

**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 the 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 to 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

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

INSTITUTE STAFF

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|------------------------------------|--|
| 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, Rafi | General Maintenance and Purchasing |
| Al Assil, Rony | Maintenance, Purchasing and Social Security |
| Haddad, Perla | Assistant Registrar |
| Jabbour, Jacqueline | Accountant |
| Kartabani, Beata | Dean's Secretary and Translator |
| Naim, Mona | Manager of Adib Saab Cultural Center |
| Najjar, Sarah | Administrative Assistant and Cashier |
| Nassar, Alexandra | Library Circulation |

FULL-TIME FACULTY MEMBERS

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|---|--|
| 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 |
| Archimandrite Chrysostomos El Mecherki | Assistant Professor PhD, Old Testament, Aristotle University, Thessaloniki, Greece |
| Dannaoui, Elie | Professor PhD, Eastern Ecclesiastical Studies - History, Pontifical Oriental Institute - Rome, Italy |
| El Halabi, Elias | Associate Professor PhD, Philosophy, Birmingham University, United Kingdom |
| Kanaan, Marlène | Professor Doctorat ès-Lettres, Philosophie, Université Saint-Joseph, Liban |
| Slim, Souad | Professor PhD History, Paris IV, France, PhD, Islamology, Birmingham, UK |

PART-TIME FACULTY MEMBERS

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|--------------------------------|--|
| 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 Alexi Nassour | PhD, Church Art, Aristotle University, Thessaloniki, Greece |
| Father Simon Najm | PhD, History and Civilization, École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales, France |
| Father Youhanna Baddour | PhD, Sociology of Religions, Aristotle University, Thessaloniki, Greece |

VISITING PROFESSORS

| | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| Metropolitan Kyrillos Katerelos | PhD, Theology, Aristotle University, Thessaloniki, Greece Professor of Canon Law, AUTH |
| Archimandrite Calinic Berger | PhD, Theology, The Catholic University of America, USA Adjunct Professor of Dogmatic Theology, Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology, Brookline, Massachusetts, USA |
| Protopresbyter Athanasios Gkikas | PhD, Theology, Aristotle University, Thessaloniki, Greece Professor of Pastoral Theology and Confession, AUTH |
| Protopresbyter Chrysostomos Nassis | ThD, Aristotle University, Thessaloniki, Greece Assistant Professor of Byzantine Liturgy and Liturgical Sources, AUTH |
| Protopresbyter Michel Najim | ThD, Patristics, Aristotle University, Thessaloniki, Greece President and Professor of Patristics and Church History, AHOS, USA |
| Protopresbyter Nikolaos Loudovikos | PhD, Theology, Aristotle University, Thessaloniki, Greece Professor of Religious Studies and Philosophy of Religion, the University of Ioannina, Greece |
| Alexandru, Maria | PhD, Byzantine Music, University of Copenhagen, Denmark Professor of Byzantine Music, AUTH |
| Arabatzi, Christos | PhD, Theology, Aristotle University, Thessaloniki, Greece Professor of Patristics, AUTH |
| Belezos, Konstantin | PhD, Theology, National and Kapodistrian University, Athens, Greece Professor of the New Testament, NKUA |
| Chatzouli, Glykeria | PhD, History and Archaeology, University of Ioannina, Greece Professor of Byzantine Archaeology and Art, AUTH |
| Giangkou, Theodoros | ThD, Aristotle University, Thessaloniki, Greece Professor of Canonical Sources, AUTH |
| Hinshaw, Daniel Benjamin | MD, Loma Linda University School of Medicine, California, USA Professor Emeritus of Surgery and Consultant in Palliative Medicine, University of Michigan |
| Komninou, Ioanna | PhD, Theology, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Greece Assistant Professor of Pedagogy and Religious Education, NKUA |
| Moschos, Dimitrios | ThD, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Greece Professor of Church History, NKUA |
| Paparnakis, Athanasios | PhD, Theology, Aristotle University, Thessaloniki, Greece Professor of the Old Testament, AUTH |

Paschalidis, Symeon

ThD, Aristotle University, Thessaloniki, Greece
Professor of Patristics and Hagiography, AUTH

Protopapadakis, Evangelos

PhD, Philosophy, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Greece
Professor of Applied Ethics, NKUA

Xionis, Nikolaos

ThD, Aristotle University, Thessaloniki, Greece
Professor of Dogmatic and Symbolic Theology, NKUA

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

Library Circulation

Alexandra Nassar

Tel. +961 6 930 305 Ext. 4818

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

OPENING HOURS

The Library is open:

Monday through Friday

8:00 AM – 4:30 PM and 8:30 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:

| <u>Category</u> | <u>No. of items</u> | <u>Duration</u> |
|------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------|
| 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. However, alumni, researchers, scholars, and community users not affiliated with the University of Balamand, may utilize the libraries' collections according to the four categories below:

1. Community users and researchers coming from other institutions:

- Researchers coming from other Lebanese universities or abroad must provide proof of institutional affiliation (the letter must include the topic of the research and the duration of stay).
- Requirements: Photo ID – Statement of purpose.
- Membership fees*: 10\$/month – 50\$/6 months – 90\$/year + VAT + Deposit* of 70\$
- 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
- Membership fees: Free membership + Deposit* 70\$
- 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* 70\$
- 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:

- Requirements: Statement of purpose from the institution.
- Membership fees*: 300\$/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

For further help please contact:

Issam Fares Library Learning Center (Main Campus)

Access Services Department

Ground Floor, Room 014

Tel. +961 6 931 958, 931 962/ 964 Ext. 4126

E-mail: circulation@balamand.edu.lb

MASTER OF THEOLOGY PROGRAM (MTh)

MISSION STATEMENT

The Master of Theology Program at the Saint John of Damascus Institute of Theology promotes research to a high level and contributes to academic dialogue and exchange with the various expressions of Christian Theology and Orthodox Heritage in our times. It offers the opportunity for qualified students to broaden their knowledge in the main theological fields, with the aim to prepare them to address thoroughly contemporary pastoral challenges, gain expertise in the heritage of the Antiochian Church, and 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 analyses 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 to 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 the 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 analyses 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 analyses 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.

Holders of a BTh degree from an Orthodox institution of higher education with a general average slightly less than 80/100, or its equivalent, will be placed on academic probation during the first

* N/A for the Institute's graduates.

semester. These students will be given the opportunity to earn 80 or above in all courses by the end of the semester.

Holders of a BTh from a non-Orthodox institution of higher education might be requested to take undergraduate bridging courses.

3. Demonstrate an adequate knowledge of Arabic considered acceptable by the admission committee.*
4. Demonstrate an adequate knowledge of English (527 on a paper-based TOEFL for non-native English speakers).*
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.*

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.
3. Students who are taking bridging courses are allowed to take along some graduate-level courses (maximum 6 credits) following the approval of the Dean. Bridging courses must be completed during the first year of enrollment in the graduate program.
4. Students transferring from graduate programs may be granted transfer credits up to 40% of the total credits required of the degree. Transferred credits apply only to courses in which the applicant had earned a minimum grade of 80 and equivalent in content to courses offered at UOB. The Institute's Admission Committee decides on the equivalency of courses.

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 33 credits distributed as follows:
 - 3** Credits of Methodology of Research
 - 24** Credits of core courses in the main theological fields according to the offering
 - 6** 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, Canon Law, Church Music and Hymnology.

* N/A for the Institute's graduates.

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.

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:

| Grade | Notation |
|--------------|------------------|
| 95 and above | High Distinction |
| 90 - 94 | Distinction |
| 87 - 89 | Very Good |
| 84 - 86 | Good |
| 80 - 83 | Fair |
| 75 - 79 | Weak |
| Below 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 editing 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.

For ensuring the defense procedures, the chairperson is expected to:

- Submit the required number of copies to the Assessment Committee
- Communicate the date of defense
- Coordinate the session
- Submit 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 successfully completed the required coursework with a general average of 80 and above, defended the MTh thesis, and submitted it by e-mail 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 e-mail 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 Dean of the St. John of Damascus Institute of Theology grants the award of the MTh degree to the student. The University of Balamand solemnly awards the degree of MTh.

COURSE OFFERING

A detailed distribution of course offerings and corresponding credits is visually represented in the accompanying table:

| Code | Course Title | Credits |
|-------------|--|----------------|
| 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 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 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 into 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 learned 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 etc. 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 332 SCHOOLS OF THOUGHT IN CONTEMPORARY ORTHODOX THEOLOGY Credits: 3 Hours: 45

This 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 modern times and highlights the major debates pertinent to Orthodox theological discourse in the 20th and the 21st 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 a cultural bridge among the diversified religious and linguistic components was formed 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 is 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 the 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 presents a pure Christian anthropology based on the Bible and in total harmony with the tradition of the Church, making 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 16th to the 20th century, Antioch came to know several political changes and Church troubles. At the same time, important figures appeared in the Church, who tried to spread the thought of the Church and participated in its renewal. So this course focuses on their writings kept in 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 examine 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 deal 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 387 PROBLEMATICS IN FAMILY CARE: MARRIAGE AND SICKNESS

Credits: 3 Hours: 45

This course deals with the challenges that the Christian family faces and marital relations from 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 in exploring the major theological topics related to the area chosen for their thesis project. In the first phase, the student research and read secondary 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 research 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.