

COURSE 680

THE CHURCHES OF THE EAST: INTRODUCTION TO THEIR IDENTITY, CHRISTOLOGY AND WORSHIP.

Tuesdays and Thursdays 1.30-2.50

Instructors: Bryan Spinks, Hugo Mendez.

This course will introduce students to the various greater and lesser churches of Eastern Christianity. It will look particularly at the Christological divisions which separated Eastern Orthodox from Syrian and Coptic Orthodox, Church of the East and Maronite, including the Christology of Cyril of Alexandria and Nestorius, the Chalcedonian Definition, the Christological writings of Severus of Antioch, the monothelite controversy, and the creedal documents of the Church of the East. It will also look at the recent Agreed Statements on Christology signed between the Roman Catholic Church and the Syrian and Coptic Orthodox Churches under the auspices of Pro Oriente, Vienna, and the relevant statements in the current dialogue between the various Syrian Churches. It will pay particular attention to the worship of the Byzantine, Syrian Orthodox and Church of the East traditions. It will also examine two homilies by Jacob of Sarug- On the Mother of God, and on Partaking of the Holy Mysteries.

This course will introduce students to the variety of Eastern churches, their Christological background, and their worship.

The course will be taught by lecture and seminar, and will include study of primary Christological and liturgical texts.

Students should normally have completed courses on Early Church History and Foundations of Liturgy, or early Church Doctrine.

Students will be required to submit TWO papers during the semester: one on an aspect of the early Christological disputes; one on an aspect of the Eastern liturgical rites.

Set reading:

William Dalrymple, *From the Holy Mountain*, 1997. Very readable.

The following texts in English:

The Second and Third Letters of Cyril to Nestorius.

The Chalcedonian Definition

Selected passages from the Bazaar of Heraclides.

The First Letter of Severus of Antioch

Christological sections from the Synod of Mar Aba, 544 and Mar Iso'yahb 578.

Maximus the Confessor.

The Common Declarations on Christology between the Roman Catholic Church and Syrian and Coptic Orthodox, 1973, 1988 and 1990, and between the Roman Catholic Church and the Church of the East, 1994.

Jacob of Sarug, *On the Mother of God and Partaking of the Holy Mysteries*.

The following liturgical texts:

Liturgical texts: Syrian-Orthodox, Eastern Orthodox (Greek) and Church of the East.

In addition, Students will read the commentary by Timothy II on the East Syrian rite, Simeon on the Eastern Orthodox (Byzantine) rite, and Moses Bar Kepha on the Syrian Orthodox rite. Photocopies will be provided in the library.

The following textbooks will be **useful** reading:

Philip Jenkins, *The Lost History of Christianity*, Harper Collins 2008.

A. Grillmeier, *Christ in Christian Tradition* - all volumes, but relevant sections.

F. Young, *From Nicaea to Chalcedon*.

John Meyendorff, *Christ in Eastern Christian Thought*.

Matti Moosa, *The Maronites in History*, Gorgias Press 2005.

Aziz Atiya, *History of Eastern Christianity*, 1968, Gorgias Press reprint 2010.

Hugh Wybrew, *The Orthodox Liturgy*.

Bryan D. Spinks, *Prayers from the East*. Pastoral Press

Bryan D. Spinks, *Mar Nestorius and Mar Theodore the Interpreter: The Forgotten Eucharistic Prayers of East Syria*.

The Blackwell Dictionary of Eastern Christianity, Blackwell 1999.

The Blackwell Companion to Eastern Christianity, Blackwell 2007

The instructor will draw attention to other textbooks as appropriate.

Schedule:

Jan 13. Discussion of course requirements, books,etc. Video of Eastern Churches.

Jan 15. Lecture: Introduction to the Identity of the Eastern Churches.

Jan 20. Discussion of Dalrymple vis a vis his experience and the present political situation.

Jan 22. Lecture: Nestorius, Cyril and Chalcedon.

Jan 27. Severus of Antioch's Christology. (Syrian orthodox liturgy 5.30 Marquand)

Jan 29. Monothelism and Maximus the Confessor.

Feb 3. Jacob of Sarug's Homilies- style and theology.

Feb 5. Modern Agreements on Christology.

Feb 10. Theodore of Mopsuestia and Eastern theologies of worship.

(Reading week)

Feb 17. The Eastern Orthodox Divine Liturgy and Divine Office.

Feb 19. Lecture and discussion of Simeon's commentary.

Feb 24. East Syrian Divine Liturgy and Divine Office.

Feb 26. Lecture and discussion on Timothy's commentary.

Mar 3. Syrian Orthodox Divine Liturgy and Divine Office.

Mar 5. Syrian Orthodox music (guest lecture) PAPER 1 IS DUE.

(Spring Break)

Mar 24. Moses Bar Kepha and the Syrian Orthodox liturgy.

Mar 26. Baptismal rites.

Mar 31. Marriage rites.

Apr 2. Funeral rites

Apr 7. The Maronite Church and liturgies.

Apr 9. The Armenian Orthodox Church and its worship.

Apr 14. The Ethiopian Orthodox Divine Liturgy.

Apr 16. Feast and seasons in the Eastern Orthodox Church

Apr 23 NO CLASS : FINAL PAPER DUE

