

SAINT JOHN OF DAMASCUS INSTITUTE OF THEOLOGY

PhD IN THEOLOGY PROGRAM

INTRODUCTION

Since its foundation in 1970, the Saint John of Damascus Institute of Theology was defined as a center for pastoral formation and theological research. The Institute sets guidelines for theological thought in the Antiochian Patriarchate and provides pastors with both traditional and modern approaches and methods that help them in serving the Church and witnessing in the world.

The research spectrum of the PhD Program covers the main areas of academic studies in theology: biblical exegesis, dogmatic theology, patristics, Church history, pastoral theology and interreligious studies. These areas are bound together through a common approach based on the Antiochian Orthodox Christian heritage and a pastoral concern of modern society.

Having built a competent faculty working for the advancement of Orthodox Christian scholarship, the Institute of Theology has created a network of collaboration with theological institutions and scholars around the world through joint agreements aiming at fostering theological endeavors. This enables the program to provide concrete opportunities to produce valuable multilingual research, to equip the community with new generations of qualified experts, and to create a forum of exchange for scholars coming from different Orthodox backgrounds.

The University of Balamand has always radiated faith and knowledge to the Antiochian communities all over the world. Thus this program has come to extend the Balamand's mission to the highest levels of academic talent and erudition. In partnership with the Institute of Theology, the Antiochian House of Orthodox Studies (AHOS) accredited by ATS, and based in the Antiochian Village of the Antiochian Archdiocese of North America, plays a vital role in fulfilling the witness of the Church of Antioch and its mission in the world.

MISSION

The PhD Program at the Institute of Theology provides concrete opportunities to produce valuable multilingual research, to equip the community with new generations of qualified experts and Church leaders, and to create, through a network of collaboration with Orthodox and non-Orthodox theological institutions and scholars, a forum of academic and scholarly exchange. The PhD Program covers a wide research spectrum highlighting the Antiochian Orthodox Christian heritage and dealing with the contemporary theological challenges facing modern man.

OBJECTIVES

The PhD Program seeks to:

1. Equip candidates with advanced Orthodox theological scholarship.
2. Qualify researchers to lead advanced academic theological research.
3. Stimulate candidates towards research and engagement in life-long learning.

4. Develop in PhD candidates high standards of ethics and professionalism.
5. Equip candidates with necessary skills and tools to teach in universities.
6. Foster the interrelationship between theological research and the pastoral work of the Church.
7. Lead an active interaction with the research community worldwide on issues of Eastern Christianity.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon completing the PhD process, graduates shall be able to:

- a. Communicate in academic research the Ethos and Tradition of the Orthodox Church.
- b. Use pioneering technology tools for the advancement of research in the theological field.
- c. Conduct advanced academic research on the different sources of Christianity in the East.
- d. Study and analyze primary theological sources.
- e. Provide the scholarly community with critical editions and studies of manuscripts.
- f. Translate primary theological sources into Modern Languages.
- g. Collaborate in the scholarly debates on issues related to various theological fields.
- h. Contextualize theological discourse in a pluralistic world.
- i. Assess the needs of the Church in a world of rapid transformational change.
- j. Relate theological thought to the practical pastoral reality of the Church.
- k. Dialogue with new ideological trends according to the needs of the Church.
- l. Contribute to inter-confessional and interfaith dialogues and enrich them with scholarly research.

FACULTY MEMBERS

Name	Highest Degree	Specialty	Faculty
Right. Rev. Archimandrite Dr. Jack Khalil Dean of the Institute of Theology Director of the PhD Program Professor	PhD Theology Thessaloniki, Greece	New Testament	Institute of Theology
V. Rev. Protopresbyter Porphyrios Georgi Professor	PhD Theology Thessaloniki, Greece	Dogmatics	Institute of Theology
Daniel Ayuch Professor	PhD Theology Muenster, Germany	New Testament	Institute of Theology
Souad Slim Professor	PhD History Paris IV, France & PhD Islamology Birmingham, UK	Church History	Faculty of Arts and Sciences
Marlène Kanaan Professor	Doctorat ès Lettres Beirut, Lebanon	Philosophy	Faculty of Arts and Sciences
Elie Dannaoui Professor	PhD Eastern Ecclesiastical Studies - History Rome, Italy	Church History	Faculty of Arts and Sciences
His Grace Bishop Romanos Al Hannat Associate Professor	PhD Theology Thessaloniki, Greece	Church Music and Hymnology	Institute of Theology
Right. Rev. Archimandrite Parthenios Al Laty Associate Professor	PhD Oriental Canon Law Rome, Italy	Canon Law	Institute of Theology
V. Rev. Protopresbyter Bassam Nassif Associate Professor	PhD Theology Balamand, Lebanon	Pastoral Theology	Institute of Theology
Elias El Halabi Associate Professor	PhD Philosophy Birmingham, United Kingdom	Christian- Muslim Studies	Faculty of Arts and Sciences

BIOGRAPHIES

RIGHT REV. ARCHIMANDRITE DR. JACK KHALIL (PhD)

Dean, St. John of Damascus Institute of Theology

Professor of New Testament Studies

The Right Rev. Archimandrite Dr. Jack Khalil holds a PhD in Theology from the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki and pursued postdoctoral research as a Visiting Fellow at the University of Tübingen, Germany. He has been teaching at the St. John of Damascus Institute of Theology, University of Balamand, since 2000, where he currently serves as Dean.

Fr. Jack has also been invited as Visiting Professor to several Orthodox theological institutions worldwide, including the Universities of Athens and Thessaloniki, the Institute for Orthodox Christian Studies (Cambridge), the Institut Saint-Serge (Paris), the University of Eastern Finland, and the Theological School of the Church of Cyprus, as well as Iași University and other theological faculties in Romania.

His main research interests focus on the Pauline Epistles and the Johannine writings. He is the author of a monograph adopted as a textbook at the University of Thessaloniki and of numerous studies and articles published in various international academic journals and volumes. He is particularly known for his work on the contemporary Orthodox interpretation of justification by faith in Pauline theology.

Archimandrite Khalil is a member of several theological and ecclesiastical bodies, including the Biblical Federation in Lebanon, the Hellenic Society of Biblical Studies, and the Synodical Committees for the Revision of Liturgical Books and the Modern Translation of the New Testament. He has served as a member of the World Council of Churches (WCC) Central Committee (2013–2022) and the Faith and Order Commission (since 2014), and was President of the Association of Theological Faculties and Institutes in the Middle East (ATIME) from 2022 to 2025.

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V. REV. PROTOPRESBYTER PORPHYRIOS GEORGI

Fr. Porphyrios Georgi is the Professor of Dogmatic theology at the University of Balamand, which he joined as a faculty member in 2006. He is also a visiting professor in several theological faculties in European universities. Professor Georgi holds a PhD degree from the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (Greece). His research in early Christianity, Eastern Theology, and Contemporary Orthodox Thought has been inspired by his interest in interpreting the Orthodox Dogma and Patristic Teachings in a pluralistic, culturally diverse world.

Fr. Porphyrios has served as Dean of the Saint John of Damascus Institute of Theology between 2013 and 2020. He is a well-known productive scholar who has participated in many international conferences on early Christianity, late Byzantine Theology, Inter-Christian Dialogues, Eastern Spirituality, Patristic Theology, and Contemporary Orthodox Thought. He has edited several academic books. His doctoral thesis *The Resurrection and Life: The Eschatology of Saint Gregory Palamas* is adopted as a textbook for the undergraduate courses of Patristic Theology at the University of Thessaloniki from 2010 until our present time. It was also translated to Romanian and published in Sibiu in 2015.

He is the President of the International Association of the Orthodox Dogmatic Theologians since June 2018.

He can be reached at: fr.porphyrios@balamand.edu.lb

DANIEL AYUCH

Dr. Daniel Alberto Ayuch is a Professor of New Testament at the St. John of Damascus Institute of Theology, University of Balamand, where he teaches both undergraduate and graduate courses in New Testament studies. His research employs linguistic and narrative methodologies, with primary interests in the Lucan Diptych, the Synoptic Gospels, and the ancient and modern Arabic translations of the New Testament. He has been a member of the faculty since April 2000. Dr. Ayuch earned his Ph.D. in Theology from the University of Münster (Germany). His dissertation on Lucan social ethics was published in Münster in 1998. He has also presented numerous research papers at international conferences and consultations across the Middle East, Europe, North America, South America, and India.

Dr. Ayuch is a member of several academic and ecclesiastical bodies, including the Orthodox Center for the Advancement of Biblical Studies (OCABS, USA), the Society of Biblical Literature (SBL, USA), the Biblical Federation in Lebanon (FBL), the Argentine Biblical Association (ABA), and the Synodical Committee for a Modern Translation of the New Testament. He has served as a visiting professor at various theological faculties in Lebanon and abroad, including the University of Iași (Romania), the University of Erlangen (Germany), the Catholic University of Santiago (Argentina), the Catholic Coptic Faculty (Cairo), the University of the Holy Spirit, the St. Paul Institute, the Near East School of Theology, and the Antonine University (Lebanon).

Dr. Ayuch has authored numerous book chapters and scholarly articles published in international academic journals. He contributed to the editorial work of *The Pastoral Bible in Arabic* (2011), authored the Spanish-language book *Jesús: Maestro y Redentor*, and wrote the commentaries on the Gospels of Matthew and Mark, as well as on the Acts of the Apostles, for *The Modern Arabic Commentary* (2018).

He can be reached at: Daniel.Ayuch@balamand.edu.lb

SOUAD SLIM

Professor Souad Slim was born in Beirut in 1952. She completed her first Doctorate at the Sorbonne Paris IV in History in 1984, and her second at the University of Birmingham in Islamology in 2000. She currently occupies the positions of Director of the Center of Documentation and History at the Institute of History, Archeology and Near Eastern Studies at the University of Balamand and of Professor of History, Cultural Studies and Methodology at the Faculty of Art and Social Sciences and at the Institute of theology at the University of Balamand from 1988. She was the first to introduce the methodology of Serial and quantitative history to the History of Lebanon and the Near East.

She worked as the publishing supervisor of the Manuscripts and Archives Catalogs related to the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Antioch heritage at the University of Balamand.

Author of three books :

- *Le Méayage et l'Impot au Mont Liban aux XVIII et XIX siècles*. Dar El-Mashreq, 1987 - 1993, Collection: Homme et sociétés du Proche – Orient
- *Balamand, Histoire et Patrimoine*. Dar An-Nahar et Université de Balamand, 1995
- *The Greek Orthodox Waqf in Lebanon during the Ottoman Empire* published in 2007 by the Orient Institute of Beirut.

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MARLÈNE KANAAN

Dr. Marlène KANAAN is a Professor in the Department of Philosophy and Civilization Sequence Program

at the University of Balamand since 1990, where she headed the department of Philosophy and History and coordinated the CVSQ Program for 17 years. She received her BA, MA, and PhD in Lettres - mention Philosophie from the Jesuit Saint-Joseph University in Beirut, which was awarded to her in January 1989. Her PhD dissertation brought together issues in the philosophy of religion and the theology in the works of Georges Bataille which led to many publications in the subject. Starting 1996, Prof. KANAAN pursued a post-doctoral educational training Program in the Intercultural issues at the Université de la Sorbonne Nouvelle – Paris 3 and Toulouse II - Le Mirail, France. Then she started another educational training Program in France under the patronage of the University of Strasbourg- Marc Bloch in the fields of Patristics, Hagiography and Apocryphal Literature. She has taught at several universities and is currently appointed as Professor in the Department of Philosophy at the Faculty of Arts and Science, the St. John of Damascus Institute of Theology, Cultural Studies Program, and The Sheikh Nahyan Center for Arabic Studies and Intercultural Dialogue at the University of Balamand. Prof. KANAAN is internationally renowned for her work and is actively engaged in teaching and advising students in the subjects of her expertise. She published over 75 articles in three languages (Arabic, French and English), numerous studies in European Refereed Journals and Book chapters and participated in over 70 International conferences. Her multiform works reflect her interest in the philosophy of religion, Church Fathers writings, link between Culture, Philosophy and Theology, Hagiography, Apocryphal Christian Literature, and editing of Arabic Christians manuscripts. Prof. KANAAN is active member of five international groups of research working on a wide variety of topics in Philosophy, History of Ideas, and Theology. She is particularly known for her recent book *Le Roman de Barlaam et Joasaph, version arabe chrétienne, Paris, Beauchesne, 2023*. She is currently teaching the following courses: Ancient Greek Philosophy, Medieval and Modern Philosophy, Modern Arab Thought, Contemporary French Philosophy, in addition to various topics in the history of religions. She has supervised MA and PhD's theses and was member of many juries.

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ELIE DANNAOUI

Dr. Elie Dannaoui is a Professor at the Institute of History, Archaeology and Near Eastern Studies (IOHANES) and Director of the Digital Humanities Center at the University of Balamand. He holds a PhD in Eastern Ecclesiastical Studies - History from the Pontifical Oriental Institute in Rome. He achieved postgraduate studies in Computer Sciences at École Nationale Supérieure de Mécanique et d'Aérotechnique (ISAE-ENSMA) - France and a Master's degree in Multimedia Engineering for Education from the University of Poitiers in France.

His research interests focus on Arabic Christian Manuscripts, Arabic Translations of the Gospels, Computational Linguistics for Arabic Language and Digital Cultural Heritage.

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HIS GRACE BISHOP ROMANOS AL HANNAT

His Grace Bishop Romanos Al Hannat is presently an Associate Professor of Church Music. He has been working in the field of music teaching since 1994. In 2003, he received a Diploma in Byzantine Music from the Greek National Conservatoire in Athens, and in 2011, he obtained a PhD in Byzantine Music from the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki. He was the first in the Middle East to obtain a doctorate in Byzantine music, and he remains the only scholar to conduct studies about Byzantine music application in the Arabic language. Bishop Romanos joined the St. John of Damascus Institute of Theology in 2014, and since then he has been teaching in the undergraduate and graduate programs. He has also taken part in numerous musical and non-musical conferences as well as in their preparations. Moreover, Bishop Romanos is a visiting professor at some European universities, teaching students in Bachelor's and Master's programs. At the Institute of Theology,

Bishop Romanos has been the coordinator of the Byzantine Music Program, the only program of its kind in the region's Arabic-speaking universities to date. The academic content of the courses taught by Bishop Romanos is distinguished by a blend of theory and practice, as the practical experience that dates back to 1814 continues to be practical and educational hitherto. Bishop Romanos could transmit this practical application to Bachelor's and Master's students on a university level. In his research, His Grace places special emphasis on the potential of practical application of ecclesiastical music on a larger scale due to its richness and great ease of use, compared to all existing oriental music types.

He can be reached at: romanosshannat@gmail.com

RT. REV. ARCHIMANDRITE PARTHENIOS AL LATY

Born in Christian Valley (Wadi Annasara) in Syria in 1980. The Rt. Rev. Archimandrite Parthenios Al Laty completed a 4-year study of the civil engineering in Albaath University in Homs. Then he studied theology at St. John of Damascus Institute of Theology at the University of Balamand, from 2002 to 2006. In 2006, he moved to Rome and studied the Canon Law in PIO (Oriental Pontifical Institute) and obtained the PhD degree in 2011. He works in the Patriarchal headquarters as assistant in the Patriarchal office. He teaches Canon Law at St. John of Damascus Institute of Theology since 2013.

He can be reached at: Parthenios1@gmail.com

V. REV. PROTOPRESBYTER BASSAM NASSIF

Protopresbyter Fr. Bassam Nassif is Associate Professor of Pastoral Theology at the Saint John of Damascus Institute of Theology, University of Balamand. His research focuses on contemporary pastoral and ethical challenges, emphasizing the integration of modern human sciences into pastoral theology and patristic anthropology. Fr. Nassif holds a Doctor of Ministry in Pastoral Care and a Ph.D. in Theology. His doctoral research examines the ethical and pastoral implications of postmodernity for familial structures and human nature, and their influence on the theology of marriage and anthropology. He teaches courses in pastoral theology and conducts research on a broad range of ethical and anthropological topics. In addition to his teaching and research, Fr. Nassif serves on the editorial boards of several academic journals and pastoral care institutes. His scholarly output includes more than thirty peer-reviewed journal articles, four book chapters, and multiple monographs.

His recent publications include: *The Mystery of Marriage Amid Deconstruction: A Dialogue between Orthodox Anthropology and Postmodern Perspectives* (published in English, Portuguese, Romanian, and Greek), and *On the Confirmation of the Law of Moses, the Gospel, and Orthodoxy: A Treatise by Theodore Abu Qurrah, Bishop of Harran (c. 755–829)*, published in Arabic.

He can be reached at: bassam.nassif@balamand.edu.lb

ELIAS EL HALABI

Elias El Halabi, PhD in Philosophy from Birmingham University - UK. He is the director of the Christian Muslim Studies Center and the Director of the Sheikh Nahyan Center for Arabic Studies and intercultural Dialogue at the University of Balamand in Lebanon. He has participated in international trainings for professionals: on "Peacebuilding" and "Dealing with the Past", conducted by the Geneva Center for Security Policy (GCSP) and Swisspeace, on behalf of the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs. He is a facilitator and expert on interreligious dialogue, conflict prevention and peace building with Common Space

initiative and King Abdullah International Center for Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogues (KAICIID). His is currently Moderator of the World Council of Churches (WCC) Reference Group on Interreligious Dialogue and Cooperation.

His research area focuses on Christian-Muslim relations in modern times as well as revivalist movements in the Arab world. He has published articles on inter-religious and intercultural dialogue, and peace building.

He can be reached at: Elias.Halabi@balamand.edu.lb

VISITING PROFESSORS

The Institute of Theology invites world renowned scholars from international institutions to lecture in their area of expertise for one semester or more. They become engaged in the life of the Institute and participate in its research and academic programs. Their contributions enrich the intellectual experience of the PhD candidates.

His Eminence Metropolitan Kyrillos Katerelos	PhD, Theology, Aristotle University, Thessaloniki, Greece Professor of Canon Law, AUTH
Rt. Rev. 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
V. Rev. Protopresbyter Athanasios Gkikas	PhD, Theology, Aristotle University, Thessaloniki, Greece Professor of Pastoral Theology and Confession, AUTH
V. Rev. Protopresbyter Chrysostomos Nassis	ThD, Aristotle University, Thessaloniki, Greece Assistant Professor of Byzantine Liturgy and Liturgical Sources, AUTH
V. Rev. Protopresbyter Michel Najim	ThD, Patristics, Aristotle University, Thessaloniki, Greece President and Professor of Patristics and Church History, AHOS, USA
V. Rev. 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
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

BIOGRAPHIES

HIS EMINENCE METROPOLITAN KYRILLOS KATERELOS

BISHOP OF KRINI AND EXARCH OF MALTA

His Eminence Metropolitan Kyrillos of Krini pursued studies in Law, Philosophy, and Theology at the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, followed by postgraduate work at the University of Strasbourg. He holds two doctoral degrees: one from the University of Freiburg and another from the School of Theology at the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki. On February 7, 2008, he was elected Bishop of Abydos, and since 2021, he has served as Metropolitan of Krini and Patriarchal Exarch of Melite. He is recognized for his extensive academic contributions and his role as Co-Chair of the Joint International Commission for Theological Dialogue between the Orthodox and Lutheran Churches.

He can be reached at: katerelos_kyrillos@yahoo.com

RT. REV. ARCHIMANDRITE CALINIC BERGER

The Rt. Rev. Archimandrite Calinic (Berger) is currently the Archiepiscopal Vicar for the Diocese of Wichita and Mid-America. He has served as visiting professor of dogmatic theology at St Vladimir's Seminary in New York (2006), and as the adjunct professor of dogmatic theology at Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology (2019-2024-). He is a graduate of Santa Clara University in California (B.S. Electrical Engineering, 1988), Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology (MTS, 1994), and the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. (PhD, Historical Theology, 2003), where his dissertation examined the gnoseology of St Dumitru Stăniloae. He most recent publications and research interests focus on Orthodox Christology.

He can be reached at: revcalinic@yahoo.com

V. REV. PROTOPRESBYTER ATHANASIOS GKIKAS

Rev. Athanasios Gkikas is a Professor of Pastoral Theology and Confession at the Department of Social Theology and Christian Culture and serves as the Dean of the Faculty of Theology at the Aristotle University

of Thessaloniki. He has authored studies in Pastoral Theology that address contemporary social issues and their approach, teaching Theology students both theoretically and practically in their preparation for their mission in the modern world.

He can be reached at: agikas@past.auth.gr

V. REV. PROTOPRESBYTER CHRYSOSTOMOS NASSIS

V. Rev. Dr. Chrysostomos Nassis has a B.A. in Religious Studies from Hellenic College (class of '95), an M.Div. from Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology (class of '98), and a Th.D. from Aristotle University of Thessaloniki's Faculty of Theology (2006). He is currently a tenured Assistant Professor of Byzantine Liturgy and Liturgical Sources at the School of Social Theology and Christian Culture of the Faculty of Theology at Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, where he also directs the School's Laboratory for Liturgical Studies. He has also served as a visiting professor at the St. John of Damascus Institute of Theology of Balamand University in Tripoli, Lebanon, and the Supreme Ecclesiastical Academy in Thessaloniki.

Fr. Chrysostomos has published extensively in his field and has attended numerous academic conferences in Greece and abroad. He is a member of the Society for the Law of the Eastern Churches, the Society for Oriental Liturgy, and the International Orthodox Theological Association. He has served the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople (1998 - 2000) as a Writer-Translator of the Office of the Chief Secretary, the Deputy Coordinator of the Patriarchate's Environmental Initiatives, and the International Dignitaries and Diplomatic Corps Liaison. When called upon, he continues to represent the Ecumenical Patriarchate in various academic, ecclesiastical, and ecumenical settings. Finally, Fr. Chrysostomos serves the Church of St. Anthony, which is a dependency of the Monastery of St. Theodora of the Holy Metropolis of Thessaloniki.

He can be reached at: nassis@past.auth.gr

V. REV. PROTOPRESBYTER MICHEL NAJIM

The Very Rev. Dr. Michel Elias Najim is the President of AHOS, tenure Professor of Patristics and Church History at AHOS, Professor of Christian Ethics at PTS/AHOS, and Director of Saint Maximus the Confessor, former Dean of St. Nicholas Cathedral in Los Angeles, CA. Fr. Michel was born and raised in Beirut, Lebanon, and joined Balamand Ecclesiastical School in 1962 under the tutelage of Patriarch Ignatius IV and graduated from St. John of Damascus Institute of Theology in 1974. He obtained his MTh (1976), and his doctoral degree in theology (1985) from the University of Thessaloniki, where he studied under Fr. John Romanides and Prof. Nikos Matsoukas, while serving as Dean of the School of Theology in Balamand. After moving to the USA with his family, he worked with the newly converted Evangelical Orthodox at St. Athanasius Academy, from 1987 to 1996. Under his tutelage, AHOS became an accredited school in USA and Canada. Unassuming in his demeanor, Fr. Michel is a bearer of authentic Antiochian heritage, a deeply dedicated churchman and scholar. He is personally acquainted with many spiritual and ecclesiastical figures. Throughout his ministry, Fr. Michel has taught thousands of clergy including hierarchs, lay theologians and professors.

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V. REV. PROTOPRESBYTER NIKOLAOS LOUDOVIKOS

Fr. Nikolaos Loudovikos studied Psychology, Pedagogy, Philosophy, Theology and History of Religions at the Universities of Athens, Thessaloniki, Paris (Sorbonne 4, Institut Catholique de Paris) and Cambridge. He was a former Professor of Dogmatics and Philosophy at the University Ecclesiastical Academy of Thessaloniki,

and a Professor of Dogmatics at the University Ecclesiastical Academy of Athens. He was recently appointed Professor of Religious Studies and Philosophy of Religion at the University of Ioannina. He is also a founding member and a Visiting Professor at the Institute for Orthodox Christian Studies in Cambridge and at the Univ. of Balamand. He taught or gave lectures at more than 25 Universities around the world. He is the author of twenty books and numerous articles translated in ten languages. His last book in English: *Analogical Identities: The Creation of the Christian Self. Beyond Spirituality and Mysticism in the Patristic Era* (Brepols 2019); the second volume of this work, was published by Brepols, in 2024.

He can be reached at: nloudovikos@aeath.gr

MARIA ALEXANDRU

Maria Alexandru (born in Bucharest) studied Music Education, Musicology, Byzantine Studies and Latin in Bucharest, Bonn, Copenhagen (PhD, 2000), and Greece (Byzantine chant, post-doc and kanonaki courses). She got scholarships from the Studienstiftung des Deutschen Volkes, and the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation. Since 2002 she is teaching Byzantine Music at the School for Music Studies of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (today as a professor and, between 1.9.2022-31.8.2025- also head of the Department). She participated in more than 100 congresses and gave conferences and masterclasses in different countries, and wrote 5 books and more than 70 articles. She leads the study groups and ensembles “Chrysorrhemon” and “Psaltira” from the School of Music Studies of the A.U.Th., as well as the female Byzantine Choir “St Anysia” of the Greek Society for Music Education. She is a member of the International Musicological Society and other musical associations, member of the Editorial Board of *Monumenta Musicae Byzantinae* and of the e-journal *Series Musicologica Balcanica*, as well as chair of the IMS-Study Group for Music of the Christian East and Orient. For her work she got various distinctions.

She can be reached at: malexand@mus.auth.gr

CHRISTOS ARABATZIS

Christos Arabatzis is the professor of Patristics at the Theology Department of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki. He studied at the Aristotle University, the Catholic School of Fribourg, Switzerland and the Theological School of Bochum, Germany. He teaches Ecclesiastical Literature, Patristic Theology, and Interpretation of Patristic Texts.

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KONSTANTIN BELEZOS

Konstantin Belezos is a Greek-Orthodox New Testament Professor at the Faculty of Theology of the School of Theology, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens. Born in Chicago, IL, USA (1965) and raised in Greece, he studied at the Universities of Athens, Regensburg, Tübingen and Besançon and was acclaimed Doctor of Theology with the doctoral Thesis: *The Interpretation of Oikoumenios on the Revelation of St. John* (Historical and exegetical approach). Athens 1997. He taught Religion for the secondary school education and since 1999 he serves in the Higher Educational System in Greece, working at the Department of Biblical Studies, Faculty of Theology of the School of Theology, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens. He teaches: Introduction to the Bible and NT Exegesis, Bible Hermeneutics and Didactics, Exegetical Methodology, Theology of Gender and Theology of Environment. He is specialized in John's Revelation and Paul, Patristic Exegesis, Ecotheology and the Reception of the Bible in the modern Literature and Philosophy.

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DANIEL BENJAMIN HINSHAW

Daniel B. Hinshaw, MD, is professor emeritus of surgery and consultant in palliative medicine at the University of Michigan. He has taught palliative care to medical professionals and clergy in multiple international settings. In addition to many scientific articles and chapters, he is the author of several books: *Suffering and the Nature of Healing* (2013), *Touch and the Healing of the World* (2017), *Thriving in the Face of Mortality: Kenosis and the Mystery of Life* (2023), and *Journey to Simplicity: The Life and Wisdom of Archimandrite Roman Braga* (2024).

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IOANNA KOMNINOU

Dr. Ioanna Komninou is an Assistant Professor at the Department of Social Theology and the Study of Religion, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens (NKUA). Her teaching and research focus on Religious Education, Christian Pedagogy, and Educational Technology. She is the founder of the Laboratory of Pedagogical Research and Applications in Religious Education and has contributed extensively to teacher education, curriculum development, and innovative practices that connect faith, learning, and digital culture.

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DIMITRIOS MOSCHOS

Dimitrios Moschos studied Theology at the Department of Theology of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Greece (BA, 1986) and Byzantine Studies at the University of Munich, Germany (MA, 1994). In 1996, he earned his PH.D. by the Department of Theology of Athens and 2007 his DOCTOR HABILITATUS (Post-doctorate Degree) in Church History by the Theological Faculty of University of Rostock/Germany.

After having served as Religious Education teacher in Secondary Education, he is Faculty member (since 2021 Full Professor) at the Department of Theology of NKUA in Church History.

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ATHANASIOS PAPARNAKIS

Athanasios Paparnakis is a Professor in the School of Social Theology and Christian Culture, Faculty of Theology of Aristotle University of Thessaloniki since 2001. He is also a visiting professor of the Theological School of the Church of Cyprus and of the Theological School “St. Athanasius the Athonite” of the University of Kinsasa, Rep. of Kongo. He works on the Interpretation of the Old Testament, Biblical Theology, Patristic exegesis and Applications of Information technologies in theological research.

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EVANGELOS D. PROTOPAPADAKIS

Evangelos D. Protopapadakis is a Professor of Applied Ethics (the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens); Director of the NKUA Applied Philosophy Research Laboratory; President of the Ethics and Deontology Committee of the National Center for Scientific Research “Democritos”; Member of the Hellenic National Commission for Bioethics and Technoethics; Head of the Greek Unit of the International Chair in Bioethics (WMA Cooperation Center), Director of the MA Program Animal Welfare, Ethics and the Law, Member of the Pan-Orthodox Committee of Bioethics of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in Constantinople, Member of the Greek National Authority of Assisted Reproduction, and Member of the Bioethics Committee of the Hellenic Pasteur Institute. He has published 4 books in Greek and 2 in English as the single author, as well as 12 edited volumes as the editor or the co-editor: 5 in English, 1 in Serbian and 6 in Greek. He has published more than 100 papers in national and international scientific journals and volumes. He is a member of several national and international philosophical societies; he is also the Editor-in-Chief of *Conatus – Journal of Philosophy*.

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NIKOLAOS XIONIS

Nikolaos Xionis is Professor of Dogmatic and Symbolic Theology at the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens. He studied systematic theology in Greece (Thessalonica A.U.Th) and Germany (Sankt Georgen Academy, Frankfurt). His research focuses on the dogmatic teaching of the Orthodox Church, patristic tradition and dialogue with western theological and philosophical thought. He has published extensively in these fields and has participated in numerous international conferences. Professor Xionis also serves as a visiting professor in several theological institutions abroad.

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ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

1. Applicants to the PhD Program at the Institute of Theology must hold the Lebanese General Secondary Certificate, or its equivalent.
2. Applicants must be holders of a Master of Theology degree (MTh; ThM) from an Orthodox institution of higher education with an overall graduation average of 80, or its equivalent.
3. Applicants who hold a Master of Theology degree (MTh; ThM) from a non-Orthodox institution of higher education may need to take bridging courses according to the assessment of the DAC (Doctoral Academic Committee).
4. Applicants who hold a DMin degree from an Orthodox institution of higher education are admitted in a shorter academic program according to the assessment of the DAC.
5. Applicants who hold a DMin degree from a non-Orthodox institution of higher education are admitted in a shorter academic program in addition to bridging courses in Eastern Christian Theology.
6. Applicants who hold a graduate degree in a related field (MA; PhD; Doctoral degree) will have to take bridging courses according to the assessment of the DAC.
7. Applicants must show a good knowledge in at least one ancient language, which shall be defined by the DAC based on their field of study and dissertation project.
8. Applicants must demonstrate an adequate knowledge of English (TOEFEL 527 for non-native English speakers), as well as an evidence of proficiency in one additional modern language.
9. Applicants for the PhD Program are required to file a full application form and provide all the following

documents:

- A photocopy of their identity card or passport.
- Three recent passport-size photographs.
- A certified copy of their Lebanese General Secondary Certificate, or its equivalent.
- Certified copies of their Diplomas and transcripts.
- A reference letter from their Church Authority.
- A detailed project of their study (according to the dissertation proposal form provided in the application).
- Two recommendation letters by faculty members, who are acquainted with the applicant, sent in sealed envelopes (forms enclosed).
- A personal statement expressing their career goals and career objectives in seeking the PhD.
- An application Fee of 100 USD.
- Evidence of proficiency in English language (for non-native English speakers), a minimum of 527 on the paper based TOEFL or 100 on the internet based TOEFL.
- Evidence of proficiency in a modern language (other than English).
- Evidence of proficiency in an ancient language.

* The application must be submitted to the Institute of Theology before the announced deadline. Incomplete or incorrect applications cannot be considered by the Committee.

* All submitted documents for admission are the property of the University and may not be reclaimed by the applicant.

* The application is valid only for the academic year to which the student is applying. He/She must submit a new application to be considered for a semester which falls in another academic year.

* Applicants will be called for an interview with the DAC. This process may be done through video-conferencing.

* The DAC reports its recommendation to the Institute Council, who decides upon the application and communicates the decision by personal notification.

THE STUDY TRACK

THE CURRICULUM

The PhD study track is oriented towards scholarship and research. It is a 3 year curriculum and may be extended to 5 years. During the first year, the student participates in 4 seminars and submits a detailed dissertation proposal. In the second year, the candidate follows two tutorials and begins with the redaction of the dissertation. The third year is entirely dedicated to the redaction of the dissertation.

RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. The PhD Program is equivalent in length to three years of study.
2. All candidates are required to complete course work (12 credits seminars – 6 credits tutorials) in the first two years.
3. Candidates for the PhD degree shall satisfactorily complete work amounting to 42 credits distributed as follows:
 - 12 credits in four offered seminars in different theological disciplines
 - 6 credits in two tutorials focusing on the topic of the dissertation
 - 24 credits for the dissertation
4. The academic year is made up of two semesters.
5. The PhD candidate must meet the standards for academic progress, defined as:
 - Having a cumulative grade point average of at least B (80/100) in the Program

- Minimum passing grade B- (75/100) in all courses
- Not exceeding maximum absence (10%)
- Continuous effort in research

6. 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

DISSERTATION CONCEPT

1. DESCRIPTION

The doctoral dissertation is an unpublished academic work, culminating years of post-graduate, guided, independent and personal original research. The results must be supported by critical study and theoretical arguments obtained with scientific methods. A dissertation must have the general purposes:

- To generate scholarly valid and reliable conclusions
- To provide advancement in knowledge in the field of specialization

The PhD candidate needs to defend successfully his/her doctoral dissertation to receive his/her PhD degree.

2. APPROVAL OF DETAILED PROPOSAL

By the end of the first year, the PhD candidate submits a detailed dissertation proposal, related to the faculty's active research areas. The description of the academic content of the PhD project should include: topic definition, hypothesis, methods of research, literature review, any empirical research planned, bibliography, etc.

3. SUPERVISION

a) APPOINTMENT OF SUPERVISOR:

Upon considering the Application for Admission and the Dissertation Proposal, the Academic Committee recommends to the Dean a Professor to supervise the PhD project. The Dean considers the recommendation for approval. The supervisor should be a recognized researcher in the relevant research area and a member of the UOB faculty at the level of Full Professor or Associate Professor.

b) SUPERVISOR'S RESPONSIBILITIES:

The supervisor has overall responsibilities to mentor the progress of the PhD candidate's research project and the writing of the PhD dissertation with a view to ensuring completion as required. The supervisor shall prepare a PhD plan at the start of the project together with the candidate.

He shall:

- Evaluate the progress of the PhD candidate in his research project and report on this in semiannual evaluations.

- Support the PhD candidate in developing necessary contacts and in working actively in the world of research.
- Provide supervision regularly, read and discuss the candidate's work, and suggest needed corrections in the research and the writing process.
- Guide the PhD candidate in his efforts to publish research results in the course of the PhD Program.

c) *THE PhD CANDIDATE'S RESPONSIBILITIES:*

- Keeping his/her supervisor informed of the progress in his research, including:
 - All relevant information concerning the progress of the PhD Program and work on the dissertation.
 - All the drafts of the gradual phases in writing the dissertation.
 - All important research results.
 - The process of the editing of the final text of the dissertation.
 - Drafts of any publication during the PhD study period.
- Applying all corrections requested by his/her supervisor.
- Participating actively in academic conferences and workshops during the period of his/her doctoral study.

d) *SEMI-ANNUAL EVALUATIONS:*

Every six months, the supervisor provides the Dean, as director of the PhD Program, with an evaluation of the candidate's academic progress and research. Based on the evaluation, the Dean decides whether the candidate's academic progress and research are satisfactory or not.

The PhD candidate who fails to secure an approval of his/her detailed dissertation proposal, within the 3 semesters that follow his/her enrollment, is placed on academic probation.

e) *THE DISSERTATION COMMITTEE:*

The two readers must be professors or associate professors from the main field of specialization at UOB. The task of the Committee is to read the dissertation final draft and provide feedback including remarks and required amendments before the submission to defense.

f) *CHANGE OF SUPERVISOR:*

The supervisor may be changed in the course of a PhD Program, or co-supervisors may be appointed. A request for a change of supervisor may come from the PhD candidate or from the supervisor, or may be initiated by the Dean.

4. THE FORMAT OF THE PhD DISSERTATION

Candidates must follow the *PhD Dissertation Guide and Style Manual* issued by the Central Library at UOB .

5. THE ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE

a) *APPOINTMENT OF THE COMMITTEE*

Upon completion of the PhD dissertation, the candidate submits by hand to the Dean seven copies of the manuscript and applies in writing for the dissertation defense. The Dean approves the candidate's application, appoints the Assessment Committee members and designates the committee chairperson.

b) *COMPOSITION:*

The Assessment Committee consists of at least 5 members: the supervisor, the members of the dissertation committee, including a professor or an associate professor from another university. The Dissertation Supervisor may not chair the assessment committee.

c) **TASKS:**

The Assessment Committee is in charge of reading and examining the final text of the dissertation. Members of the Assessment Committee receive a hard copy of the dissertation sent by the Dean. They shall:

- Submit a written Report on the Dissertation to the Dean two months after they receive the manuscript. All reports shall be available at the Office of the Dean before the public announcement of the defense session.
- Attend the defense session personally and present their evaluation orally during the session.
- Participate in the writing of the Report on the Defense session.
- Deliberate and agree on a grading mark for the dissertation.

The Program Director is responsible for ensuring the examination procedures: submission of copies to the assessment committee, communicating the date of defense, coordination of the session and submission of all needed reports and documents.

d) **DEFENSE:**

The PhD candidate defends the dissertation before the assessment committee according to the following procedures:

- The date for the defense session is set by the Dean.
- The physical presence of the candidate at the defense is required.
- The defense is open to the public.
- The Dissertation is graded with a pass/fail assessment.
- The chairperson writes down the session report.
- The final session report is signed by all members present in the defense.

6. AWARD OF THE PhD

The PhD degree is the highest academic degree awarded at the Institute of Theology to candidates who have successfully completed the required coursework with a general average of 80 and above, participated in at least two international conferences, published at least one article in a peer-reviewed academic journal, defended a doctoral dissertation, and submitted it by hand to the Library after making the requested amendments.

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

- Certificates of participation in at least two national or international conferences.
- A copy of their publication in a peer-reviewed academic journal.
- A copy of the Dissertation after the final amendments, signed by the five members of the Assessment Committee.
- A Library receipt of the Dissertation.

After reviewing the above-mentioned documents, the Dean of the Institute of Theology approves the award of PhD to the Candidate. The University of Balamand solemnly awards the degree of PhD.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

THEO 610 INTERTEXTUALITY IN ACTS

Credits: 3

One of the most relevant issues in the history of Biblical interpretation is the use of the Old Testament by the New Testament authors. Lately, several theories of literary intertextuality have given way to revisit this question with new methods and procedures. Early in the 70' and 80', scholars like Julia Kristeva and Roland Barthes affirmed that every text is intertextual as they are in debt to the former written treasure, even if authors did not quote them explicitly. Later in the 90', Gérard Genette developed a theory of intertextuality that helped and helps biblical scholars to deal methodologically with this significant topic.

The present seminar works on the second volume of the Lucan Diptych, a text that bases its contents in the prophecies and narratives of the Old Testament, particularly as rendered in the Septuagint version. During the sessions and the research work, students learn to use this methodology to extend their knowledge on the Book of Acts and rediscover the treasures of its theological approach to the first decades of the Christian Kerygma's expansion in the Greek-Roman world.

THEO 611 THE NEW TESTAMENT ARABIC TEXT IN ANTIOCHIAN MANUSCRIPTS

Credits: 3

The Antiochian manuscript collections cover a wide range of New Testament translations into Arabic. The first part of this seminar introduces participants into the time, types, categories and families of N.T. Arabic Manuscripts, as well as into a history of research on this issue. In the second part of the seminar, students work on the questions of the Greek Source and on the importance of lectionaries and whole New Testament publications in the Ottoman time. This seminar aims to encourage students to write their PhD dissertation in this field.

THEO 612 BIBLICAL APOCRYPHA AND PSEUDOEPIGRAPHA IN EASTERN ORTHODOXY

Credits: 3

The books considered by scholars as Biblical Apocrypha and Pseudoepigrapha have played an important role in the genesis of liturgical texts and celebrations, as some of them belong to the canon of the Orthodox Old Testament. In this seminar, students work on the interpretation of some relevant texts and analyze the intensity and importance of their presence in liturgy. Special focus is given to the Arabic manuscripts available in the region.

THEO 613 THE DEBATE ABOUT THE GENUINENESS OF SOME PAULINE LETTERS

Credits: 3

This course presents the arguments and the counter arguments about the genuineness of the following Pauline Letters: Ephesians, Colossians, 2 Thessalonians, 1 & 2 Timothy, Titus, and Hebrews. 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 the fact that the consequences extend beyond the historical information to touch two theological levels:

1. Accepting the teaching in these Letters as normative in studying the thought and style of St Paul;
2. Taking into consideration the content of these Letters in defining Christian tenets.

The issue of genuineness of the above-mentioned New Testament Letters 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. The revision of this position tickles the interest in investigating the positions of the Church Fathers and Writers, as well as of Eastern exegetes in modern time, on the genuineness of these Letters.

THEO 614 THE NEW PERSPECTIVE ON PAUL QUESTIONED

Credits: 3

The epithet “the New Perspective” on Paul, or rather “New Perspectives” - as it is often noted that the singular title gives an unjustified impression of unity - designates a field of study in which many scholars are actively pursuing research and continuously revising their own theories, holding in common the belief that the historic perspectives of Paul the Apostle and Judaism are fundamentally incorrect. “The validity of the Sinaitic Law”, “human effort and good works”, “Pistis Christou”, “Grace”, “the atonement”, are some central issues discussed by the “New Perspective”.

This course investigates the positions of the scholars who embraced the “New Perspective” on Paul, and discusses them exegetically, comparing them to the “Patristic and modern Orthodox perspective”, as well as to the “Old Perspective” (Lutheran and Reformed”), in order to draw conclusions on the validity of the various interpretations.

THEO 615 ANALYZING THE USE OF VERBS IN ARABIC GOSPEL TRANSLATIONS

Credits: 3

In this course, the PhD candidate researches the use of the passive verb form in the Greek New Testament. The participant shall consult grammatical and linguistic studies and articles related to this issue and then do a parallel research work related to Modern Arabic. The purpose of this course is to compare the grammatical and style differences in both languages and to develop a theory of translation for this particular type of verbal use. Throughout this course, special consideration will be given to the history of translating the Gospels into Arabic.

THEO 620 MODERN TRENDS IN OLD TESTAMENT HERMENEUTICS

Credits: 3

No other area of biblical studies is changing as rapidly as hermeneutics. With the addition of studies based on rhetorical, literary-structural, semiotic, social, scientific, and special interest approaches, it is impossible to keep up with the literature in this field. This course attempts to offer students an introduction as well as assessment of Old Testament hermeneutical methods which prevailed in modern times until today, starting with the diachronic, or the so-called atomist school, and covering later developments such as the literary approaches embodied in rhetorical, narrative and redaction criticism as well as in intertextual, discourse and linguistic/semiotic analysis. Other modern analytical tools such as the social scientific and the reader response tool are also analyzed and assessed. This course is given as a seminar. Students have to learn and apply these methods on selected texts of the Old Testament with the view of enabling them to evaluate the validity and the relevance of each of them for their exegetical work.

THEO 621 THE OLD TESTAMENT IN THE MODERN MIDDLE EASTERN CONTEXT

Credits: 3

There is no doubt that the Old Testament has a central position in the discussions revolving around the turmoil caused by the rise of the State of Israel in the middle of the twentieth century. Ideologies either supporting or rejecting this political event have expressed themselves in a way or another vis-à-vis the Old Testament. Western approaches (ranging from moderate to extremist views) supporting the “right of the Jews” in having Palestine as their homeland, have read Old Testament texts in such a way that this right may be legitimized. On the opposite side, one observes various aspects of Marcionism in Middle Eastern Christian circles, which can be explained as a reaction to the first position. This seminar discusses these views, their history and application and how they affected the use of the Old Testament as well as how it is viewed in the Middle East. The study is based on representative texts from different authors.

THEO 630 DEIFICATION IN THE EASTERN CHRISTIAN TRADITION

Credits: 3

The seminar is an analytical attempt to explore and survey the religious, social and cultural components which contributed to the evolution of the concept of *theosis* throughout the history of Eastern Christian Theology. It examines primary sources, whether historical or patristic, and focuses on the making of terminology and the

theological language related to this issue. The seminar also treats the major trends of reception of the concept of deification in the contemporary Orthodox theological context underlining its crucial role in the articulation of the Orthodox identity of Theology and Orthodox witness in the modern world, as well as its diachronic influence on the ethos of Eastern Theology as reflected in sacred art, liturgical forms and religious sensitivity in general.

THEO 631 MAJOR TRENDS AND FIGURES IN CONTEMPORARY ORTHODOX THEOLOGY

Credits: 3

The seminar sheds light on the major centers of theological production in the contemporary Orthodox world and the circumstances of their creation and growth. It is an appraisal of the contribution of the theological schools and trends, as well as the prominent personalities, which contributed to the expression of Orthodox theology since the second half of the nineteenth century. It addresses the historical, cultural and socio-political backgrounds which shaped contemporary theological patterns and concentrates on the theological works and the scholarly efforts which engaged in the task of analyzing and criticizing the history of theological thought of this period. The seminar also analyzes the main problems and challenges in addition to the major intellectual theological topics which directed the dynamism of theological thinking and writing in the age of modernity.

THEO 632 THE PATRISTIC ANTHROPOLOGY OF FR. JOHN ROMANIDES

Credits: 3

This seminar explores the theological thought of Fr. John Romanides, with a particular emphasis placed on themes in his writings related to Christian anthropology. Special attention is given to the biblical and patristic basis of his work on creation, the fall of man, and salvation in Christ—topics that opened a unique door for Orthodox theology in the 20th century, changing the focus and direction of theological thinking and teaching in the post-WWII era. The seminar also examines Fr. Romanides' contributions toward reviving patristic theology in our times.

THEO 633 DEBATES ON THE NATURE AND THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH IN THE 20TH AND 21ST CENTURIES

Credits: 3

The richness of the contribution of Eastern Christian theologians in the nineteenth century and in the decades preceding the Second Vatican Council as well as their role in the foundation of the World Council of Churches led to a remarkable affluence in ecclesiological studies in Orthodox theological circles and in Ecumenical dialogues. This seminar aims at analyzing the dynamics of ecclesiological thought during the course of the 20th century and in the dawn of our 21st century.

THEO 634 THE CONTRIBUTION OF THE CHURCH OF ANTIOCH TO CONTEMPORARY ECUMENICAL DIALOGUES

Credits: 3

The active role of the Antiochian church in bilateral and multilateral dialogues between Christians in the 20th and the 21st centuries as well as her presence in numerous ecumenical encounters, podiums and councils have been a genuine expression of the Antiochian belief in dialogue as a method of rapprochement. This seminar sheds light on the contribution of the church of Antioch in Ecumenical dialogues and tries to evaluate the strategies, the methods and the outcomes of this commitment.

THEO 635 HESYCHASM AND THE HERMENEUTICS OF CHRISTIAN DOCTRINE

Credits: 3

Hesychasm, the renaissance in Eastern Christian spirituality and theology one century before the great captivity of Constantinople expressed in rich literary, artistic and liturgical production as well as in the flourishing of monasticism, in addition to the hesychastic controversy and its influence on the future of Christian theology, paved the way to enormous historical and theological questions which still need consideration. The Seminar attempts to assess the role of Hesychasm, as a hermeneutical method, in shaping and orienting the articulation of Eastern Christian Dogmatology.

THEO 640 ORTHODOX CHURCHES DURING THE OTTOMAN PERIOD

Credits: 3

This seminar helps Post Graduate Students – PhD candidates – to analyze the situation of the *Roum* Orthodox communities under the Ottoman millet system as a persecuted community or a privileged community. What was supposed to be the apocalyptic end of the world had witnessed an important demographical progress of *Roum* Orthodox population. During four hundred years, the *Roum* Orthodox lived what is so called as the “Greek Enlightenment Century”. Through some of the Antiochian manuscripts, students analyze the different cultural currents of this era.

This course investigates the relations between the four historical patriarchates and studies their relations with other churches such as Russia, Georgia and Romania.

The students learn through reviewing diplomatic reports about the Russian protection and its limits, and through archives about the impact of Ottoman Reforms and their influence on the lay councils on the life of the Church.

THEO 641 THE CONTEMPORARY SITUATION OF THE ORTHODOX CHURCH IN THE WORLD

Credits: 3

This seminar studies the different situations of Orthodox communities during the twentieth century and analyzes the different positive and negative issues experienced by the different churches such as:

- Persecution through forbidding religion in Russia and population transfer in Cilicia and Anatolia.
- Relations between Churches and states: Greece and Russia.
- Interaction between national identity and religious denominations: Serbia, Russia.
- Christian Ecumenism and interfaith dialogue.
- The role of Orthodox Diaspora in the elaboration of a new theology: France, U.S.A. and others.
- Internal problems and conflicts.
- Survival and Renewal.

Through those different cases, students learn how to cope with challenges of entering in modernity and preserving Tradition by emphasizing the Antiochian experience. They also learn from the behavior of the Church during economic and political crises.

THEO 642 CHRISTIAN MUSLIM DIALOGUE DURING THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE

Credits: 3

The course is an analysis of the impact of Ottoman institutions, e.g. Janissaries, Timar on Christian communities. Controversial Ottoman reforms, e.g. Capitulations, Tanzimat, regarded, by Muslims, as favorable to Christians, resulting in the deterioration of good neighborhood. The end of this period and the collapse of the empire led to discriminations and massacres against Christians.

Concepts such as Ra’aya, Miri, Citizenship, Badal askariyah ... are also studied.

THEO 643 CHRISTIAN MUSLIM RELATION DURING THE CLASSICAL PERIOD

Credits: 3

This course is a survey of Christian-Muslim relations during the different Islamic dynasties and analysis of the impact of external relations with e.g. Byzantines, Mongols, on the demographical and social situations of Christians, from their participation in political and cultural life during the Arabic golden ages to their marginalization after the Crusaders wars.

Topics also include the study of related issues, e.g. Ahl al Kitab, Ahl al dhimmat, Kharaj, Giziya, separate living quarters.

THEO 644 READING AND EDITING MANUSCRIPTS ARCHIVES AND INSCRIPTIONS

Credits: 3

The course aims at initiating students to read different scriptures and to learn methodologies of cataloguing

manuscripts, archiving documents and analyzing inscriptions.

Measures for editing ancient documents, understanding ancient texts and vocabulary, historical and geographical background, would be essential to make those ancient manuscripts well known by scholars.

THEO 645 THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN ANTIOCHIAN AND EASTERN ORTHODOX CHURCHES **Credits: 3**

This course aims at identifying, documenting and analyzing the key characteristics of the relationship between the Antiochian Orthodox Church and the other Eastern Orthodox Churches. It adopts a hybrid approach with thematic and chronological features. The mutual contributions to different facets of Church life are given specific consideration.

THEO 650 THE MYSTERY OF SALVATION IN ANTIOCHIAN LITERATURE **Credits: 3**

The Antiochian School of Exegesis paved the way to the flourishing of a peculiar Antiochian Christological teaching with many repercussions on Soteriology. Antiochian Soteriology is characterized by a specific affirmation of the reality of divine Incarnation, of the complementarity of the human nature assumed by the Logos of God, the meaning of the presence of Christ in human history and the eschatological consequences of these teachings. These specificities render the textual analysis of the Antiochian Soteriology an insightful aim of this seminar.

THEO 651 CHURCH FATHERS AND POLITICAL AUTHORITY **Credits: 3**

In the times of persecution, when early Christian writings contrasted the Reign of God with the Reign of Caesar, the answer was martyrdom. But after the Edict of Milan and the Christianization of the Roman Empire by Constantine the Great and his successors, the divine authority of political rulers as well as the tendency of some hierarchs to reclaim authority in secular matters led many church Fathers to devote writings to confront problematic positions related to issues of authority. The seminar surveys patristic literature on the relation between the church and political authority drawing important conclusions useful for the present needs of churches in contemporary society.

THEO 652 THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD IN EASTERN PATRISTIC THOUGHT **Credits: 3**

The relation between secular knowledge and divine knowledge has been a crucial problem facing Christian theology since the attempts of Saint Paul and the Apostolic and Apologetic Church Fathers. Origen in his defense of Christian faith *Against Celsius*, Saint Irenaeus of Lyon, as well as the Cappadocian Fathers confronting Eunomius, have set the premises for the specific Eastern patristic approach to this thorny issue. The seminar explores the course of thought in Eastern Christianity until our present day, with an enriching comparison with Scholasticism which became the landmark in Western Christendom.

THEO 653 PRAYER IN EASTERN PATRISTIC SPIRITUALITY **Credits: 3**

The rich corpus of literature dealing with the meaning and methods of prayer and its aims and fruits grant Eastern Christianity a peculiar spiritual sense and orientation throughout the many centuries of its turbulent history. This seminar attempts to survey the different trends of prayer in Eastern Christianity and their synthesis articulated in the well-known recension of Nikodemos the Athonite and Makarios Bishop of Corinth, i.e. The Philokalia, as well as their reception in contemporary Eastern monasticism and the life of the Church at large.

THEO 663 HISTORY OF THE ANTIOCHIAN CHURCH UNDER THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE **Credits: 3**

Students analyze the situation of the Greek Orthodox of Antioch in the first two centuries where new structures were imposed. In spite of their difficulties, they succeeded to be an elite in the main cities of the Syrian

Provinces. As main traders and well educated, they served as secretaries, treasurers and main farmers of taxes for the governors.

During the last two centuries, the church had to face the schism of the Uniates Greek Catholic and the proselytism of the Protestant and Catholic missions. The reforms of the Ottoman Empire introduce a new era of equality between Muslims and Christians as Ottoman citizens. The reforms which introduced lay councils in the administration of the church and the Russian schools bring the Antiochian Orthodox to arabize their church by electing an Arab patriarch.

THEO 680 ETHICAL APPROACHES TO MARRIAGE AND FAMILY ISSUES

Credits: 3

This course will explore recent scholarship in the theology of marriage and postmodern thought, bringing theology into conversation with postmodern scientific challenges. Students will read essential theological documents on ethical issues related to marriage. Among the questions we will explore: what temporalities are embedded within various theological texts and rendered problematic by contemporary challenges of richly diverse cultures? How can we critically evaluate these documents in light of postmodern debates on family-related ethical issues? How might we get at the issues that these postmodern concepts raised for theologians? What could be the approaches of Christian theology on bioethical dilemmas, its positions on contemporary social issues, its teaching on human relationships, and the meaning it gives to life and death? The course will provide an opportunity for students to bring these questions to bear on their own academic and pastoral work, while examining the depth of the connection between faith and life.

THEO 681 PRIESTHOOD AND CHALLENGES IN SPIRITUAL DIRECTION

Credits: 3

This course aims to provide students with a framework for understanding difficult issues related to spiritual direction of lives of Christians confronted in the practice of Priesthood. It focuses on contemporary challenges in the sacraments of the priesthood, especially related to confession and spiritual guidance. The course will be divided into three parts: Part I will read early patristic texts on the priesthood written by Ambrose of Milan, Gregory the Theologian, John Chrysostom, Basil the Great, and Gregory the Great. Students will identify important persons, events, and schools of thought that contributed to the formation of early priesthood models and methods of spiritual direction. Part II will turn to canonical and pastoral issues challenging the work of priesthood throughout history and the large variety that exists in the practice of confession. Part III discusses how the ministry of priesthood and the practice of confession can be approached in our modern world.

THEO 697 MODERN AND POSTMODERN PHILOSOPHY

Credits: 3

This doctoral seminar aims to read and discuss several modern and postmodern philosophical texts. Because Postmodernism is a reaction to and rejection of certain tendencies of Modernity, the seminar starts with an overview of selected texts dealing with early modern rationalists and empiricists (Descartes, Hume, Kant, Hegel, etc.). In its second part, the seminar turns to the study of the critique of modern philosophy's discourses as it appears in the texts of Kierkegaard and Nietzsche pointing in different ways toward postmodern thought. "French Theory" as it appears in the works of Foucault, Deleuze, Derrida and Lyotard, etc., and their radical critique of reason are studied in depth through representative texts.