

**SAINT JOHN OF DAMASCUS  
INSTITUTE OF THEOLOGY**

## **MISSION STATEMENT**

The Saint John of Damascus Institute of Theology at the University of Balamand was founded in 1970 by the Antiochian Holy See to foster Orthodox theological education and spiritual formation, in order to provide the Church with well-cultivated, potential candidates for priesthood.

Drawing upon the Eastern Christian heritage, the Institute is one of the few Orthodox theological institutions in the world that offer three degrees of the academic cycle - BTh, MTh and PhD -, as well as three e-Learning theological and educational programs in Arabic and Spanish.

The Institute's alumni, ordained and non-ordained, are called to witness the Orthodox faith and serve all people, whether in their immediate Arab milieu or abroad.

## **FACULTY AND STAFF**

### **UNIVERSITY OFFICERS**

Warrak, Elias	President of the University
Bahr, Georges	Acting Provost
Archimandrite Jack Khalil	Dean of the Institute

### **ACADEMIC PROGRAM COORDINATORS**

Archimandrite Jack Khalil	PhD Program Director
Father Bassam Nassif	BTh Program Coordinator
Ayuch, Daniel	MTh, CBB and SOFIA Programs Coordinator
Father Youhanna El Mecherki	Kalima Program Coordinator

### **INSTITUTE STAFF**

Archimandrite Damaskinos Al Keadeh	Student Life Affairs Director
Father Hareth Ibrahim	Director of St Joseph of Damascus Center for Manuscripts' Conservation
Father Gebran Al Laty	Personnel Office and Publications
Abboud, Elie	Social Security and Reception
Al Assil, Rony	Maintenance and Purchasing
Haddad, Perla	Assistant Registrar
Deacon Rafael Hanna	Assistant Librarian
Jabbour, Jacqueline	Accountant
Kartabani, Beata	Executive Assistant and Translator
Najjar, Sarah	Administrative Assistant
Nassar, Alexandra	Library Circulation and Assistant Accountant

## **FULL-TIME FACULTY MEMBERS**

Archimandrite Jack Khalil	Professor PhD, New Testament, Aristotle University, Thessaloniki, Greece
Protopresbyter Porphyrios Georgi	Professor PhD, Dogmatic Theology, Aristotle University, Thessaloniki, Greece
Ayuch, Daniel	Professor PhD, New Testament, Wilhelm University of Muenster, Germany
Bishop Romanos Al Hannat	Associate Professor PhD, Byzantine Music, Aristotle University, Thessaloniki, Greece
Archimandrite Parthenios Al Laty	Associate Professor PhD, Oriental Canon Law, Pontifical Oriental Institute - Rome, Italy
Father Bassam Nassif	Associate Professor PhD, Pastoral Theology, University of Balamand, Lebanon DMin, Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, USA
Father Youhanna El Mecherki	Senior Lecturer PhD, Old Testament, Aristotle University, Thessaloniki, Greece
Archimandrite Georges Yaacoub	Instructor MTh, Hagiology, Aristotle University, Thessaloniki, Greece

## **PART-TIME FACULTY MEMBERS**

Metropolitan Paul Yazigi	PhD, Patristics, Aristotle University, Thessaloniki, Greece
Metropolitan Jacques El-Khoury	PhD, Patristics, Aristotle University, Thessaloniki, Greece
Bishop Demetrios Sharback	PhD, Dogmatics & Ecumenical Studies, Aristotle University, Thessaloniki, Greece
Bishop Moses Al Khasi	PhD, Old Testament, Aristotle University, Thessaloniki, Greece
Archimandrite Alexis Nassour	PhD, Church Art, Aristotle University, Thessaloniki, Greece
Father Youhanna Baddour	PhD, Sociology of Religions, Aristotle University, Thessaloniki, Greece
Dannaoui, Elie	PhD, Eastern Ecclesiastical Studies - History, Pontifical Oriental Institute - Rome, Italy
El Halabi, Elias	PhD, Philosophy, Birmingham University, United Kingdom
Kanaan, Marlène	Doctorat ès-Lettres, Philosophie, Université Saint-Joseph, Liban
Slim, Souad	PhD History, Paris IV, France, PhD, Islamology, Birmingham, UK

## **VISITING PROFESSORS**

Metropolitan GREGORIOS (Papathomas)	PhD, Theology, Aristotle University, Thessaloniki, Greece
Protopresbyter Chrysostomos Nassis	ThD, Aristotle University, Thessaloniki, Greece
Protopresbyter Michel Najim	ThD, Patristics, Aristotle University, Thessaloniki, Greece
Protopresbyter Nikolaos Loudovikos	PhD, Theology, Aristotle University, Thessaloniki, Greece
Arabatzi, Christos	PhD, Theology, Aristotle University, Thessaloniki, Greece
Bakas, Ioannis	Doctoral Diploma in Theology, Aristotle University, Thessaloniki,

Belezos, Konstantin	Greece PhD, Theology, National and Kapodistrian University, Athens, Greece
Hinshaw, Daniel Benjamin	MD, Emeritus of Surgery, Palliative Medicine, University of Michigan Medical School, USA
Paparnakis, Athanasius	PhD, Theology, Aristotle University, Thessaloniki, Greece
Paschalidis, Symeon	ThD, Aristotle University, Thessaloniki, Greece

## **THE LIBRARY**

The history of the library of Saint John of Damascus goes back to the era of Patriarch Methodius in the 19th century. When Archimandrite Athansios Kassir established the first clerical school at Balamand Monastery in 1832, the library was located inside the monastery and it held few hundred books. The library continued to develop accordingly with the school until the establishing of the Saint John of Damascus Institute of Theology in 1970.

With the foundation of the Institute, the library developed tremendously. Thousands of books and journals were added and the new location provided the library with a huge panoramic reading room, a storage room, two offices, a circulation desk and two spacious levels for stacks.

Nowadays, the library of Saint John of Damascus provides the students with a wealth of different resources. It holds more than thirty thousand volumes of books in Arabic, English, French, Russian, Romanian and Greek, local and international periodicals, general and specialized encyclopedias, in addition to rare and diverse dictionaries. The Library is particularly rich in Orthodox Theology, Holy Scriptures, Church Fathers, Church and Human History, Civilizations, Philosophy, and various religions, particularly in Islam. The Library also holds the dissertations of undergraduate and Master program students.

The Library of Saint John of Damascus shares a unity with the University of Balamand Libraries. Students at the Institute of Theology enjoy the use of books and other services provided by the University of Balamand in all specializations, either through the central library or different faculty libraries, as well as the Online Data Base and the Electronic Journal Service, which provide a wide subscription in various specialized electronic resources and world magazines.

Due to automation, the whole collection of the Saint John of Damascus Library is now available on the University of Balamand web page. The system used by the libraries in the University of Balamand makes it easy for students to look for any book by its title, author, publisher, or subject. Furthermore, the Library provides special electronic services of the Holy Scriptures: Old and New Testaments in their original languages (Hebrew, Greek and Syriac) and their translations in European languages.

In addition, Saint John of Damascus Library contains digital images – more than one hundred thousand – of the collection of manuscripts of Our Lady of Balamand Monastery, and other manuscript collections: private or Orthodox monasteries/parishes, in Lebanon and Syria totaling around six hundred manuscripts.

## **LIBRARY STAFF**

### **Assistant Librarian**

Deacon Rafael Hanna

Tel: 06 930 305 ext 118

E-mail: Gilbert.Hanna@balamand.edu.lb

### **Library Circulation**

Alexandra Nassar

Tel: 06 930 305 ext 118

E-mail: Alec.Nassar@balamand.edu.lb

## **OPENING HOURS**

The Library is open:

Monday through Friday

8:00 AM – 4:00 PM and 9:00 PM – 11:00 PM

Saturday

10:00 AM – 10:00 PM

Sunday

4:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Closing Hours

1:00 PM – 2:00 PM and 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

## **LENDING PRIVILEGES**

### **UOB Community:**

<b><u>Category</u></b>	<b><u>No. of items</u></b>	<b><u>Duration</u></b>
Freshman	7	2 weeks
Undergraduates	7	2 weeks
Graduates	15	4 weeks
Postgraduates	30	1 academic semester
Full-Time Faculty	30	1 academic semester
Part-Time Faculty	7	1 academic semester
Staff	7	4 weeks

## **MEMBERSHIP SERVICES**

The UOB Libraries are primarily for use by students, faculty, and staff. Alumni, researchers, scholars and community users not affiliated with the University of Balamand, however, may utilize the libraries' collections according to the four categories below:

### **1. Researchers coming from other institutions and Community Users:**

- Researchers coming from other universities or abroad must provide a proof of affiliation with another institution (the letter must include the topic of the research and the duration of stay).
- Requirements: Photo ID – Statement of purpose.
- Membership fees\*: 20\$/month – 80\$/6 months – 120\$/year + VAT + Deposit\* of 100\$
- Privileges: Unlimited access to circulated materials inside the library; borrowing up to 3 books for 2 weeks; 1 article/month through Inter-Library Loan and Document Delivery Services (ILL-DDS).
- A membership card will be issued and should be presented at all times.

### **2. Alumni:**

- Requirements: Photo ID – Proof of previous affiliation with UOB, or letter from the Development Office.
- Membership fees: Free membership + Deposit\* 100\$
- Privileges: Unlimited access to circulated materials inside the library; borrowing up to 3 books for 2 weeks; 1 article/month through ILL-DDS.
- A membership card will be issued and should be presented at all times.

### **3. Donors and trustees:**

- Requirements: Photo ID – Letter from the Development Office.
- Membership fees: Free membership + Deposit\* 100\$
- Privileges: Unlimited access to circulated materials inside the library; borrowing up to 3 books for 2 weeks; 1 article/month through ILL-DDS.
- A membership card will be issued and should be presented at all times.

### **4. Institutions:**

- Requirement: Statement of purpose from the institution.
- Membership fees\*: 400\$/year + VAT + Deposit\* 150\$
- Privileges: Unlimited access to circulated materials inside the library; borrowing up to 10 books for 2 weeks; 3 articles/month through ILL-DDS.
- One membership card will be issued for the institution's representative. However, members of the institutions can use it upon the written approval of the representative.

The below guidelines are applicable to all the membership categories:

- Visitors may access the library databases on the library premises only, due to copyright and licensing terms and conditions. A computer account will be provided for this purpose which will also allow visitors to benefit from the printing services.
- Visitors may also benefit from the photocopying services for a charge.
- The library reserves the right to restrict or modify guest access during times of peak library use or enhanced security (i.e. reading periods and exams).
- Visitors should abide by the libraries' code of conduct and general rules.

Please click on the following link to apply for a membership:

<http://www.balamand.edu.lb/library/forms/membership>

\*Deposit is only needed if the user needs to borrow books through the membership

\*The USD/LBP rate will be calculated according to the exchange rate applied by the university.

For further help please contact:

**Issam Fares Library Learning Center (Main Campus)**

Access Services Department

Ground Floor, Room 013

Tel. +961 6 931 958 , 931 962/ 964 Ext. 4066

E-mail: [circulation@balamand.edu.lb](mailto:circulation@balamand.edu.lb)

# **MASTER OF THEOLOGY PROGRAM (MTh)**

## **MISSION STATEMENT**

The MTh Program at the Saint John of Damascus Institute of Theology promotes research to a higher level, and contributes to academic dialogue and exchange with the various expressions of Christian Theology in our times. It offers to talented students the opportunity to broaden their knowledge in the main theological fields, with the aim to prepare them to address thoroughly contemporary pastoral challenges, and to express Antiochian Orthodox Theology in modern society. Special emphasis is given to enhance theological research and publication in the Arabic language.

## **OBJECTIVES**

The goals of the MTh Program are to:

1. Provide students with deeper and focused insights into specialized theological topics.
2. Sensitize students to contemporary Orthodox theological discourses.
3. Present an environment that promotes individual and collective work in academic research in the fields of Orthodox theology.
4. Equip students with necessary tools and skills to conduct research.
5. Encourage students to explore and bring to light the treasures of the Antiochian Christian heritage.
6. Develop in students the high standards of ethics and professionalism.
7. Enable students to pursue higher studies, in order to meet the academic as well as the pastoral needs of the Orthodox Church of Antioch.

## **LEARNING OUTCOMES**

A successful achiever of this program will be able to:

- a. Engage in theological research according to academic standards.
- b. Use sources, methods and tools related to a particular theological discipline.
- c. Redact a relevant study in theology using the appropriate approach of writing and argumentation.
- d. Conduct critical papers in various theological disciplines.
- e. Apply analytical thinking in a multi-disciplinary context.
- f. Interpret the theological Tradition of the Orthodox Church.
- g. Assess contemporary theological debates and dialogues.
- h. Explore the historical and theological legacy of the Orthodox Church of Antioch.
- i. Recognize the Orthodox pastoral ethos in addressing contemporary issues.
- j. Debate within a cultural and religious diversity in local and global contexts.
- k. Compose original studies in Arabic that express Antiochian Orthodox Theology.



## **PLOS ACCORDING TO OBJECTIVES**

- 1. Provide students with deeper and focused insights into specialized theological topics.**
  - Engage in theological research according to academic standards.
  - Conduct critical papers in various theological disciplines.
  - Explore the historical and theological legacy of the Orthodox Church of Antioch.
- 2. Sensitize students about contemporary Orthodox theological discourses.**
  - Redact a relevant study in theology using the appropriate approach of writing and argumentation.
  - Assess contemporary theological debates and dialogues.
  - Interpret the theological Tradition of the Orthodox Church.
  - Recognize the Orthodox pastoral ethos in addressing the contemporary issues related to human existence.
- 3. Present an environment for individual and collective work in academic research in the fields of Orthodox theology.**
  - Engage in theological research according to academic standards.
  - Assess contemporary theological debates and dialogues.
  - Interpret the theological Tradition of the Orthodox Church.
- 4. Equip students with necessary tools and skills to conduct research.**
  - Engage in theological research according to academic standards.
  - Use sources, methods and tools related to a particular theological discipline.
  - Conduct critical papers in various theological disciplines.
  - Apply analytical thinking in a multi-disciplinary context.
- 5. Encourage students to explore and bring to light the treasures of the Antiochian Christian heritage.**
  - Apply analytical thinking in a multi-disciplinary context.
  - Explore the historical and theological legacy of the Orthodox Church of Antioch.
  - Interpret the theological Tradition of the Orthodox Church.
  - Compose original studies in Arabic that express Antiochian Orthodox Theology.
- 6. Develop in students the high standards of ethics and professionalism.**
  - Recognize the Orthodox pastoral ethos in addressing contemporary issues.
  - Debate within a cultural and religious diversity in local and global contexts.
- 7. Enable students to pursue higher studies, in order to meet the academic as well as the pastoral needs of the Orthodox Church of Antioch.**
  - Engage in theological research according to academic standards.
  - Redact a relevant study in theology using the appropriate approach of writing and argumentation.
  - Conduct critical papers in various theological disciplines.
  - Apply analytical thinking in a multi-disciplinary context.
  - Debate within a cultural and religious diversity in local and global contexts.
  - Compose original studies in Arabic that express Antiochian Orthodox Theology.

## **ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS**

Applicants to the MTh program must:

1. Hold the Lebanese General Secondary Certificate, or its equivalent.
2. Hold a Bachelor of Theology degree (BTh) from an Orthodox institution of higher education with a general average of 80/100, or its equivalent.
3. Demonstrate an adequate knowledge of Arabic considered acceptable by the admission committee.\*
4. Demonstrate an adequate knowledge of English (600 on a paper-based TOEFL for non-native English speakers).\*

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\* N/A for the Institute's graduates.

5. File a full application form and provide the following documents:
  - A letter of recommendation issued by the respective canonical Ecclesiastical authority
  - Two recommendation letters by faculty members, who taught the candidate\*
  - A personal statement expressing their career goals and personal objectives in seeking the MTh
  - Copies of acquired diplomas or degrees\*
  - 3 passport photos
  - A photocopy of a valid ID
  - Judicial police record
6. Show a good knowledge in at least one ancient language, which shall be defined by the admission committee based on their field of study and thesis project.\*
7. Be enrolled upon the recommendation of the Institute's Council, and might be requested to take undergraduate bridging courses for the holders of a Bachelor of Theology degree (BTh) from a non-Orthodox institution of higher education.

**Remarks for graduate applicants:**

1. Holders of an MDiv degree from an Orthodox institution of higher education are admitted in a shorter academic program.
2. Holders of a Master degree in Theology from a non-Orthodox institution of higher education are admitted in a shorter academic program in addition to bridging courses in Eastern Christian Theology.

## **PROGRAM CONTENT**

The Institute of Theology offers a two-year study program leading to the redaction of the graduation thesis in fulfillment of the Master of Theology Degree.

1. To earn the MTh degree, a student needs to successfully complete a minimum of 33 credits distributed as follows:
 

<b>3</b>	Credits of Methodology of Research
<b>18</b>	Credits of core courses in the main theological fields according to the offering
<b>6</b>	Credits of 2 tutorials in the field of concentration related to the student's thesis.
<b>6</b>	Credits in directed thesis preparation
2. The academic year is spread over two semesters: Fall and Spring. Courses are offered in block seminars. Students are required to attend intensive program during the semester for a period of five days per month. During this period, accommodation is available at the Institute.
3. The field of concentration shall be one of the following: New Testament, Old Testament, Church History, Dogmatics, Pastoral Theology, Patristics, and Canon Law.  
Church Music??

## **RULES AND REGULATIONS**

### **A. Time Limit**

Full-time students are expected to complete all requirements for the degree in a maximum period of three years. Students should petition in writing to the Institute's Council for any exceptions.

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\* N/A for the Institute's graduates.

## **B. Evaluation**

Graduate students are evaluated at the end of each semester. Evaluation of academic progress is based on the average of the graduate courses taken during one semester.

## **C. Passing-Grade**

- The passing grade for each course is 75.
- The passing average at the end of each semester is 80.

## **D. Evaluation of Academic Performance**

### D.1 Grading Scheme

The following grading scheme is adopted for reporting final course grades:

<b>Grade</b>	<b>Notation</b>
95 and above	High Distinction
90 - 94	Distinction
87 - 89	Very Good
84 - 86	Good
80 - 83	Fair
75 - 79	Weak
<75	Fail

### D.2 Academic Probation

- If a student's average in one semester is less than 80, he/she is put on probation.
- If a student fails one of his/her courses, he/she is put on probation.

### D.3 Removal of Probation

A student placed on probation will be given the opportunity to earn 80 or above in all courses by the end of the following semester.

### D.4 Dropping from the Program

A Student will be dropped from the program for any of the following reasons:

- He achieves a semester average less than 75.
- He is on Probation and is not able to remove the probation by the end of the next semester.

## **E. Appeal**

A graduate student may petition to the Institute's Council concerning any exceptional case related to an academic regulation.

# **THESIS REGULATIONS**

## **1. Description**

An MTh thesis is the final project for the Master of Theology degree. As much as possible, it should be an original contribution that draws on the knowledge acquired through the program. The thesis work reveals the student's abilities to perform research with adequate methodology, demonstrate his/her knowledge in the subject of the thesis, and that he/she is acquainted with the literature pertaining to the Thesis topic.

## **2. The Thesis Proposal**

During the first semester, the enrolled student should have obtained the assent of a Professor, teaching at the Institute of Theology, to supervise his Thesis. It is mandatory that before the end of the second semester, the student submits to the coordinator of the MTh Program a thesis proposal signed by his advisor. The coordinator forwards the proposal to the Dean for final approval.

Students who fail to obtain an approval of their detailed thesis proposal at the end of their second semester will be placed on academic probation.

The Thesis proposal must include the following:

- a. Main Title and Subtitle
- b. The Relevance of the Topic of Discussion (no more than 200 words)
- c. The problematic:
  - Issues that the thesis aspires to address (no more than 200 words)
  - Research Context
  - Research Questions
- d. Contemporary related research: The student mentions at least four scholars and their related books which dealt with the related research (no more than 800 words).
- e. Research Methodology: Presenting the scientific methodology for research and the steps taken leading to achieve it (no more than 200 words).
- f. Hypotheses: Presenting the main idea in each section of the thesis and how it addresses related questions (no more than 200 words).
- g. Proposed Table of Contents
- h. Bibliography of sources and references in alphabetical order (at least 20 references)

## **3. Supervision**

- a. Appointment of Supervisor

The Dean officially appoints the supervisor of the thesis.

- b. Supervisors' Responsibilities

The supervisor mentors the student's research work and the writing of the thesis with a view to ensuring completion as required.

The supervisor is expected to:

- Prepare the thesis proposal with the student.
  - Support the student in conducting his/her research.
  - Provide supervision on a regular basis, read and discuss the student's work.
  - Evaluate the progress of the student in his/her research project and report on this to the Dean in semiannual written evaluations. (fixed form)
- c. The Student's Responsibilities
    - The student must keep his supervisor informed about the progress of his/her research, by providing him with the following:
      - All the drafts of the gradual phases in writing the thesis.
      - All-important research results.
      - The process of the editing of the final text of the thesis.
  - d. Semi-annual Evaluations

Every six months, the supervisor provides the Dean with an evaluation of the student's progress in his/her research. Based on the evaluation, the Dean decides whether the student's academic progress and

research is satisfactory or not.

Students who present unsatisfactory performance will be placed on academic probation.

e. **Change of Supervisor**

A request for a change of supervisor may come from the student or from the supervisor. The Dean may also initiate the change of supervisor. The appointment of a new supervisor takes place in agreement with the abovementioned regulation.

#### **4. The Format of the MTh Thesis**

A master's thesis consists of approximately 100 pages. Students must follow the MTh Guide and Style manual issued by the Issam Fares Library Learning Center.

#### **5. The Assessment Committee**

**a. Definition:**

The Assessment Committee is in charge of reading and examining the final text of the Thesis. Upon completion of the MTh Thesis, the student submits by e-mail to the Dean, with carbon copy to the Program coordinator, the supervisor and the Institute registration office, a final copy of the manuscript, and applies in writing for the Thesis defense. His application needs the approval of the Dean, who appoints the assessment committee and the committee chairperson.

**b. Composition:**

The Assessment Committee consists of three members: the supervisor, who is an assistant professor or above, the first and the second readers, who are professors, associate professors, assistant professors or senior lecturers in related fields of specialization. The Thesis Supervisor may chair the Assessment Committee.

**c. Tasks:**

The members of the Assessment Committee are expected to fulfill the following tasks:

- Attend the defense session and present their evaluation orally during the session.
- Deliberate and agree on the final grade of the Thesis.
- Participate in the writing of the Report on the defense.

The chairperson is responsible, for ensuring the defense procedures, about:

- Submitting the required number of copies to the Assessment Committee
- Communicating the date of defense
- Coordinating the session
- Submitting all needed reports and documents.

#### **6. Defense**

The student must defend his MTh Thesis before the Assessment Committee. The defense session is open to the public, and it respects the following rules:

- The date for the defense session is set by the Dean.
- The Thesis is graded with a pass/fail assessment.
- A secretary of the committee writes down the session report.
- The final session report is signed by all members of the Assessment Committee.

## **7. Award of the MTh Degree**

The MTh degree is awarded to students who have completed the required coursework, defended the MTh Thesis, and submitted it by hand to the Library after making the requested amendments. The corrected text of the thesis shall be submitted within four months after undergoing the oral examination.

Students are eligible to receive the MTh degree when they offer by hand to the Dean's office the following documents:

- a. A copy of the Thesis after the final amendments, signed by the three members of the Assessment Committee
- b. A Library receipt of the Thesis.
- c. The Clearance Form for graduation.

After reviewing the above-mentioned documents, the St. John of Damascus Institute of Theology grants the academic degree of MTh to the student.

## **COURSE OFFERING**

<b>Code</b>	<b>Course Title</b>	<b>Credits</b>
THEO 300	Methodology of Research	3
THEO 311	The Passion Narratives in the Gospels	3
THEO 315	The Apostles Peter and Paul and the History of the Early Church in Acts	3
THEO 316	Ancient Israel and the Church in St. Paul's Epistles	3
THEO 318	Christ's Death and Resurrection For Us in the New Testament	3
THEO 319	The Debate about the Genuineness of some Pauline Letters	3
THEO 332	Schools of Thought in Contemporary Orthodox Theology	3
THEO 340	History of the Church of Antioch	3
THEO 349	Parameters of Orthodox Ecclesiology	3
THEO 351	Anthropology in the Thought of St. Basil the Great	3
THEO 352	Some Theological Aspects in the Thought of St. John of Damascus	3
THEO 362	The Antiochian Church during the Renaissance	3
THEO 373	Approaches to the Study of Church Hymnology and Byzantine Music	3
THEO 375	Canonical Foundations of the Church Sacraments and their Practice	3
THEO 386	The Holy Scripture in Pastoral Care	3
THEO 387	Problematics in Family Care: Marriage and Sickness	3
THEO 391	Seminar in the Field of Concentration	3
THEO 392	Seminar in the Field of Concentration II	3
THEO 399	The Master of Theology Thesis	6

## **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

### **THEO 300 METHODOLOGY OF RESEARCH**

**Credits: 3      Hours: 45**

The course THEO 300 intends to initiate students to different methodologies of research. It aims at helping them to write their master's thesis. The first part of the course includes general methodologies on how to choose their subject and their supervisor, how to constitute a bibliography.

It helps students to establish questions of the problematic issues and to answer previously to those questions in the hypothesis. The students also learn about more specialized methodologies such as: analyzing documents, editing manuscripts, monographs, and archiving periodicals, among others.

**THEO 311 THE PASSION NARRATIVES IN THE GOSPELS****Credits: 3     Hours: 45**

In this course, students are introduced to the following topics: the passion narratives in the gospels and the information available in ancient writings; the sources of the passion narratives; a comparison between the synoptic tradition and the gospel of John; the historicity and the genuineness of the passion narratives. This study is based on narrative analysis, which sheds light on the particular aspects of each of the narratives about the last days of Jesus in Jerusalem.

**THEO 315 THE APOSTLES PETER AND PAUL AND THE HISTORY OF THE EARLY CHURCH IN ACTS****Credits: 3     Hours: 45**

In its first section, this course offers an in-depth study of the methods of narrative analysis as it is practiced in modern biblical criticism. Then the students research the following topics: the deeds and sayings of the Apostles Peter and Paul following Luke's narrative in Acts, the sources of their biographies, and the Apocrypha in a synoptic comparison. The study is based on both narrative and rhetorical analysis and aims at highlighting the specificity of each Apostle within the Lucan work.

**THEO 316 ANCIENT ISRAEL AND THE CHURCH IN ST PAUL'S EPISTLES****Credits: 3     Hours: 45**

St. Paul identifies the seed of Abraham, the elected People of God who received the promises, with all those who show faith in Jesus Christ, regardless of their origins and roots. Students learn to apply high criticism in studying St. Paul's discussions of the identity of the People of God and the relation between Israel and the Church. Through case study analyses, group discussions, article reviews, students focus on the identity of the "Israel of God" and evaluate the different viewpoints and argumentations in modern studies.

**THEO 318 CHRIST'S DEATH AND RESURRECTION FOR US IN THE NEW TESTAMENT****Credits: 3     Hours: 45**

"For us" or "for our sake" is one of the most beautiful and deep theological expressions that the Apostles learnt from Christ and frequently repeated it, either in their oral or written kerygma about the death and resurrection of the Lord. This course deals with the Christ event, especially with His death and resurrection, and searches its various ways of interpretation in the New Testament, either as a sacrifice, expiation, reconciliation, justification... Meanwhile, the course clarifies the background of these concepts in the Old Testament. Thus, it goes within the spectrum of this course to critically investigate the Old Testament Messianic expectations, and the extent of their agreement with the Divine Economy that was achieved in the death and the resurrection of the Messiah.

**THEO 319 THE DEBATE ABOUT THE GENUINENESS OF SOME PAULINE LETTERS****Credits: 3     Hours: 45**

The issue of genuineness of some Pauline epistles became a timely subject in the last years, since it is seriously reconsidered. Even the German consensus on rejecting the genuineness of these Letters started to fall down. This course presents the arguments and the counter arguments about the debated genuineness of seven epistles. This issue is of great significance, not only because it weighs in studying the historical environment of these Letters, and their true authorship and objectives, but also in view of their importance as normative in studying the thought and style of St Paul, and accordingly as relevant to define Christian tenets.

**THEO 332 SCHOOLS OF THOUGHT IN CONTEMPORARY ORTHODOX THEOLOGY****Credits: 3     Hours: 45**

The course is an analytical survey of the different historical factors, intellectual trends, and social sensitivities which shaped the contemporary Orthodox theological mind. It examines the contribution of the most influential theologians in the modern times and highlights the major debates pertinent to Orthodox theological discourse in the twentieth and the twenty-first centuries.



**THEO 340 HISTORY OF THE CHURCH OF ANTIOCH****Credits: 3     Hours: 45**

This course presents research seminars in the history of the Antiochian Orthodox Church. It offers an analytical and critical reading of an anthology of texts selected from the Antiochian Christian literary heritage written in the Arabic language. It aims at shedding light on the Arabic identity of the Antiochian Orthodox Church in its cultural and religious environment by studying the aspects and value of the historical interaction between Antiochian Christians and their environment where they formed a cultural bridge among the diversified religious and linguistic components in the East.

**THEO 349 PARAMETERS OF ORTHODOX ECCLESIOLOGY****Credits: 3     Hours: 45**

The course is a historical and theological study of the evolution of Ecclesiology from St. Ignatius of Antioch up to the present day. Students analyze problems and discuss different issues related to the nature of the Church's organization, administration, unity, and mission in the history of the Divine Economy, as well as the dialectic of Church and culture.

**THEO 351 ANTHROPOLOGY IN THE THOUGHT OF ST. BASIL THE GREAT****Credits: 3     Hours: 45**

St. Basil was unique in approaching anthropological issues as a physician presenting his theology from the point of view of sickness, healing and growth, stressing on one hand the concept of the sickness of the human nature and its healing, not only from the perspective of fall, incarnation and redemption, but also by using terms such as dissection, diagnosis and weakness. On the other hand, he talks about the call for this nature to be deified. St. Basil presented a pure Christian anthropology based on the Bible and in total harmony with the tradition of the Church. He made of it a realization of a Christian education.

**THEO 352 SOME THEOLOGICAL ASPECTS IN THE THOUGHT OF ST. JOHN OF DAMASCUS****Credits: 3     Hours: 45**

The aim of this course is to examine the unique contribution made by Saint John of Damascus to Orthodox theology. This course demonstrates the Antiochian theological and Liturgical Tradition, describes the Life and Works of John of Damascus, and elucidates his influence on Arabic-speaking writers.

**THEO 362: THE ANTIOCHIAN CHURCH DURING THE RENAISSANCE****Credits: 3     Hours: 45**

During the period extending from the sixteenth to the twentieth century, Antioch has known several political changes and Church troubles. At the same time, important figures appear in the Church, who try to spread the thought of the Church and participate in its renewal. So this course focuses on their writings kept in the manuscripts, and studies their contribution in order to evaluate their role in reviving the Antiochian Church.

**THEO 373 APPROACHES TO THE STUDY OF CHURCH HYMNOLOGY AND BYZANTINE MUSIC****Credits: 3     Hours: 45**

This course sheds light on this new science, despite its presence for more than a thousand years. The lectures give us an idea of how the study of this beautiful and creative science developed, through presenting some of the topics that have been addressed by researchers. For example: Rhythms of poetry and changes, problem of eight tones before and after Christ, until this day, and how to analyze the analytical study of musical material that existed before the reform of 1814, according to what researchers had done with the science of ecclesiastical music: analyzing the musical material and shedding light on the latest developments and musical discoveries. This course attempts to decode some musical ambiguities such as codes, symbols, musical forms, and others.

**THEO 375 CANONICAL FOUNDATIONS OF THE CHURCH SACRAMENTS AND THEIR PRACTICE** Credits: 3 Hours: 45

The course aims to provide a survey of the canonical heritage of the Orthodox Church from the perspective of the latter's approach to the holy sacraments. It reviews the entirety of the ecclesiastical canons (from the first millennium) that dealt with the sacraments from several aspects, whether theological, organizational, or dissuasive. Hence, students can deduce how the Church understands the sacrament, based on the texts of the sacred canons of the first millennium, which are considered a common ground for the Church in the East and the West.

**THEO 386 THE HOLY SCRIPTURE IN PASTORAL CARE** Credits: 3 Hours: 45

This course is a seminar in applied theology, in which the student approaches Biblical exegesis in a functional way that qualifies him or her to effectively transfer the theology of the Bible to the modern man. It aims at studying scientific tools to stimulate Bible study in the parish. First, the student analyzes the pastoral challenges and trends in interpreting the Holy Scripture, as well as the characteristics of pragmatic functional analysis. Second, the student practices in applying this pragmatic analysis to address various scriptural topics, and discusses ways to present them to different age groups in the parish.

**THEO 387 PROBLEMATICS IN FAMILY CARE: MARRIAGE AND SICKNESS**

Credits: 3 Hours: 45

This course deals with the challenges facing the Christian family and the marital relations from the theological and practical perspectives in a postmodern world. It discusses, in the first place, the theology of marriage and its development from Holy Scripture, while presenting Patristic views on issues related to marriage such as intimacy, authority, and procreation. It also discusses the contemporary social conditions facing Christians who are seeking to live marriage as a domestic church. Thus, it critically offers possible pastoral, spiritual, and psychological tools that can assist the priest in his ministry and care for families, especially while dealing with marital conflicts, divorced families, accompanying newlywed couples, and comforting those suffering from sickness and grief.

**THEO391 SEMINAR IN THE FIELD OF CONCENTRATION** Credits: 3 Hours: 45

The primary goal of this course is to guide students explore the major theological topics related to the area chosen for their thesis project. In the first phase, the student search and read second literature to get an overview of the research in progress. In addition, they choose themes according to their field of interest to develop a research paper in well-defined stages.

**THEO392: SEMINAR IN THE FIELD OF CONCENTRATION II** Credits: 3 Hours: 45

This course is designed to deepen the research in a particular topic under the advice of the thesis supervisor. These sessions are designated to help students process their immersion in the specific issues addressed in their theses and broaden their knowledge of the sources and the latest literature available in this area. The instructor guides the students through the thesis writing process, reinforcing their knowledge in a specific academic field.

**THEO399: THE MASTER OF THEOLOGY THESIS** Credits: 6

An MTh thesis is the final project for the Master of Theology degree. As much as possible, it should be an original contribution that draws on the knowledge acquired through the program. The thesis work reveals the student's abilities to perform research with adequate methodology, demonstrate his/her knowledge in the subject of the thesis, and that he/she is acquainted with the literature pertaining to the Thesis topic.