

**SAINT JOHN OF DAMASCUS
INSTITUTE OF THEOLOGY**

MISSION STATEMENT

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

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

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

FACULTY AND STAFF

UNIVERSITY OFFICERS

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

ACADEMIC PROGRAM COORDINATORS

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

INSTITUTE STAFF

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

FULL-TIME FACULTY MEMBERS

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

PART-TIME FACULTY MEMBERS

Metropolitan Paul Yazigi	PhD, Patristics, Aristotle University, Thessaloniki, Greece
Metropolitan Jacques El-Khoury	PhD, Patristics, Aristotle University, Thessaloniki, Greece
Bishop Demetrios Sharback	PhD, Dogmatics & Ecumenical Studies, Aristotle University, Thessaloniki, Greece
Bishop Moses Al Khasi	PhD, Old Testament, Aristotle University, Thessaloniki, Greece
Archimandrite Alexis Nassour	PhD, Church Art, Aristotle University, Thessaloniki, Greece
Father Hareth Ibrahim	MA, History, University of Balamand, Lebanon
Father Ibrahim Chahine	PhD, Law and Arabic Literature, Lebanese University, Lebanon
Father Romanos Joubran	MTh, University of Balamand, Lebanon Diploma in Byzantine Music, Zoodhokhou Pigi Institute, Greece
Father Youhanna Baddour	PhD, Sociology of Religions, Aristotle University, Thessaloniki, Greece
Dannaoui, Elie	PhD, Eastern Ecclesiastical Studies - History, Pontifical Oriental Institute - Rome, Italy
El Halabi, Elias	PhD, Philosophy, Birmingham University, United Kingdom
Farah, Ibrahim	MS, Library and Information Science, Wayne State University, USA
Jreige, Jocelyne	MS, Computer Science, University of Balamand, Lebanon
Kanaan, Marlène	Doctorat ès-Lettres, Philosophie, Université Saint-Joseph, Liban
Karam, Hanibaal	MA, Christian-Muslim Studies, University of Balamand, Lebanon
Rubeiz, Imad	MA, Educational Psychology, American University of Beirut, Lebanon
Saab, Adib	PhD, Philosophy, University of London, UK
Saliba Peter	MA, Classics, Ancient Christian Greek texts and Latin Literature, University of Crete, Rethymnon, Greece
Tabchoury, Bassam	MEng, American University of Beirut, Lebanon

VISITING PROFESSORS

Metropolitan GREGORIOS (Papathomas)	PhD, Theology, Aristotle University, Thessaloniki, Greece
Archimandrite Jeremy Davis	MDiv, St. Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary, USA
Protopresbyter Chrysostomos Nassis	ThD, Aristotle University, Thessaloniki, Greece
Protopresbyter Michel Najim	ThD, Patristics, Aristotle University, Thessaloniki, Greece
Protopresbyter Nikolaos Loudovikos	PhD, Theology, Aristotle University, Thessaloniki, Greece
Arabatzi, Christos	PhD, Theology, Aristotle University, Thessaloniki, Greece
Bakas, Ioannis	Doctoral Diploma in Theology, Aristotle University, Thessaloniki, Greece
Belezos, Konstantin	PhD, Theology, National and Kapodistrian University, Athens, Greece
Chatzouli, Glykeria	PhD, History and Archaeology, University of Ioannina, Greece
Hinshaw, Daniel Benjamin	MD, Emeritus of Surgery, Palliative Medicine, University of Michigan Medical School, USA
Paparnakis, Athanasius	PhD, Theology, Aristotle University, Thessaloniki, Greece
Paschalidis, Symeon	ThD, Aristotle University, Thessaloniki, Greece

STUDENT LIFE

1. COMMUNAL LIFE

The uniqueness of student life at the Institute of St John of Damascus is based on the parallel progress of the student in spiritual and scientific knowledge, and on the embodiment of the living Orthodox faith. The academic theological curriculum, which is inseparable from the students' life, aims to create a spiritual and knowledgeable future generation of church clergy.

The study of theology at Balamand does not settle for only intellectual dialogue but seeks truth in relationships among people. Thus, the students reside at the Institute of Theology for a period of five years, experiencing a phase of spiritual, intellectual and practical preparation for consecration, service, and teaching in the Church.

The priest responsible for the Internal Life attends to and supervises all that is related to student life, and assists at the spiritual life of the student, in coordination with spiritual fathers when necessary. He also plans activities that enrich the knowledge and experience of the students to ensure that they spend a constructive and enjoyable time in the Institute and making friendships not only with colleagues but also with groups of other backgrounds and fields.

At the Institute of Theology, the students live together in communal life through participating in prayer services, shared meals, activities and different assigned duties. Student interaction with professors enriches daily life, enlivens talents and equips them with spiritual, cultural and pastoral learning experience. These activities instigate an ambiance of dialogue, broadmindedness, and creative interaction with the ecclesiastical, social and intellectual milieu.

Every student has his own room, which is an atelier for prayer and study. The setting of daily liturgical prayers enhances formation in liturgical worship which is the living fountain of Orthodox liturgy, theology and prayer. It conveys great joy to celebrate together certain feasts as the feast days of St John of Damascus, St. John the Theologian, Sts. Peter and Paul, Holy Week, and Holy Pascha.

The choir of the Institute of Theology is renowned for its skilled mastery of Church music. The choir, led by a director and composed of talented students, dedicates several hours every week to practice towards a harmonious chanting. The choir firstly chants in the liturgical services at the Our Lady of Balamand Patriarchal Monastery, and occasionally in other Antiochian Archdioceses or overseas.

The Institute provides the student with a unique opportunity to become closely acquainted with the message of the Church, her concerns and mission. The student gets to meet eminent theologians, scholars, and workers serving the Church in the global outreach of the Orthodox Church and other churches in the Christian world.

2. STUDENT LIFE CHART

Student life encompasses the following three dimensions:

1. The educational aspect
2. The spiritual aspect
3. The communal life aspect

2.1. FIRST SECTION: EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS

The students consider academic achievement as part of their prerequisite for serving in the Church. Consequently, they abide by the following:

Article 1:

The use of the Institute Library or modern technologies available at the UOB is necessary to expand the horizons of the students and prepare them for free and open discussions. The Institute of Theology encourages students to consult academic resources and get acquainted with recent scientific developments with a spirit of responsibility.

Article 2:

The student is accountable for any abuse of technologies at his disposal: plagiarism, immorality, and transmission of false or abusive information.

Article 3:

Pastoral training constitutes one of the indispensable and mandatory requirements for students. They have to participate in this training in all its aspects, drawing on the knowledge they acquire at the Institute while exploring future pastoral work.

Article 4:

Students join the choir as regulated in the curricula. Any exemption requires a decision from the Institute Council upon the suggestion of the choir director.

Article 5:

Attending all courses and participating in various educational activities is obligatory. The accepted absence rate in any Course is 10%. In case it is exceeded, the student has to withdraw from the Course, scores a W grade, and may repeat the Course no more than once.

Article 6:

Student who cheat at the exams or commit any form of plagiarism in research are permanently expelled from the Institute of Theology. The Institute Council is entitled to consider and settle these cases.

Article 7:

Students are expected to abide by the deadlines set by professors to submit their assignments as established in the syllabi distributed to the students at the beginning of the semester. Students are liable to obtain a grade of 40 for work they do not submit on time.

2.2 SECOND SECTION: SPIRITUAL LIFE REQUIREMENTS

Students should live up to the following:

Article 8:

Prayer is vital for students. Besides individual prayers, each student is called upon to take part in liturgical services, as follows: Daily Matins and Vespers; Sunday Divine Liturgy; Vigils and liturgies on Festal occasions. Failing to regularly attend the prayers is an impediment to studying at the Institute and renders the student accountable before the Institute Council.

Article 9:

Besides prayer, students are spiritually assisted by the guidance of priests residing at the monastery and the Institute. Regular partaking of Holy Communion is recommended.

The Institute Council writes an annual evaluation of each student following a clear and documented criteria and reports it to the student's ecclesiastical authority.

Article 10:

The Institute of Theology conforms completely with fasting periods and their regulations. At the same time, and in observance of the Lenten spirituality, students are trained in personal temperance, charitable work, and service to the needy and the vulnerable through contributing effectively to social activities organized by the Institute and the Monastery.

2.3 THIRD SECTION: COMMUNAL LIFE REQUIREMENTS

The students, whose place of residence during their study period is the Institute, abide by the following regulations:

Article 11:

Students reside at the Institute during their years of study, except for the following periods:

- A. Christmas vacation
- B. Bright Week following Holy Pascha
- C. Summer Vacation, unless they have to participate in language Summer programs.

Article 12:

Life at the Institute as a living experience with others and interacting positively with them is a practical reflection of the success of the student's spiritual life. Hence, students are expected to avoid any attitude or action that instigates conflict of whatever kind. The administration ensures that students are open to each other and accept differences as an enrichment.

Article 13:

Life at the Institute constitutes a place to practice the art of serving. Consequently, at the beginning of each semester, the student life supervisor sets up teams of students to serve various duties at the Institute. The Institute Council in the student evaluation takes into consideration the student's engagement in teamwork.

Article 14:

Communal life at the Institute requires complying with its primary principles, such as cleanliness, punctuality, respect, and service. Not complying with these rules is considered a violation that brings about the attention of the Student Life supervisor.

Article 15:

Students are encouraged to take the initiative to establish clubs at the university according to the statutes of clubs. They may also participate in the already established clubs as a part of sharing their witness in society.

Article 16:

Daily life schedule is in general as follows:

- A. Matins at 6:45 AM
- B. Breakfast at 7:45 AM
- C. Morning classes from 8:30 AM to 1:00 PM
- D. Lunch and break from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM
- E. Afternoon classes from 3:00 PM to 6:00 PM
- F. Ninth Hour and Vespers at 5:45 PM
- G. Dinner at 7:00 PM

It is worth mentioning that the reading room and the computer hall are available all day long until 10:00 PM in general, and until midnight during the exam period.

Article 17:

The Institute Council is the reference for all matters related to student life and performance, and it may set the regulatory framework for cases not specified in these regulations.

Article 18:

The Institute Council is the proper reference for decision-making and receiving complaints. The Dean is the sole official spokesman thereof.

THE LIBRARY

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

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

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

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

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

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

LIBRARY STAFF

Assistant Librarian

Deacon Rafael Hanna

Tel: 06 930 305 ext 118

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

Library Circulation

Alexandra Nassar

Tel: 06 930 305 ext 118

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

OPENING HOURS

The Library is open:

Monday through Friday

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

Saturday

10:00 AM – 10:00 PM

Sunday

4:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Closing Hours

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

LENDING PRIVILEGES

UOB Community:

<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. Alumni, researchers, scholars and community users not affiliated with the University of Balamand, however, may utilize the libraries' collections according to the four categories below:

1. Researchers coming from other institutions and Community Users:

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

2. Alumni:

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

3. Donors and trustees:

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

4. Institutions:

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

The below guidelines are applicable to all the membership categories:

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

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

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

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

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

For further help please contact:

Issam Fares Library Learning Center (Main Campus)

Access Services Department

Ground Floor, Room 013

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

E-mail: circulation@balamand.edu.lb

BACHELOR OF THEOLOGY PROGRAM (BTh)

MISSION STATEMENT

The BTh program occupies a central role in the mission of the St John of Damascus Institute of Theology. The BTh is an undergraduate academic program of Orthodox theology aiming at providing students with both traditional and modern tools, approaches and methods that help them in serving the Church and witnessing in the Arabic speaking world as pastors and ministers. The BTh curriculum emphasizes the importance of intellectual training in an atmosphere of responsible freedom, as learning is closely related to life experience deeply rooted in the Christian legacy, which does not separate life from intellectual achievements. The specific Antiochian identity of the Institute within the framework of the Orthodox Church is well reflected in the shaping of the BTh program. This identity connects the Institute to the land where the alumni are called to witness and serve, whether in the immediate Arab environment, or abroad.

OBJECTIVES

The BTh curriculum aims at setting up basic academic knowledge, which contributes to the fulfilment of Church requirements, in terms of:

1. Endowing students, i.e. candidate pastors, with the capability of caring for their parishioners with knowledge and piety.
2. Providing students with effective tools to meet the cultural challenges of the contemporary world.
3. Involving students in the intellectual and theological debates which are directly related to the life of the Church.
4. Offering students the needed training in order to experience pastoral life and launch new pastoral training programs, which will benefit the Antiochian Orthodox Church as a whole.
5. Equipping students with the required academic tools in order to be capable of pursuing the highest levels of theological education and theological research in foreign and local universities.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

The BTh graduates will demonstrate:

- a. Describing the essential beliefs of Orthodox Christian Faith by being able to defend those beliefs with arguments and evidence from the Holy Tradition.
- b. Understanding Holy Scriptures and the methods of their interpretation, Church Dogma, Church History.
- c. Analyzing the historical and cultural contexts of the formulation theological discourse of the Church.
- d. Evaluating the ways in which Holy Scriptures, Christian worship texts and basic doctrines of the Church are interpreted in different Christian denominations.
- e. Interpreting basic theological sources with accuracy and responsibility.
- f. Identifying the secondary literature necessary for an academic approach to Orthodox theology.
- g. Distinguishing the major contemporary authors who contributed to advancement of theological studies.
- h. Using theological resources available online and in libraries.
- i. Writing research papers in theological-related topic areas.

- j. Communicating effectively theological truths in teaching settings.
- k. Applying theological knowledge to the pastoral reality of the Church.

LEARNING METHODOLOGY

The curriculum favors learning methods, which develop learners' personalities, and scientific capacities on the one hand, and introduces them to the spirit of Church service on the other. This is made possible thanks to an educational approach which builds knowledge on real life experience, and relates it to theology, in order to achieve the desired pastoral goals. Providing high-quality performance is only one of many methods that the Institute uses to achieve its goals. The Institute adopts:

1. A learning methodology, which is adapted to a curriculum more respectful of scientific and educational developments.
2. An assessment process, which takes into consideration human's scientific, cultural, and inter-relational dimensions, without hindering personal growth.
3. An educational methodology that provides a minimum of knowledge, the opportunity to develop the student's personal talents for better future service, and versatile training of future clergy.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

In order to benefit from this program in concordance with expectations, the admission requirements of the Institute are as following:

1. Holding the Lebanese General Secondary Certificate or its equivalent.
2. Be at least 22 years of age.
3. ARAB 102 level in the University Arabic placement tests.
4. ENGL 101 level in the University English placement tests.

The Institute's Admission Committee examines the applications based upon the applicant's file that must contain the following documents:

- a. Extract of the Registers or copy of the Identity Card
- b. The Lebanese General Secondary Certificate or its equivalent
- c. Copies of university degrees if available
- d. Four passport photos
- e. A letter of recommendation from the bishop of the parish to which the applicant belongs
- f. Application form
- g. A letter stating the reasons for applying for study at the Institute
- h. Judicial police record

After examining and interviewing each applicant, the committee reports its recommendation to the Institute Council.

Applicants who pass the admission assessment, join the program of the Preparatory Year, at the end of which they may be admitted as undergraduate students, depending on their results and performance.

CURRICULUM ORGANIZATION

The program starts with one year for Modern Greek and English and then spreads over four years to lead to the attainment of a Bachelor of Theology. The curriculum includes:

- a. University-required courses
- b. Major-required courses

COURSE OFFERING

Preparatory Year

Code	Course Title	Semester	Hours	Credits
GREE 001	Modern Greek I	1	338	15
THEO 200	Introduction to Spiritual Life	1+2	45	3
THEO 208	A Guided Reading of the Bible	1+2	45	1
ARAB 101T	Arabic Language I	1+2	45	3
THEO 107	Special Ecclesiastical Music	1+2	30	1
GREE 002	Modern Greek II	2	338	15
COMP 200	Computer Applications	2	30	1
	English (University Program)	3		

First Year

Code	Course Title	Semester	Hours	Credits
ENGL 101 - ENGL 102	English (University Program)	1	45	3
GREE 201	New Testament Greek I	1	45	2
METH 200	Methodology of Research	1	30	1
THEO 203	Introduction to Christian Doctrine	1	45	3
THEO 201	Introduction to the New Testament	1	60	4
THEO 204	Introduction to Liturgy	1	30	1
THEO 205	Introduction to Pastoral Care	1	45	2
THEO 254	Hagiology	1	15	1
ARAB 201T	Arabic Language II	1+2	45	3
HEBR 200	Introduction to Biblical Hebrew	1+2	45	3
GREE 101	Modern Greek III	1+2	30	2
ENGL 101 - ENGL 102	English (University Program)	2	45	3
THEO 206	Church Music I	2	60	3
THEO 276	Introduction to Typicon	2	45	1
PHIL 201T	Ancient Philosophy	2	45	3
THEO 202	Introduction to the Old Testament	2	45	3
LISP 200	Library Use and Research Methods	2	30	1
	English (University Program)	3		

Second Year

Code	Course Title	Semester	Hours	Credits
THEO 211	NT Exegesis: The Synoptic Gospels	1	45	3
THEO 255	Church Fathers I	1	45	3
THEO 220	OT Exegesis: Pentateuch and Historical Writings	1	45	3
GREE 202	New Testament Greek II	1	45	2
ARAB 202T	Arab Humanities	1	30	2
THEO 272	Church Music II	2	60	3
THEO 240	General Church History	2	60	4
PHIL 202T	Medieval and Modern Philosophy	2	45	3
THEO 230	Dogma I: The Mystery of the Holy Trinity and the Creation	2	45	3
GREE 203	New Testament Greek III	2	30	2
THEO 286	Social and Family Care	2	45	3
THEO 287	Pastoral Training I	3	50	2
	English (University Program)	3		

Third Year

Code	Course Title	Semester	Hours	Credits
THEO 294	Introduction to Islam and Christian-Muslim Dialogue	1	45	3
THEO 274	Liturgical Sources	1	45	3
THEO 279	Liturgical Art	1	30	2
THEO 209	Introduction to Canon Law	1	30	2
THEO 273	Church Music III	1	60	3
THEO 256	Church Fathers II	1	45	3
HEBR 201	Biblical Hebrew I	1+2	45	3
THEO 221	OT Exegesis: The Prophets	2	45	3
THEO 235	Sociology and Christian Ethics	2	45	3
PHIL 204T	Philosophy of Religion	2	45	3
THEO 231	Dogma II: Christ and Redemption	2	45	3
THEO 213	NT Exegesis: Johannine Literature	2	30	2
THEO 242	History of the Church of Antioch	2	45	3
THEO 288	Pastoral Training II	3	50	2

Fourth Year

Code	Course Title	Semester	Hours	Credits
THEO 285	Homiletics	1	30	2
THEO 232	Dogma III: Church, Salvation, and Eschatology	1	45	3
THEO 257	Antiochian Fathers and Writers	1	45	3
THEO 282	Christian Education	1	30	2
THEO 222	OT Exegesis: Psalms and Wisdom Books	1	45	3
THEO 293	Church Management	1	15	1
THEO 214	NT Exegesis: The Books of Acts and Revelation	1	30	2
THEO 212	NT Exegesis: Pauline Corpus	1+2	60	4
THEO 277	Teleturgics	2	30	2
THEO 281	Counseling	2	15	1
THEO 292	Personal Status and Procedure Laws	2	30	2
THEO 271	Sacramental Life in Christ	2	45	3
THEO 233	An Overview on Contemporary Theology	2	30	2
THEO 290	Origins and Sources of Antiochian Jurisprudence	2	30	2
THEO 234	The Ecumenical Activity of the Church and Contemporary Apologetic Theology	2	45	3

COURSE DESCRIPTION

A- Biblical Studies

GREE 201 NEW TESTAMENT GREEK I

Credits: 2

Hours: 45

In this course, students learn the fundamentals of New Testament Greek grammar. Lessons are based on the most common vocabulary and syntax of the New Testament, particularly as they occur in the Gospel of Mark. At the end of this course, students will be able to read narrative sentences with the occasional help of a dictionary. Furthermore, this course introduces the students in the parsing principles of ancient languages, and shows the role of linguistic analysis in the exegetical work.

Prerequisites: None

GREE 202 NEW TESTAMENT GREEK II

Credits: 2

Hours: 45

The students continue the program of studying the grammar (morphology), syntax, and vocabulary (semantics). They are introduced to more complex forms of nouns, adjectives, pronouns, verbs, and prepositions. Here, more of the infinitives, participles and prepositions are introduced. Other syntactic forms are also tackled, such as coordinate and subordinate phrases, the syntactic use of the cases of the nouns, and the use of the

verb aspect and tenses, especially the present, the past, and the perfect. Special attention is given to the syntax of infinitives, participles and the subjunctive. The students also delve into studying various forms of Greek irregular verbs. On a practical level, the students solve exercises covering a larger section of New Testament texts. They apply the principles of parsing, basic principles of syntactic analysis and vocabulary, so as to come out with a reasonable and logical translation of some narrative lines and paragraphs of the New Testament. All this aims for a better exegesis of texts and forms a rigorous prerequisite for the exegetical courses of the New Testament.

Prerequisites: GREE 201.

GREE 203 NEW TESTAMENT GREEK III

Credits: 2

Hours: 30

The students will be able to use tools for translation, translate advanced passages from the Greek New Testament, LXX, and Church Fathers into Arabic or English, and show awareness of recent scholarly discussion of Koine Greek throughout the course. They will also be able to demonstrate competence in understanding intermediate-advanced Koine / ancient Greek syntax and acquiring intermediate-advanced vocabulary for Greek. The course offers an in-depth study of the syntax of cases, nouns, adjectives, pronouns, and prepositions in addition to the material already covered in Greek I and II. It also covers the use and non-use of articles, aspect, tense, voice, mood, infinitives, participles of verbs, and the syntax of clauses, such as independent, subordinate, conditional, volitional, and conjunctions. All of these are reflected practically through the translation of a selection of advanced texts from the New Testament, the Old Testament, in addition to some Patristic exegetical and rhetorical texts as those found in Saints Ignatius, Polycarpus, Origenes, John Chrysostom, Basil the Great, the two Gregories, John of Damascus, and Gregory of Palamas. This course helps make the students ready to indulge in studies of Ancient Christian Greek Text on the Bachelor's and Master's Degree levels.

Prerequisites: GREE 201, GREE 202.

HEBR 200 INTRODUCTION TO BIBLICAL HEBREW

Credits: 3

Hours: 45

This course is the first of two courses (HEBR 200 and HEBR 201), which is designed to introduce the student to the basics of Biblical Hebrew grammar and syntax. Parts I and II of the course taken consecutively will give the student the equivalent of a year-long introduction to Biblical Hebrew. The central goal of the course is to assist students in acquiring a working knowledge of basic principles of Hebrew grammar, an endeavor that continues in HEBR 201. This understanding is essential to making proper use of Hebrew study tools and to doing competent exegesis and biblical theology. The course consists of lectures, in-class tutorial, weekly quizzes, midterm, and final exam.

Prerequisites: None

HEBR 201 BIBLICAL HEBREW I

Credits: 3

Hours: 45

Built upon the fundamentals of Biblical Hebrew learned in HEBR 200, Parts I and II of the course taken consecutively give the student the equivalent of a year-long advanced Biblical Hebrew. This course helps the student in expanding knowledge of vocabulary, addressing more advanced verbal morphology and semantics, introducing concepts in grammar, discourse, and paratextual features, and developing reading and exegetical capabilities. The course consists of lectures, in-class tutorial, weekly quizzes, midterm, and final exam.

Prerequisites: HEBR 200.

THEO 201 INTRODUCTION TO THE NEW TESTAMENT

Credits: 4

Hours: 60

This course begins with a survey of the political and social world, as well as of both Jewish and non-Jewish religious-world of New Testament times. Later, the course focuses on the nature and origin of the New Testament, and on how the first Christian books were written, preserved, and gathered with a detailed introduction to the text of the New Testament, and the history of its Canon. Then, the course offers an overview of the Methods of interpretation (hermeneutics). An important section of the course deals with problems related to the Gospels such as: The Gospels Genre, the Synoptic Problem, the "Q" source.

Finally, the course deals with questions peculiar to each Gospel, and to the book of Acts as well, such as

the Sources, authorship, locale or community involved, date of writing, and other issues and problems for reflection. Finally, the course touches upon the issue of St Paul's life and his writings.

Prerequisites: None

THEO 202 INTRODUCTION TO THE OLD TESTAMENT

Credits: 3

Hours: 45

This is an Introduction to the background and history of the Old Testament. It offers a survey on the circumstances of the redaction of each book, its main theories, as well as to its structure, content and role within the Old Testament. Other issues are also raised, such as the History of the formation and transmission of the book as a whole. The students are introduced to the dynamics governing the rise and development of traditions, and to the different literary forms and their functions.

Prerequisites: None

THEO 208 A GUIDED READING OF THE BIBLE

Credit: 1

Hours: 45

This is a pass/fail workshop in which the candidates are required to read the Bible and discuss its contents with the instructor and their classmates as a requirement for joining the BTh program. During this workshop, the students will discover the special characteristics of each section in both the Old and New Testament as an introduction into the academic study of the Bible.

Prerequisites: None

THEO 211 NEW TESTAMENT EXEGESIS: THE SYNOPTIC GOSPELS

Credits: 3

Hours: 45

In this course, the students approach the first three canonical Gospels in a guided and synoptic exegetical work of their most outstanding pericopes. The Gospels according to Matthew, Mark and Luke are read from a synchronic and narrative approach in order to get acquainted with the theological topics proposed in the different literary forms of Christ's sayings and in the stories of his salvific deeds from the day of his birth until the day of his resurrection and ascension to heaven. While interpreting, the students learn the most important modern theories of historical-linguistic critical research, not without reviewing the ancient classical interpretations of Christian tradition.

Prerequisites: GREE 201, THEO 201, THEO 202.

THEO 212 NEW TESTAMENT EXEGESIS: PAULINE CORPUS

Credits: 4

Hours: 60

This course offers an exegesis of selected passages from the Pauline Corpus, with the purpose of highlighting the main theological issues raised in the Corpus as a whole. The historical and present complicated debates of Low and High Criticism are within the scope of this course. It also traces the development in perspectives resulting from the changing circumstances that necessitated the writing of the epistles.

Prerequisites: THEO 201, GREE 201, THEO 230, THEO 231.

THEO 213 NEW TESTAMENT EXEGESIS: JOHANNINE LITERATURE

Credits: 2

Hours: 30

This course offers an exegesis of selected passages from Johannine Literature, chosen in sequence to highlight some central theological issues raised in the fourth Gospel. The historical and present debates about issues on composition, sources, sacramentalism, and other important issues, are within the scope of this course.

Prerequisites: THEO 201, GREE 201, GREE 202.

THEO 214 NEW TESTAMENT EXEGESIS: THE BOOKS OF ACTS AND REVELATION

Credits: 2

Hours: 30

In this course, the students approach the Book of Acts of the Apostles and the Revelation of John in a guided exegetical work of their most outstanding pericopes. Acts of the Apostles is read from a synchronic and narrative approach, in order to get acquainted with its most prominent theological topics such as the role of the disciples in the Church after the Resurrection of the Lord and their first kerygmatic sermons and deeds. Furthermore, this

course provides a brief introduction to the Biblical apocalyptic literature, in addition to an expository treatment of selected pericopes from the Book of Revelation that reflect the theology of this extraordinary final book of the New Testament canon. While interpreting, students enrich their know-how in applying the modern theories of historical-linguistic critical research, not without reviewing the ancient classical interpretations of Christian tradition.

Prerequisites: GREE 201, THEO 201, THEO 202, THEO 213.

THEO 220 OLD TESTAMENT EXEGESIS: THE PENTATEUCH AND THE HISTORICAL WRITINGS Credits: 3 Hours: 45

In this course, the student reads the Pentateuch and the Historical Books synchronically, in order to discover the correlation existent in these volumes and their narrative axis, to which all the episodes and speeches are related. During the course, the student is stimulated to approach the Torah as a part of the Divine Revelation that addresses Christians today, and to find out the close relationship between the Torah and the Gospel. This course also aims at enabling the student to use modern exegetical methods, and to deal with the differences of form and contents in the Masoretic, as well as in the Greek text of the Septuagint.

Prerequisites: HEBR 200, GREE 201, THEO 202.

THEO 221 OLD TESTAMENT EXEGESIS: THE PROPHETS Credits: 3 Hours: 45

This course is an analysis of the biblical prophetic movement. It follows the canonical order of the books of prophets. It offers an exploration of the perspective of the authors, by selecting passages from the major and minor prophets, representing the prophetic line, and discussing various themes, such as the Word of God, the Prophetic calls, kingship, priesthood, the temple, the law, judgment, etc...

Prerequisites: HEBR 200, GREE 201, THEO 202.

THEO 222 OLD TESTAMENT EXEGESIS: PSALMS AND WISDOM BOOKS

Credits: 3 Hours: 45

This course offers a deepened study of the Psalms and Wisdom literature. Students are introduced to the main characteristics of the different groups of Psalms, such as the messianic ones, those which are centered on the kingship of Yahweh, and the historical ones. Basic issues such as the concept of kingship, and the relationship between history and liturgy, are dealt with. Questions arising from the study of the Wisdom literature are also discussed, including those of the meaning and the scope of wisdom, and the function of this group of books, as a part of the Old Testament, and as a preparation for the New Testament.

Prerequisites: HEBR 200, GREE 201, THEO 202.

B- Dogmatic Theology

THEO 203 INTRODUCTION TO CHRISTIAN DOCTRINE Credits: 3 Hours: 45

This introductory course aims to clarify the status of doctrine in the Church, through clearing up the concept of Christian dogma, and specifying the resources and references of dogmatic study and research. It also concentrates on the issue of the authority of doctrine and the dynamism of creativity in its language. It also offers ideas of the relationship of Christian theology within philosophy, science, and human culture.

Prerequisites: None

THEO 230 DOGMA I: THE MYSTERY OF THE HOLY TRINITY AND CREATION

Credits: 3 Hours: 45

This course aims at enabling the student to obtain a methodological knowledge of the theological issues related to the Christian concept of God, the sources of distinction between the created and the uncreated, and the history of the formulation of the dogma of the Holy Trinity. It specifies what is related to the mystery of divine economy, and touches upon the debates that surround the issue of the knowledge of God, as well as the criticism

that followed in the Christian world.

Prerequisites: THEO 203.

THEO 231 DOGMA II: CHRIST AND REDEMPTION

Credits: 3

Hours: 45

This course aims at highlighting the theological topics and issues related to the historic and theological frames for the development of Christology. It deals with the economy of salvation through Christ, as well as the teaching about the Mother of God and the intercession of Saints. The course also discusses the theology of icons.

Prerequisites: THEO 203, THEO 230.

THEO 232 DOGMA III: CHURCH, SALVATION AND ESCHATOLOGY

Credits: 3

Hours: 45

This course aims at enabling the student to obtain a methodological knowledge concerning the theological topics and issues related to the nature and life of the Church. It also covers the sacramental life of the Church, the means to realize salvation, and the concept of Christian Eschatology, whether realized in the life of the Church, or hoped for.

Prerequisites: THEO 203, THEO 230, THEO 231.

THEO 233 AN OVERVIEW ON CONTEMPORARY THEOLOGY

Credits: 2

Hours: 30

The course surveys the different trends in theology during the twentieth century. It develops an understanding of the intellectual needs and challenges which faced Orthodox Theology through its dialogue with contemporary culture, and evaluates the efforts of prominent theologians in their attempt to provide a Christian testimony, in an age of constant changes.

Prerequisites: THEO 203, THEO 230, THEO 231, THEO 232.

THEO 234 THE ECUMENICAL ACTIVITY OF THE CHURCH AND CONTEMPORARY APOLOGETIC THEOLOGY

Credits: 3

Hours: 45

The course aims at shedding light on the reality and procedure of Christian ecumenical activity in general, and the approach of the Orthodox Church to ecumenical issues in particular. It surveys the history of the ecumenical movement, its official organizations, its major trends, and the crystallization of visions and agendas. The course focuses on the Antiochian contribution in the Ecumenical encounters.

In its contemporary apologetic part, it surveys different heretical groups and sectarian tendencies, which are encountered in the pastoral reality of the Church. It aims at equipping the future leaders of the Church with the necessary tools, in order to protect their flock from foreign trends of thought and religious ideologies that would threaten the integrity of their faith.

Prerequisites: THEO 203, THEO 230, THEO 231, THEO 232.

THEO 235 SOCIOLOGY AND CHRISTIAN ETHICS

Credits: 3

Hours: 45

This course has two main parts. The first part is about the social conditions and their theories. The second part is an introduction to the ethical Christian experience. The focus will be on the analysis of the nature, structure, and function of Christian ethics: teleology, criteriology, and standards, with an emphasis on the Biblical and patristic roots of Christian Ethics.

Prerequisites: THEO 203, THEO 230, THEO 231, THEO 232.

C- History and Patrology

THEO 240 GENERAL CHURCH HISTORY

Credits: 4

Hours: 60

This course is divided into two parts: the first deals with the history of the Church from the beginning through the 11th century. In addition to studying the theological, cultural, and political backgrounds within which arose in the Church, the course also examines the major events, such as the Synods and the different heresies, which

emerged in the course of history. The second part deals with Church history after the Great Schism, with a special emphasis on the Western Churches, including the Protestant Reformation. The course deals as well with the situation of the Eastern Churches after the fall of Constantinople and the rise of the Ottoman Empire.
Prerequisites: None

THEO 242 HISTORY OF THE CHURCH OF ANTIOCH **Credits: 3** **Hours: 45**

This course investigates the history of the Antiochian Church, and studies its achievement as well as its role in the development of ecclesiastical thought. Antiochian monasticism, along with its major players, will be studied thoroughly, as well as the role of Antioch in the Ecumenical Councils.
Prerequisites: THEO 240.

THEO 254 HAGIOLOGY **Credit: 1** **Hours: 15**

This course aims to present the sources and genres of the early Christian and Byzantine hagiography and the basic terminology of hagiography. It offers a detailed account of the most prominent writers of hagiographical texts and the most important milestones of hagiography in the Byzantine and Post-Byzantine periods. It also examines the ‘choruses’ of the saints, their ‘boldness’ and their intercessions with God. It approaches miracles from a theological perspective and examines the respective collections. It explores the theological establishment of the honor of the saints and the sacred relics, as well as the history and the contemporary canonical procedure for the canonization of new saints. Finally, it provides a historical outline of the church calendar.
Prerequisites: None

THEO 255 CHURCH FATHERS I **Credits: 3** **Hours: 45**

This course presents a view on the position of the fathers in the mind, and the life of the Church. It also presents the frameworks, in which the Church’s Theology emerged and developed, in addition to all the issues that occupied the Church over the first three centuries. It also deals with researching the fathers’ contributions in Church issues. Additionally, it addresses the backgrounds of several fathers, and how his contribution was influenced by these backgrounds, and their status in the life of the Church.
Prerequisites: GREE 201.

THEO 256 CHURCH FATHERS II **Credits: 3** **Hours: 45**

This course tackles the works and theology of the Church Fathers, starting from the fourth century until the fourteenth century. It studies the works of main figures, such as St Athanasius the Great, the Cappadocian Fathers, St Maximus the Confessor, as well as others. Students will learn how to read and analyze their works within their historical context, and how to reflect their methods on today’s theology.
Prerequisites: THEO 240, THEO 255, GREE 201.

THEO 257 ANTIOCHIAN FATHERS AND WRITERS **Credits: 3** **Hours: 45**

This course deals with achievements of the Antiochian Church Fathers and writers who left many works in Syriac and in Arabic, and who belong to various Syrian and Orthodox traditions. Their works play a substantial role in the elaboration and the clarification of Christian theology.
Prerequisites: THEO 240, THEO 255, THEO 256, GREE 201.

D- Church Music

THEO 107 SPECIAL ECCLESIASTICAL MUSIC **Credit: 1** **Hours: 30**

In this course, the students learn some basic musical notations with practical examples preparing them to the historical and practical introduction of Ecclesiastical (Byzantine) Music.
Prerequisites: None

THEO 206 CHURCH MUSIC I**Credits: 3 Hours: 60**

This course is an introduction to Byzantine Music. Students learn the basics of reading Byzantine notes and keys in addition to practical training.

Prerequisites: None

THEO 272 CHURCH MUSIC II**Credits: 3 Hours: 60**

In this course, the student learns the various tones in Byzantine music. He is instructed on applying the tones to the sacred hymns. Each Tone and its variations will be studied thoroughly.

Prerequisites: THEO 206.

THEO 273 CHURCH MUSIC III**Credits: 3 Hours: 60**

This course deals extensively with the basics of writing music, in addition to the chanting techniques, which deacons and priests should utilize during the liturgy.

Prerequisites: THEO 206, THEO 272.

E- Practical Theology**THEO 200 INTRODUCTION TO SPIRITUAL LIFE****Credits: 3 Hours: 45**

This course consists of a series of lectures given, which introduce new students to the basics of the spiritual life in the Orthodox Church.

Prerequisites: None

THEO 204 INTRODUCTION TO LITURGY**Credit: 1 Hours: 30**

This course introduces the student to the characteristics and dimensions of liturgy in the Orthodox Church, description of the liturgical books and vestments and church building, in addition to explanation of the daily liturgical services.

Prerequisites: None

THEO 205 INTRODUCTION TO PASTORAL CARE**Credits: 2 Hours: 45**

This course is an introduction to pastoral theology and ministry. It discusses the scriptural, historical, and patristic background of care in a parish setting. It deals with three main interrelated issues, as they are experienced in the Antiochian Church today: pastoral care, priesthood, and parish life.

Prerequisites: None

THEO 209 INTRODUCTION TO CANON LAW**Credits: 2 Hours: 30**

This course introduces the student to Canon Law, its development throughout history, as well as to their interpretation by the Church. It also presents aspects of the Canon Law in the Church of Antioch as applied today.

Prerequisites: None.

THEO 271 SACRAMENTAL LIFE IN CHRIST**Credits: 3 Hours: 45**

This course investigates the history and development of the Christian sacraments. It shows the various changes, which the forms of sacraments underwent until they reached their current state, as celebrated in the Orthodox Church following the Byzantine rite.

Prerequisites: THEO 204.

THEO 274 LITURGICAL SOURCES**Credits: 3 Hours: 45**

This course introduces the student to the ancient sources of the Liturgical forms of the Orthodox Church. It examines Biblical texts, as well as patristic works, which are used as a basis for liturgical hymns.

Prerequisites: THEO 204, THEO 271.

THEO 276 INTRODUCTION TO TYPICON

Credit: 1

Hours: 45

The student learns how to use the Typicon for the correct ordering of the services. The main component of this course is the practical training and the use of various liturgical books.

Prerequisites: None

THEO 277 TELETURGICS

Credits: 2

Hours: 30

This course is a practicum for the student preparing himself for the ministry of the priesthood in terms of the priestly performance of sacraments such as Baptism, Wedding, Divine Liturgy, and other prayers of the church.

Prerequisites: THEO 276.

THEO 279 LITURGICAL ART

Credits: 2

Hours: 30

This course looks at the sources and the development of Christian art, as well as its theological meanings, and the relationship between it and other branches of theology.

Prerequisites: THEO 274.

THEO 281 COUNSELING

Credit: 1

Hours: 15

This course deals with counseling and psychotherapy theories as applied by Church fathers, and proposing methods of interventions to address contemporary psycho-spiritual problems.

Prerequisites: None

THEO 282 CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Credits: 2

Hours: 30

This course shows the students a holistic vision, which instills faithfulness in Christ throughout their life in the Church. Since the students at the institute are, in general, future pastors, they are invited to be aware of all issues related to education, and must be qualified to study the content of an educational program, discuss it, and to be able to criticize any educational paradigm by showing its positive and negative aspects. They should also be able to critically approach texts in order to see whether they are related to their pastoral purposes.

Prerequisites: Level of Third Year

THEO 285 HOMILETICS

Credits: 2

Hours: 30

This course prepares the student for his preaching ministry, based on the Holy Scripture and Tradition, using a clear, structured, directed, systematic style. It studies the sermon-making process, and effective delivery techniques. It is followed by a practicum during the Institute's Church services.

Prerequisites: THEO 205.

THEO 286 SOCIAL AND FAMILY CARE

Credits: 3

Hours: 45

This course examines the work of diakonia and philanthropia in the Orthodox Church on the basis of Scripture, history, and Church Fathers. It discusses the challenges of social care offered to persons with special social, psychological, and health needs. It also presents ways for family care with a special emphasis on living a Christ-centered healthy marriage and family relationships.

Prerequisites: THEO 205.

THEO 287 PASTORAL TRAINING I

Credits: 2

Hours: 50

This pastoral training is directed and evaluated in coordination with a parish priest. It aims at encouraging the students to apply their pastoral theoretical knowledge to a parish setting, accompanying the priest in the responsibilities of his daily life and its challenges.

Prerequisites: THEO 205.

THEO 288 PASTORAL TRAINING II**Credits: 2****Hours: 50**

This training aims at encouraging the students to apply their theoretical knowledge to social work in hospitals, elderly homes, prisons, and with people who have special needs.

Prerequisites: THEO 205, THEO 286.

THEO 290 ORIGINS AND SOURCES OF ANTIOCHIAN JURISPRUDENCE**Credits: 2****Hours: 30**

This course is grounded in the Canonical Tradition of the Church and the Bylaws of the Patriarchate of Antioch. It looks into the principles and causes of the Antiochian laws' formation, and the spirit in which they need to be applied in various circumstances. It also gives an evaluation of the canonical experience of the Church of Antioch and how the canonical practice can better serve the church.

Prerequisites: THEO 209.

THEO 292 PERSONAL STATUS AND PROCEDURE LAWS**Credits: 2****Hours: 30**

This course prepares the students for this important task of family legal related issues in their pastoral work. It is a legal study connected with issues of spiritual life for married and single alike. It studies how spiritual laws work together with the requirements of civil laws, as in article 28 on the principles of procedure laws. It reviews the work of spiritual courts and their administration, challenges, and solutions, according the spirit of the Antiochian Orthodox tradition.

Prerequisites: None

THEO 293 CHURCH MANAGEMENT**Credit: 1****Hours: 15**

This course has as an objective for the student to understand the need to use modern management tools in the Church in a way aligned with the Bible, Church spirit, and the Canonical structure of the Orthodox Church. Thus, it studies the roles of clergy and laity in a synergetic way and the employment of all the talents available in order to build the church and every person working in the church, and how to have those who work in the Church be dynamic, committed to change themselves and the world. The course initiates the student in Teams formation, delegation, running meetings, decision making, and leadership roles.

Prerequisites: None

F- Philosophy and Languages**ARAB 101T ARABIC LANGUAGE I****Credits: 3****Hours: 45**

This course is built on four essential sections: First, reading and correct pronunciation. Second, grammar, in which classical and modern methods are used to help the student understand better the various Arabic grammar structures. Third, conversation, which is spontaneous and free, and aims at helping right expression and enrichment of one's linguistic style and vocabulary. The conversation is based on both reading and listening. Fourth, written expression which involves employing simplified rules to compose a coherent and clear text.

Prerequisites: None

ARAB 201T ARABIC LANGUAGE II**Credits: 3****Hours: 45**

In this course, the students learn advanced techniques of writing, reading, and using correct expression in sermons and speeches.

Prerequisites: ARAB101T.

ARAB 202T ARAB HUMANITIES I**Credits: 2****Hours: 30**

This course offers a range of readings from the Arab humanities literature, and especially the modern references. The readings are distributed as follows: history, philosophy, social science, literary criticism, story, poetry, etc.

Prerequisites: None

GREE 001 MODERN GREEK I**Credits: 15 Hours: 338**

To teach the modern Greek language, this course uses a methodology that balances between cognitively organized teaching and various experimental activities. The students approach the study of Greek language in a multi-functional way: vocabulary, grammar structure and syntax which are processed in a holistic method that includes role playing and other practices.

Prerequisites: None

GREE 002 MODERN GREEK II**Credits: 15 Hours: 338**

The objective of the Modern Greek II course is to enable students to enhance their speaking skills and practice their knowledge of the Greek language. They get prepared to write the Greek language certification exams of the Greek Language Center (KEG). The thematic modules cover the full range of speaking needs, drawing from elements of Greek culture. Students approach the study of the Greek language in a multifunctional way: vocabulary, grammatical structure, and syntax which are combined in a holistic method that includes role playing and other training practices.

Prerequisites: GREE 001.

GREE 101 MODERN GREEK III**Credits: 2 Hours: 30**

It is an intermediate-level course designed to enhance students' proficiency in the Greek language. Building upon the foundation established in Modern Greek I and II, this course delves deeper into linguistic structures, vocabulary, and cultural nuances to foster a well-rounded understanding and effective communication in Modern Greek.

Through a combination of interactive activities, group discussions, reading assignments, and practical exercises, students refine their listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills. Emphasis is placed on expanding vocabulary, mastering more complex grammatical structures, and developing the ability to express thoughts and opinions with greater fluency and accuracy.

Prerequisites: GREE 001, GREE 002.

METH 200 METHODOLOGY OF RESEARCH**Credit: 1 Hours: 30**

This course aims at helping the students acquire necessary techniques and methods to write academic research following the guidelines of the University of Balamand. They also learn how to discover limits of text, define problems, and form hypotheses.

Prerequisites: None

PHIL 201T ANCIENT PHILOSOPHY**Credits: 3 Hours: 45**

The course offers an in depth study of ancient Greek Philosophy, starting with pre-Socratic philosophers and moving on through Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle, and ending with Plotinus. The objective of the course is to provide the student with the general introduction to philosophy, its major concepts, problems, and an overview of the basic ideas of the great philosophers.

Prerequisites: None

PHIL 202T MEDIEVAL AND MODERN PHILOSOPHY**Credits: 3 Hours: 45**

This course offers a deepened study of Scholastic philosophy in the West. It begins with an analysis of the ways in which the early Fathers of the Church accommodated theology with Greek philosophical heritage. The course deals also with the writings of Augustine, Thomas of Aquinas, and other Scholastics, and studies them in the light of faith and reason. It also discusses the philosophy of Averroes.

Prerequisites: PHIL 201T.

PHIL 204T PHILOSOPHY OF RELIGION**Credits: 3 Hours: 45**

This course investigates religious issues such as: the definition of religion, the existence of God, religious experiences, miracles, evil, morality, and afterlife. Other treated issues include: religious pluralism, dialogue,

tolerance, religion and politics, religion and science, atheism, and teaching religion. Some theories of knowledge pertaining to religion, especially Empiricism, Logical Positivism, and Language Analysis are also discussed, with an attempt to arrive at an alternative epistemology, more suitable to the nature of belief and religious experience. It also covers the study of various religions, their inception, and development, sources, doctrines, and worship forms. The religions studied are Hinduism, Buddhism, Sikhism, Taoism, Shintoism, Zarathustra, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, comparing them, and their differences, while seeking to understand religious identity.

Prerequisites: PHIL 201T, PHIL 202T.

THEO 294 INTRODUCTION TO ISLAM AND CHRISTIAN-MUSLIM DIALOGUE

Credits: 3

Hours: 45

This course offers an overview of the tenants of Islam, its inception, main sources, development in history and main figures, based on the texts of the Quran. It also reviews the many rounds of the Christian-Muslim dialogue that occurred from the spread of Islam till today. The course relies on participation of Islamic figures, inviting them to present the Islamic doctrine, and various trends and sects as they view them, in order to prevent offering any biased view of this religion.

Prerequisites: None