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ACCS
ST. ATHANASIUS & ST. CYRIL
COPTIC ORTHODOX THEOLOGICAL SCHOOL

COURSE OFFERINGS
Spring 2018 (Jan. 16 – May 18 2018)

1. ACTS 3061 DOGMATICS 2: COUNCIL OF CHALCEDON with **His Eminence Metropolitan Serapion, Bishop Kyrillos, Father Antony Paul, et. al.** **Thursdays 6-9pm PST (LOC/ASL).** As Fr. V.C. Samuel has stated, “There are five facts constitute the background of the Council of Chalcedon: (1) The Christological teaching of the Antiochene and the Alexandrine ways of theological thinking; (2) the Council of Ephesus in 431, which condemned Nestorius as a heretic; (3) the Formulary of Reunion, by which in 433 St. Cyril of Alexandria, the leader of the Alexandrine party, and John of Antioch, the leader of the Antiochene party, arrived at a concordat; (4) the Home Synod of Constantinople, which in 448 excommunicated Eutyches as a heretic; and (5) the second Council of Ephesus in 449, which, having reinstated Eutyches, deposed his judges at Constantinople as well as a number of the leading men on the Antiochene side. This course will provide a thorough examination into the historical events, political tensions, and Christological controversy related to Chalcedon from a Coptic Orthodox perspective. *This course may be used to fulfill an elective or Church History 2 requirement for the MTS.*

2. ACTS 3055 APOLOGETICS 1 with **Fr. Gregory Bishay, Wednesdays 6-9pm PST (LOC/ASL).** This course will explore how to defend the faith (1 Pet 3:15), answer every question (Col. 4:6), reason with others (Acts 18:4), and cast down arguments (2 Cor 10:5) regarding the basic principles of the faith. This course assists servants to reactively respond to questions by removing intellectual and existential barriers, while proactively sharing the relevant message of the Gospel. This course will prepare and equip servants to respond to basic challenges of the faith. *This course fulfills an elective requirement for the MTS.*

3. ACTS 3016 CHURCH HISTORY 2 with **Deacon Severus Mikhail, Mondays 6-9pm PST (LCST/ASL).** This course surveys the history of the Coptic Orthodox Church and community from the seventh through the twentieth centuries. Several themes are privileged throughout the course: Christian-Muslim interactions, shifting communal identities, liturgical developments, and the importance of Coptic-Arabic literature. While the emphasis is on the history and historiography of the Coptic Church (the See of Alexandria), the course will also discuss the major political and theological developments and personalities of the Christian east in general. *This course may be used to fulfill the Church History 2 requirement for the MTS.*

4. ACTS 3023 BIBLICAL APOLOGETICS with **Dr. George Tadros & Fr. Gregory Bishay (LOC/ASL).** This course will be held on 3 weekends: **Friday evening 6 to 9pm, Saturday 9am to 4pm, and Sunday 1pm to 5pm on the following three weekends: February 23-25, March 9-11, and April 20-22, 2018.** This Course will tackle the major apologetic challenges to the Biblical text and interpretation. Topics covered include authenticity, canonicity, textual variations, and the use of Biblical Archeology in OT & NT studies. Additionally, the course will discuss the major apologetic debates in OT (e.g. Creation vs. Evolution, Flood geology, historicity of Exodus, morality of the Canaanite war, slavery) and NT (Historical Jesus, Resurrection of Christ, miracles). *This course may be used to fulfill the Biblical Elective requirement for the MTS.*

SELF-PACED COURSES

5. ACTS 3040 LITURGICS 1 with **Fr. Felimon Mikhail (SAL).** “Surely the Lord is in this place...How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of Heaven!” (Gen 28:16-17). This declaration which Jacob made at Bethel reflects the Orthodox understanding that the Church is not simply a type and figure of heaven, but the actual substrate of that future transformation. Such a heavenly paradigm is the cornerstone upon which the entire liturgical tradition of the Coptic Orthodox Church is established. This course provides an introduction to the liturgical rituals and rubrics of the Coptic Orthodox Church, and provides some insights into the history and development of this rich tradition. *This course may be used to fulfill the Liturgics core requirement for the MTS.*

6. ACTS 3030 PATRISTICS 1 with **His Grace Bishop Kyrillos, Fr. Kyrillos Ibrahim and Dr. Sarah Morcos (SAL).** This course covers the life, writings, and thought of the early Church Fathers. It presents the living story of the Early Church in all its aspects of worship, pastoral and social concepts, preaching and spirituality. The presentation alternatively focuses on various Fathers, east and west, and the discussion of various theological topics among them. *This course may be used to fulfill the Patristics core requirement for the MTS.*

IMPORTANT SPRING 2018 DATES

November 16th 2017-January 30th 2018: Registration for Spring 2018 available
January 30th: Last day to Add/Drop for Spring 2018
January 30th: Payment in full due for spring 2018, or payment plan required
February 13th: Last day for partial (50%) refund for courses
March 18th: Last Day to Withdraw for courses and receive a W
May 14th- May 18th: Finals Week for Spring 2018

OTHER AVAILABLE COURSES:

THS 3099/4099 Special Topics in Historical Studies: Syriac Christianity with **Dr. Liza Anderson** Thursdays 3-5:50PM (LCST, In person ONLY). *Through Claremont School of Theology only, course will be offered to ACTS students to Audit ONLY (credit option from ACTS is available on a case by case basis) cost is \$600, please contact Office@actslibrary.org to register or for more information.* This course offers an introduction to the history and theology of Syriac Christianity as it developed in the Middle East and Asia from its beginnings until the year 1500. We will survey the history of ancient and medieval Christianity in diverse cultural contexts including: the Persian Empire, the Arabian Peninsula, the Silk Road, India, and China, and students will read primary source theological writings from major Syriac Christian authors, treating themes such as mysticism and spirituality, Muslim-Christian encounter, the lives of female and male saints, views of creation and the environment, biblical interpretation, monasticism, and the dialogue between Christianity and Chinese religions.

LEGEND

LOC: Live instruction at Orange County Campus

LCST: Live instruction at Claremont School of Theology

ASL: The Asynchronous Learning model gives students the option (but not the requirement) of attending the course online at the same time of instruction or at anytime during the week such that they meet the weekly requirements in the syllabus. Instructors provide materials, lectures, tests, and assignments throughout the course.

SAL: Self-paced Asynchronous Learning classes are those where instructors provide materials, lectures, tests, and assignments that can be accessed at any time throughout the semester. Students may complete the course at the same pace as a regular course offering (approx. 1 lecture per week) or may accelerate their studies and complete the course as quickly as they would like. Students will be encouraged not to fall behind in their studies by maintaining pace with our other courses.