

**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 - B.Th., M.Th. and Ph.D. -, 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	Ph.D. Program Director
Archimandrite Romanos Al Hannat	M.Th. Program Coordinator
Father Bassam Nassif	B.Th. Program Coordinator
Ayuch, Daniel	CBB and SOFIA Programs Coordinator
El Mecherki, Maher	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
Haddad, Perla	Assistant Registrar
Hanna, Gilbert	Assistant Librarian
Kartabani, Beata	Translator and Executive Assistant
Nassar, Alexandra	Library Circulation and Assistant Accountant
Jabbour, Jacqueline	Finance
Al Assil, Rony	Maintenance and Purchasing

FULL-TIME FACULTY MEMBERS

Archimandrite Jack Khalil	Ph.D., New Testament, Aristotelian University, Thessaloniki, Greece
Archimandrite Romanos Al Hannat	Ph.D., Byzantine Music, Aristotelian University, Thessaloniki, Greece
Archimandrite Parthenios Al Laty	Ph.D., Oriental Canon Law, Pontifical Oriental Institute in Rome
Protosphyter Porphyrios Georgi	Ph.D., Dogmatic Theology, Aristotelian University, Thessaloniki,

Father Bassam Nassif	Greece Ph.D., Pastoral Theology, University of Balamand, D.Min., Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, USA
Ayuch, Daniel	Ph.D., New Testament, Wilhelm University of Muenster, Germany

PART-TIME FACULTY MEMBERS

Metropolitan JACQUES (El-Khoury)	Ph.D, Patristics, Aristotle University, Thessaloniki, Greece
Bishop DEMETRIOS (Sharback)	Ph.D., Dogmatics & Ecumenical Studies, Aristotelian University, Thessaloniki, Greece
Bishop CONSTANTINE (Kayyal)	Ph.D., Liturgics, Aristotelian University, Thessaloniki, Greece
Bishop MOSES Al-Khasi	Ph.D., Biblical Studies, Aristotelian University, Thessaloniki, Greece
Archimandrite Alexis Nassour	Ph.D., Church Art, Aristotelian University, Thessaloniki, Greece
Archimandrite Jean Mansour	Th.D., Divinity, Provident University, Delaware, USA
Father Youhanna Baddour	Ph.D., Sociology of Religions, Aristotelian University, Thessaloniki, Greece
Father Seraphim Khoury	Ph.D., Canon Law, National and Kapodistrian University, Athens, Greece
Father Ibrahim Chahine	Ph.D, Law and Arabic Literature, Lebanese University, Lebanon
Slim, Souad	Ph.D. History, Paris IV, France, Ph.D., Islamology, Birmingham, UK
Kanaan, Marlène	Doctorat ès-Lettres, Philosophie, Université Saint-Joseph, Liban
Saab, Adib	Ph.D., Religious Studies, University of London, UK
Nahas, Nayla	Ph.D., Psychologie, Université de Toulouse Le Mirail, France
Dannaoui, Elie	Ph.D., Eastern Ecclesiastical Studies - History, Pontifical Oriental Institute - Rome, Italy

VISITING PROFESSORS

Protopresbyter Michel Najim	Th.D., Patristics, Aristotelian University, Thessaloniki, Greece
Protopresbyter Nikolaos Loudovikos	Ph.D., Theology, Aristotelian University, Thessaloniki, Greece
Protopresbyter Chrysostomos Nassis	Ph.D., Theology, Aristotelian University, Thessaloniki, Greece
Paschalidis, Symeon	Ph.D., Theology, Aristotelian University, Thessaloniki, Greece
Arabatzi, Christos	Ph.D., Theology, Aristotelian University, Thessaloniki, Greece
Paparnakis, Athanasius	Ph.D., Theology, Aristotelian University, Thessaloniki, Greece
Belezos, Konstantin	Ph.D., Theology, National and Kapodistrian University, Athens, Greece
Bakas, Ioannis	Ph.D., Theology, Aristotelian University, Thessaloniki, Greece

THE LIBRARY

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

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

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

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

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

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

LIBRARY STAFF

Assistant Librarian

Gilbert 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

MASTER OF THEOLOGY PROGRAM (M.Th.)

MISSION STATEMENT

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

OBJECTIVES

The goals of the M.Th. Program are to:

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

LEARNING OUTCOMES

A successful achiever of this program will be able to:

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

PLOS ACCORDING TO OBJECTIVES

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

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Applicants to the M.Th. program must:

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

* N/A for the Institute's graduates.

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

Remarks for graduate applicants:

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

PROGRAM CONTENT

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

1. To earn the M.Th. degree, a student needs to successfully complete a minimum of 30 credits distributed as follows:

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

RULES AND REGULATIONS

A. Time Limit

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

* N/A for the Institute's graduates.

B. Evaluation

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

C. Passing-Grade

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

D. Evaluation of Academic Performance

D.1 Academic Probation

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

D.2 Removal of Probation

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

D.3 Dropping from the Program

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

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

E. Appeal

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

THESIS REGULATIONS

1. Description

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

2. The Thesis Proposal

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

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

The Thesis proposal must include the following:

- a. Main Title and Subtitle
- b. The Relevance of the Topic of Discussion (no more than 200 words)
- c. The problematic:
 - Issues that the thesis aspires to address (no more than 200 words)

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

3. Supervision

a. Appointment of Supervisor

The Dean officially appoints the supervisor of the thesis.

b. Supervisors' Responsibilities

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

The supervisor is expected to:

- Prepare the thesis proposal with the student.
- Support the student in conducting his/her research.
- Provide supervision on a regular basis, read and discuss the student's work.
- Evaluate the progress of the student in his/her research project and report on this to the Dean in semiannual written evaluations. (fixed form)

c. The Student's Responsibilities

- The student must keep his supervisor informed about the progress of his/her research, by providing him with the following:
 - All the drafts of the gradual phases in writing the thesis.
 - All-important research results.
 - The process of the editing of the final text of the thesis.

d. Semi-annual Evaluations

Every six months, the supervisor provides the Dean with an evaluation of the student's progress in his/her research. Based on the evaluation, the Dean decides whether the student's academic progress and research is satisfactory or not.

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

e. Change of Supervisor

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

4. The Format of the M.Th. Thesis

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

5. The Assessment Committee

a. Definition:

The Assessment Committee is in charge of reading and examining the final text of the Thesis. Upon completion of the M.Th. Thesis, the student submits by hand to the coordinator of the M.Th. Program four copies of the manuscript, and applies in writing for the Thesis defense. His application needs the approval of the Dean, who appoints the assessment committee and the committee chairperson.

b. Composition:

The Assessment Committee consists of 3 members: the supervisor, the first and the second readers, who are professors, associate professors, or assistant professors in related fields of specialization. The Thesis Supervisor may chair the Assessment Committee.

c. Tasks:

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

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

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

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

6. Defense

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

- The date for the defense session is set by the Dean.
- A secretary of the committee writes down the session report.
- The final session report is signed by all members of the Assessment Committee.
- The Grading system is as follows:

Grade	Notation
75-79	Fair
80-84	Good
85-89	Very Good
90-94	Distinction
95 and above	High Distinction

7. Award of the M.Th. Degree

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

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

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

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

COURSE OFFERING

Code	Course Title	Semester	Credits
THEO 300	Methodology of Research	1	3
THEO 311	The Passion Narratives in the Gospels	1	3
THEO 315	The Apostles Peter and Paul and the History of the Early Church in Acts	1	3
THEO 316	Ancient Israel and the Church in St. Paul's Epistles	1	3
THEO 318	Christ's Death and Resurrection For Us in the New Testament	1	3
THEO 319	The Debate about the Genuineness of some Pauline Letters	1	3
THEO 351	Anthropology in the Thought of St. Basil the Great	1	3
THEO 373	Approaches to the Study of Church Hymnology and Byzantine Music	1	3
THEO 388	Advanced Seminar in Psychology for Pastoral Studies	1	3
THEO 332	Schools of Thought in Contemporary Orthodox Theology	2	3
THEO 340	Antiochian Church History	2	3
THEO 349	Parameters of Orthodox Ecclesiology	2	3
THEO 352	Some Theological Aspects in the Thought of St. John of Damascus	2	3
THEO 362	The Antiochian Church during the Renaissance	2	3
THEO 363	Reading the Scriptures through the Quran	2	3
THEO 375	Canonical Foundations of the Church Sacraments and their Practice	2	3
THEO 386	The Holy Scripture in Pastoral Care	2	3
THEO 387	Problematics in Family Care: Marriage and Sickness	2	3

COURSE DESCRIPTION

THEO 300 METHODOLOGY OF RESEARCH

Credits: 3 Hours: 45

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

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

THEO 311 THE PASSION NARRATIVES IN THE GOSPELS

Credits: 3 Hours: 45

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

THEO 315 THE APOSTLES PETER AND PAUL AND THE HISTORY OF THE EARLY CHURCH IN ACTS

Credits: 3 Hours: 45

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

THEO316 ANCIENT ISRAEL AND THE CHURCH IN ST PAUL'S EPISTLES

Credits: 3 Hours: 45

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

THEO 318 CHRIST'S DEATH AND RESURRECTION FOR US IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

Credits: 3 Hours: 45

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

THEO 319 THE DEBATE ABOUT THE GENUINENESS OF SOME PAULINE LETTERS

Credits: 3 Hours: 45

The issue of genuineness of some Pauline epistles became a timely subject in the last years, since it is seriously reconsidered. Even the German consensus on rejecting the genuineness of these Letters started to fall down.

This course presents the arguments and the counter arguments about the debated genuineness of seven epistles. This issue is of great significance, not only because it weighs in studying the historical environment of these Letters, and their true authorship and objectives, but also in view of their importance as normative in studying the thought and style of St Paul, and accordingly as relevant to define Christian tenets.

THEO 332 SCHOOLS OF THOUGHT IN CONTEMPORARY ORTHODOX THEOLOGY

Credits: 3 Hours: 45

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

THEO 340 ANTIOCHIAN CHURCH HISTORY

Credits: 3 Hours: 45

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

THEO 349 PARAMETERS OF ORTHODOX ECCLESIOLOGY

Credits: 3 Hours: 45

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

THEO 351 ANTHROPOLOGY IN THE THOUGHT OF ST. BASIL THE GREAT

Credits: 3 Hours: 45

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

THEO 352 SOME THEOLOGICAL ASPECTS IN THE THOUGHT OF ST. JOHN OF DAMASCUS

Credits: 3 Hours: 45

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

THEO 362: THE ANTIOCHIAN CHURCH DURING THE RENAISSANCE

Credits: 3 Hours: 45

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

THEO 363 READING THE SCRIPTURES THROUGH THE QURAN Credits: 3 Hours: 45

This master level course offers an innovative approach to the study of the Qur'ān and the Bible. It aims at shedding light on their intertextual relationships through intensive hermeneutical analysis of selected Qur'ānic texts taking into account their biblical Vorlagen. Students will obtain knowledge about pre- and early-Islamic Christianity in the Middle East and, thus, about the theological and intellectual context in which the rise of Islam happened. Students will also understand how the Qur'ān conceives of Orthodox Christianity, which would equip them with epistemological tools needed in contemporary Christian-Muslim encounters.

THEO 373 APPROACHES TO THE STUDY OF CHURCH HYMNOLOGY AND BYZANTINE MUSIC

Credits: 3 Hours: 45

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

THEO 375 CANONICAL FOUNDATIONS OF THE CHURCH SACRAMENTS AND THEIR PRACTICE

Credits: 3 Hours: 45

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

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

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

THEO 387 PROBLEMATICS IN FAMILY CARE: MARRIAGE AND SICKNESS

Credits: 3 Hours: 45

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

THEO 388 ADVANCED SEMINAR IN PSYCHOLOGY FOR PASTORAL STUDIES

Credits: 3 Hours: 45

This seminar is a master level course that follows a holistic approach, that discusses the dialectical relationship between physical, social, cognitive, affective and spiritual components of personhood in shaping one's development and change. The seminar aims to critically engage with two psychological theories (attachment theory and Rogers Theory) to explore phenomena that are particularly relevant for pastoral care like marriage, parenthood, death, palliative care, delinquency, personality change, etc... It also seeks to prepare the future pastors to develop a deeper understanding of the basic problematics that different age groups deal with especially adolescents, youth and the elderly.