.

Class 7 – Spirituality in Serbia.

Class 8 – Spirituality in the Christian Middle East.

Class 9 – Orthodox Spirituality in the West 1 (Fr Sergius Bulgakov; Fr Alexander Eltchaninov; St Maria of Paris/Mother Maria Skobtsova).

Class 10 – Orthodox Spirituality in the West 2 (Fr Lev Gillet; Elisabeth Behr-Sigel; Paul Evdokimov; Nadejda Gorodetski).

Class 11 – Orthodox Spirituality in the West 3 (Metropolitan Anthony Bloom; Archimandrite Sophrony (Sakharov); Metropolitan Kallistos Ware).

Class 12 – Orthodox Spirituality in North America (Fr Alexander Schmemann; Orthodox Saints of North America; Monasticism in North America).

This syllabus is subject to change in accordance with the regulations in the TST Basic Degree Handbook.