

**Course Syllabus**  
**TRH2455 – Living in the Spirit:**  
**Modern Orthodox Spirituality**  
**Trinity College**  
**Toronto School of Theology**  
**September to December (Fall) 2018**

***Instructor Information***

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Instructor: Dr Paul Ladouceur  
Office Location: Larkin Building, Office 317  
Telephone: 416-978-2170 (in-session only; no messages)  
E-mail: 123thabor@gmail.com  
Office Hours: By appointment

***Course Identification***

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Course Number: TRH2455  
Course Format: *In-class or Online*  
Course Name: Living in the Spirit: Modern Orthodox Spirituality  
Course Location: Larkin Building, Room \_\_\_\_  
Class Times: Tuesdays and Fridays, 7pm to 10pm (six-week schedule)  
First class: Tuesday, September 11, 2018  
Class schedule: September 11, 14, 18, 21, 25, 28  
October 30, November 2, 6, 9, 13, 16  
Prerequisites: None

***Course Description***

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This course covers modern approaches to the Orthodox concept of *theosis*, the movement of the Christian into complete life in, through, and with God, through Christ and the Holy Spirit. The course focuses in particular on the leading Orthodox spiritual personalities, movements and writings of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. The writings include works of contemplation, monastic and non-monastic texts, sermons and catecheses. Classroom and online students will be evaluated on the basis of participation and presentations of texts, a review of a modern work of Orthodox spirituality, and a research essay.

***Expanded Course Description***

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While maintaining a broad thematic continuity with Orthodox spirituality of the first millennium, the rich corpus of Orthodox spiritual writings since the fourteenth century reflects influences and problems typical of the wide range of historical and geopolitical circumstances of Orthodox Christians over the centuries, nurtured by the religious climates of Russia, Romania, Greece, Mount Athos, the Christian Middle East, and Western Europe and North America. Personalities and writings to be studied will be considered in both their historical and personal contexts and will be situated within broad themes characteristic of modern Orthodox spirituality, such as the “Philokalic” and hesychastic revival beginning

in the late eighteenth century, the Jesus Prayer, spiritual guidance, monastic renewal, liturgical spirituality, spirituality in times of revolution, persecution and exile, and spirituality in a secular environment. With modern times there are strong external pressures from contemporary secular culture, from the Enlightenment to scientific positivism, militant and non-militant atheism, existentialism and modernism. Leading figures of the Church – clergy, monastics and lay people – respond to these challenges, witnessing to Christ in their lives and their writings, which have a powerful impact and colour modern Orthodox life.

Readings in a Course Reader of texts will include selections from major Orthodox pastoral and spiritual authors of Russia, Greece, Mount Athos, Romania, Serbia, the Christian Middle East and Western Europe and North America. Authors include St Nicholas Cabasilas, St Nikodemos of the Holy Mountain, St Seraphim of Sarov, Fr Arseny of Russia, Alexander Men, Joseph the Hesychast, Mother Gavrilia, St Silouan the Athonite, Elder Cleopa, Dumitru Staniloae, Matta El-Meskeen, St Nicholas Velimirovitch, Alexander Eltchaninov, St Maria of Paris, Lev Gillet, Elisabeth Behr-Sigel, Paul Evdokimov, Anthony Bloom, Archimandrite Sophrony, Alexander Schmemmann, and Kallistos Ware.

## **Course Resources**

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### **Required Reading**

*The Burning Bush: A Modern Philokalia (Readings in Modern Orthodox Spirituality)* (“Course pack”)

### **Required Course Books**

One book (for book report) to be selected from the following:

Metropolitan Anthony Bloom, *Essential Writings* (Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 2010). ISBN: 978-1570758669.

Igumen Chariton of Valamo, *The Art of Prayer: An Orthodox Anthology* (London: Faber and Faber, 1966; 1997). ISBN: 978-0571191659. [Mostly extracts from St. Theophanes the Recluse.]

*Father Arseny 1893-1973: Priest, Prisoner, Spiritual Father* (Yonkers NY: St Vladimir’s Seminary Press, 1998). ISBN: 978-0881411805.

John of Kronstadt, *My Life in Christ* (Jordanville, NY: Holy Trinity Russian Orthodox Monastery, 1957). Complete version free online: <http://www.ccel.org/ccel/kronstadt/christlife>. For the book review: Part I, pages 1-249. Or this book of extracts: *Spiritual Counsels of Father John of Kronstadt: Select Passages from My Life in Christ*. W. Jardine Grisbrooke, ed. (Crestwood, NY: St. Vladimir’s Seminary Press, 1989). ISBN: 0913836923.

Matthew the Poor, *Orthodox Prayer Life: The Interior Way* (Yonkers NY: St Vladimir’s Seminary Press, 2003). ISBN 978-0881412505.

Alexander Men, *The Son of Man* (Oakwood Publications, 1998). ISBN: 978-1879038288 (Out of print).

Alexander Men, *An Inner Step Toward God: Writings and Teachings on Prayer* (Paraclete Press MA, 2014) ISBN-13: 978-1612612386.

Nicodemus of the Holy Mountain, *Unseen Warfare: The Spiritual Combat and Path to Paradise* (Yonkers NY: St Vladimir’s Seminary Press, 1989). ISBN: 978-0913836521.

Writings of Saint Silouan the Athonite in: Archimandrite Sophrony, *Saint Silouan the Athonite* (Yonkers NY: St Vladimir’s Seminary Press, 2002). ISBN: 978-0881411959.

Mother Maria Skobtsova, *Essential Writings*. (Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 2002). ISBN: 978-1570754364.

*Monastic Wisdom: The Letters of Elder Joseph the Hesychast* (Florence AZ: St Anthony's Greek Monastery, 1998). ISBN: 978-0966700015.

Elder Porphyrios, *Wounded by Love: The Life and Wisdom of Elder Porphyrios* (Athens: Denise Harvey, 2005). ISBN: 978-9607120199.

### Recommended Secondary Sources

Élisabeth Behr-Sigel, *The Place of the Heart: An Introduction to Orthodox Spirituality* (Torrance CA: Oakwood Publications, 1992; St. Vladimir's Seminary Press, 2012). ISBN: 978-0881414523.

Placide Deseille, *Orthodox Spirituality and the Philokalia* (Wichita KS: Eighth Day Press, 2008).

Paul Evdokimov, *The Ages of the Spiritual Life* (Crestwood, NY: St. Vladimir's Seminary Press, 1998). ISBN: 978-0881411751.

Georges Florovsky, *The Byzantine Ascetic and Spiritual Fathers* (1933), in *The Collected Works of Georges Florovsky*, Vol. 10 (Vaduz: Büchervertriebsanstalt, 1987).

Online at: [www.holytrinitymission.org/books/english/fathers\\_florovsky\\_4.htm](http://www.holytrinitymission.org/books/english/fathers_florovsky_4.htm).

John Meyendorff, *St Gregory Palamas and Orthodox Spirituality* (Crestwood NY: St Vladimir's Seminary Press, 1974). ISBN: 978-0913836118

A Monk of the Eastern Church [Fr Lev Gillet], *Orthodox Spirituality: An Outline of the Orthodox Ascetical and Mystical Tradition* (Crestwood, NY: St. Vladimir's Seminary Press, 1996). Out of print.

Dumitru Staniloae, *Orthodox Spirituality: A Practical Guide for the Faithful and a Definitive Manual for the Scholar* (South Canaan PA: St Tikhon's Seminary Press, 2002).

### Course Website(s)

- Quercus: <https://q.utoronto.ca/>

This course uses Quercus for its course website. To access it, go to the UofT Quercus login page at <https://q.utoronto.ca/> and login using your UTORid and password. Once you have logged in to Quercus using your UTORid and password, look for the **My Courses** module, where you'll find the link to the website for all your Quercus-based courses. (Your course registration with ACORN gives you access to the course website in Quercus.) Information for students about using Quercus can be found at: <https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10701>. Students who have trouble accessing Quercus should ask Sydney Yeung ([divinity@trinity.utoronto.ca](mailto:divinity@trinity.utoronto.ca)) for further help.

## ***Course Learning Objectives/Outcomes***

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### Basic Degree Level Outcomes

#### (A) IN RESPECT OF GENERAL ACADEMIC SKILLS

Students successfully completing this course will be able to demonstrate the following learning outcomes:

- the ability to distinguish primary sources from secondary sources
- the ability to provide a plausible analysis of a primary source in theological studies according to its genre, purpose, assumptions or tendency, and intended audience

- the ability to give an accurate summary of the substance of a secondary source in theological studies, to give a plausible account of its place in the discussions or controversies of an academic or faith community, and to evaluate whether its approach to solving a problem is appropriate
- the ability to pose a clear substantial question for reflection or research
- the ability to gather information in theological studies
- the ability to write an academic essay with a clear thesis statement, an expository outline dependent on the thesis statement, a selection of primary evidence appropriate to the exposition, persuasive interpretations and arguments, and reference to alternative possible interpretations of the primary evidence
- the ability to apply learning from one or more areas outside theological studies
- an understanding of the limits to his or her own knowledge and ability, and an appreciation of the uncertainty, ambiguity and limits to knowledge and how these might influence analyses and interpretations
- qualities and skills necessary for ministry, further study, and community involvement
- the ability to exercise initiative, personal responsibility, and accountability in both personal and group contexts
- the ability to work effectively with others
- the ability to manage his or her own learning
- behaviour consistent with academic integrity and social responsibility

**(B) IN RESPECT OF THE UNDERSTANDING OF THE CONTENT OF ONE OR MORE THEOLOGICAL DISCIPLINES**

Students successfully completing this course will be able to:

- name and describe in their historical, geographic and personal circumstances the principal figures (especially saints, elders and other holy men and women) who have marked in Orthodox spirituality from the 14<sup>th</sup> century to the early 21<sup>st</sup> century
- describe and assess the major features, movements and writings in Orthodox spirituality during this period
- discuss and assess, following a critical reading and review, a major Orthodox spiritual writing of modern times
- identify and appraise the principal primary and secondary sources pertinent to Orthodox spirituality in modern times

**(C) IN RESPECT OF PERSONAL AND SPIRITUAL FORMATION**

Students successfully completing this course will be able to:

- employ insights gleaned from Orthodox pastoral and spiritual writings during this period to their own spiritual life and formation

**(D) IN RESPECT OF MINISTERIAL AND PUBLIC LEADERSHIP**

Students successfully completing this course will be able to:

- apply the main Orthodox pastoral and spiritual writings from the modern era to their pastoral ministry or service within the church

## ***Evaluation***

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### **Requirements – Classroom and Online Sections**

The final grade for the course will be based on the following areas:

- Attendance and participation in class or online 20%
- Review of one of the Required Course Books 30%
- Research essay 50%

### **Grading System - Basic Degree Students**

1000, 2000 and 3000 level courses use the following numerical grading scale (see section 11.2 of the BD Handbook):

90-100 (A+)	Exceptional
85-89 (A)	Outstanding
80-84 (A-)	Excellent
77-79 (B+)	Very Good
73-76 (B)	Good
70-72 (B-)	Acceptable
0-69 (FZ)	Failure

Please see the appropriate handbook for more details about the grading scale and non-numerical grades (e.g. SDF, INC, etc).

***Late work (BD).*** Basic Degree students are expected to hand in assignments by the date given in the course outline. [The instructor should stipulate the penalty for late work.] The absolute deadline for the course is the examination day scheduled for the course or the last day of exam week for the semester in which the course is taught, whichever is sooner.

This penalty is not applied to students with documented medical or compassionate difficulties or exceptional reasons (e.g., a death in the family or a serious illness); students facing such difficulties are kindly requested to consult with their faculty adviser or basic degree director, who should make a recommendation on the matter to the instructor and request an SDF. The absolute deadline for obtaining an SDF for the course is the examination day scheduled for the course or the last day of examination week, whichever is sooner. An SDF must be requested from the registrar's office in the student's college of registration no later than the last day of exam week in which the course is taken. The SDF, when approved, will have a mutually agreed upon deadline that does not extend beyond the conclusion of the following term. If a student has not completed work but has not been granted an SDF, a final mark will be submitted calculating a zero for work not submitted.

***Course grades.*** Consistently with the policy of the University of Toronto, course grades submitted by an instructor are reviewed by a committee of the instructor's college before being posted to ACORN. Grades are not official until they are posted to ACORN. Course grades may be adjusted where they do not comply with University Assessment and Grading Practices Policy found at

[www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/Assets/Governing+Council+Digital+Assets/Policies/PDF/grading.pdf](http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/Assets/Governing+Council+Digital+Assets/Policies/PDF/grading.pdf), policies found in the TST conjoint program handbooks, or college grading policy.

## **Policies**

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**Accessibility.** Students with a disability or health consideration, whether temporary or permanent, are entitled to accommodation. Students in conjoint degree programs must register at the University of Toronto's Accessibility Services offices; information is available at <http://www.accessibility.utoronto.ca/>. The sooner a student seeks accommodation, the quicker we can assist.

**Plagiarism.** Students submitting written material in courses are expected to provide full documentation for sources of both words and ideas in footnotes or endnotes. Direct quotations should be placed within quotation marks. (If small changes are made in the quotation, they should be indicated by appropriate punctuation such as brackets and ellipses, but the quotation still counts as a direct quotation.) Failure to document borrowed material constitutes plagiarism, which is a serious breach of academic, professional, and Christian ethics. An instructor who discovers evidence of student plagiarism is not permitted to deal with the situation individually but is required to report it to his or her head of college or delegate according to the TST *Basic Degree Handbook* and the Graduate program Handbooks (linked from <http://www.tst.edu/academic/resources-forms/handbooks> and the University of Toronto *Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters* <http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/AssetFactory.aspx?did=4871>). A student who plagiarizes in this course will be assumed to have read the document "Avoidance of plagiarism in theological writing" published by the Graham Library of Trinity and Wycliffe Colleges [http://www.trinity.utoronto.ca/Library\\_Archives/Theological\\_Resources/Tools/Guides/plag.htm](http://www.trinity.utoronto.ca/Library_Archives/Theological_Resources/Tools/Guides/plag.htm).

**Other academic offences.** TST students come under the jurisdiction of the University of Toronto Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters <http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/behaveac.htm>.

**Back-up copies.** Please make back-up copies of essays before handing them in.

**Obligation to check email.** At times, the course instructor may decide to send out important course information by email. To that end, all students in conjoint programs are required to have a valid utoronto email address. Students must have set up their utoronto email address which is entered in the ACORN system. Information is available at [www.utorid.utoronto.ca](http://www.utorid.utoronto.ca). The course instructor will not be able to help you with this. 416-978-HELP and the Help Desk at the Information Commons can answer questions you may have about your UTORid and password. *Students should check utoronto email regularly* for messages about the course. **Forwarding** your utoronto.ca email to a Hotmail, Gmail, Yahoo or other type of email account is not advisable. In some cases, messages from utoronto.ca addresses sent to Hotmail, Gmail or Yahoo accounts are filtered as junk mail, which means that emails from your course instructor may end up in your spam or junk mail folder. Students in non-conjoint programs should contact the Registrar of their college of registration.

**Email communication with the course instructor.** The instructor aims to respond to email communications from students in a timely manner. *All email communications from students in conjoint programs must be sent from a utoronto email address.* Email communications from other email addresses are not secure, and also the instructor cannot readily identify them as being legitimate emails from students. The instructor is not obliged to respond to email from non-utoronto addresses for students in conjoint programs. Students in non-conjoint programs should only use the email address they have provided to their college of registration.

## ***Course Schedule***

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- Class 1 – Course introduction. Orthodox Spirituality from the 14th to the 18th Centuries.
- Class 2 - The “Philocalic Renewal” in Greece, Romania and Russia.
- Class 3 - Overview of the impact of the main historical events of the 20<sup>th</sup> century on Orthodoxy. Spirituality in Russia in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Centuries.
- Class 4 - Spirituality in Russia in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Centuries (continued).
- Class 5 – Spirituality in Greece.
- Class 6 – Spirituality on Mount Athos.
- Class 7 – Spirituality in Romania.
- Class 7 – Spirituality in Serbia.
- Class 8 – Spirituality in the Christian Middle East.
- Class 9 – Orthodox Spirituality in the West 1 (Fr Sergius Bulgakov; Fr Alexander Eltchaninov; St Maria of Paris/Mother Maria Skobtsova).
- Class 10 – Orthodox Spirituality in the West 2 (Fr Lev Gillet; Elisabeth Behr-Sigel; Paul Evdokimov; Nadejda Gorodetski).
- Class 11 – Orthodox Spirituality in the West 3 (Metropolitan Anthony Bloom; Archimandrite Sophrony (Sakharov); Metropolitan Kallistos Ware).
- Class 12 – Orthodox Spirituality in North America (Fr Alexander Schmemmann; Orthodox Saints of North America; Monasticism in North America).

**Please note that this syllabus is subject to change in accordance with the regulations in the TST *Basic Degree Handbook*.**