Course Syllabus
TRH2951H – History and Sources of Egyptian Monasticism
Trinity College
Toronto School of Theology
September to December (Fall) 2016

Instructor Information
Instructor: Dr Ramez Boutros Bishara
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Office Hours: TBD

Course Identification
Course Number: TRH2951H
Course Name: History and Sources of Egyptian Monasticism
Course Location: Canadian Coptic Centre II, 6341 Mississauga Road, Mississauga
Class Times: Tuesdays 7pm to 10pm
Prerequisites: None

Course Description
Since the 3rd century Egyptian monks developed a fervent ascetic movement that spread across Egypt. Hermits, anchorites and monks, all passionate about dedicating their lives to God, created living spaces responding to their spiritual and material daily needs, from the recluse cave to the most sophisticated monastic complex.

The History of Egyptian Monasticism will present a historical overview on the origins of monasticism based on written sources. The comparison of these sources with the outcomes of archaeological excavations will reveal the relation between spiritual and material aspects of monastic life. Samples of published literary sources produced for different monastic orders such as sermons, canons and biographies will be studied.

Students will be evaluated on their class participation, a book review, class presentation, term paper and two tests.
**Course Resources**

**Required Course Readings**

Selected chapters from the following references will be available on the course portal.


**Online Resources**

*The Coptic Encyclopedia, maintained by Claremont Colleges Digital Library*
http://ccdl.libraries.claremont.edu/cdm/landingpage/collection/cce

*Coptica, maintained by Pierre Cherix, Université de Genève*
http://www.coptica.ch
Useful, up-to-date collection of links and study aids.

*Blog and Facebook page dedicated to Coptic manuscripts maintained by Alin Suciu*
http://alinsuciu.com/
https://www.facebook.com/copticmanuscripts

*e-COPTOLOGY: Towards a Digital Heritage, maintained by Ibrahim Saweros*
http://copticforegyptians.blogspot.nl/
Collection of books and articles on various topics, complementing the sites maintained by Pierre Cherix and Alin Suciu

*St. Shenouda the Archimandrite Coptic Society, maintained by Hany Takla*
http://www.stshenouda.com
This site contains an overview article on Coptic manuscripts at:
www.stshenouda.com/coptman/coptmss1.htm and gives access to the manuscript collection of the society.

*The Canadian Society for Coptic Studies, Toronto*
https://www.facebook.com/CanadianSocietyCopticStudies
Course Portal

This course will make extensive use of the University of Toronto’s Learning Portal also known as ‘Blackboard’.

To access the portal, go to the UofT portal login page at https://portal.utoronto.ca and log in using your UTORid and password. Once you have logged in to the portal using your UTORid and password, look for the My Courses module, where you’ll find the link to the website for all your Blackboard-based courses. (Your course registration with ROSI gives you access to the course website at Blackboard.) Note also the information at http://www.portalinfo.utoronto.ca/content/information-students.

Please ensure that you are familiar with how to access the system and navigate through it. The portal will be used in the following ways:

- Keeping an updated version of the course syllabus and calendar
- Providing course readings, bibliographies and other handouts
- Sharing additional online resources
- Communicating class notices and updates
- Issuing assignment guidelines and deadlines
- Accepting assignment submissions
- Providing feedback and grades for all assignments and other course requirements

Auditors who do not have a UTORid should speak to the instructor to receive guest access to the course portal.

As in the classroom, online communication must be carried out respectfully and civilly at all times. Writing within the online media of blogs, discussion forums is not an excuse for laziness, lack of proper reflection or uncivility. Arguments must be carefully crafted, respectfully presented and grounded in source texts and solid reflection. Students who fail to adhere to these guidelines will not succeed in this course.

Course Learning Objectives

The goals of this course are:

- To expose students to the wealth of sources in the field of Egyptian monasticism.
- To introduce students to different types of historical primary sources and how to historically-critically interpret them.
- To show the students how sources can be used to reconstruct the context of each period of the Egyptian monasticism.

The outcomes are:

- Students shall be able to provide key dates, names of persons and contexts for central events in the History of Egyptian monasticism.
• Students shall be able to distinguish between different genres and types of historical documents.

• Students will be able to identify historically important geographical areas and to distinguish between the different forms of monasticism.

• The major outcome is to understand how independent institutions, like Coptic monasteries, has managed to survive by playing an active role in conserving Christianity in Egypt and beyond its historical borders.

Evaluation

Marking Scheme

*Penalty will be applied for assignments submitted after the indicated deadline: 0.5% per day of lateness reduction in mark.*

1. Presence and class participation  10%
2. Book review  10%
3. Term paper  30%
4. Test 1  20%
5. Test 2  20%
6. Class presentation  10%

Course Requirements

1. Presence and participation in the Class 10%

Lectures will be the first hour of class, while the discussion will immediately follow the lecture. Students will be expected to discuss and interact about the material presented in lectures. Hence attending all lectures is required.

2. Book review  10%

Due date (Week 8)

Write a book review in maximum two pages (*circa* 500 words). The book review should respect the following structure: a) a brief presentation of the book; b) analysis of the content, style and merit in relation to what the author set out to accomplish; c) conclusion with your opinion about the results and its relevancy to the actual course.

Format: double space, font 12 Times New Roman
For the book review, select one of the following references


3. Term paper 30%

Due date (Week 13)

Every student is required to submit a term paper proposal no later than Week 7. The proposal should include a thesis that the student puts forward as a premise to be argued and a suggested bibliography.

Number of pages required: (circa 15 pages of text; plus plans, figures, maps and pictures)

Format: double space, font 12 Times New Roman. Footnotes should be placed at the bottom of each page (a style sheet will be posted on the blackboard). The paper should respect the following structure:

a) a short introduction; b) the thesis which the student has chosen to be argued; c) a brief assessment of sources (the main references used to write the paper); and method of research; d) discussion and arguments; e) conclusion; f) Bibliographical list of books and articles used in the research should be annexed at the end of the essay.

Your paper should tackle one the following topics:

1-Sermons of Shenute of Atripe

2-The written lives of Saint Paul the hermit and Saint Anthony

3-Early Women’s monasticism in Egypt

4-Islam and Christian monasticism

5-Copto-Arabic monastic writings in the Mediaeval Egypt (Butrus el-Sedmenti; Bulus el Bushi)

6-The economy of Coptic monasteries

7-Work and spiritual life in Egyptian monasticism

8-Founders of the Egyptian monasticism

9-Impact of the Chalcedonian schism on Egyptian monasticism

10-Monasteries of the Alexandrian region
Tests

The test format will consist of: a short essay; true or false questions; definitions and multiple-choice questions (MCQ).

4. Test 1 20%

Date (Week 6)

This test will cover the first five lectures (Week 1 to Week 5)

5. Test 2 20%

Date (Week 12)

This test will cover the last six lectures (Week 6 to Week 11)

6. Class presentation 10%

Date (Week 3 and Week 12)

Every student is required to give a presentation in class (15 to 20 minutes maximum) on one of the suggested topics. Registration is required before Week 3, (September 27). The material of the presentation should be taken only from scholarly references. The student should avoid using non-scholarly online resources (such as blogs and web pages created by non-professionals in the subject matter).

Please select one of the following topics

1-Different theories about the origins of Egyptian monasticism
2-Multi-ethnic character of Scetis (Wadi el-Natrun)
3-The library of the White monastery
4-Saint Shenute the archimandrite of Atripe
5-Saint Macarius the Great, his life and leadership in Scetis
6-The written Life of Saint Antony
7-The writings of Monastic Theologians of the 4th & 5th centuries
8-Terminology related to monasticism
9-Early Greek and Coptic sources on monasticism
10-The communal rule of Saint Pachomius
Grading System

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
<th>Numerical Equivalents</th>
<th>Grade Point</th>
<th>Grasp of Subject Matter</th>
<th>Other qualities expected of students</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A RANGE: Excellent: Student shows original thinking, analytic and synthetic ability, critical evaluations, and broad knowledge base.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>90-100</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>Profound and Creative</td>
<td>Strong evidence of original thought, of analytic and synthetic ability; sound and penetrating critical evaluations which identify assumptions of those they study as well as their own; mastery of an extensive knowledge base</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>85-89</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>Outstanding</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>80-84</td>
<td>3.7</td>
<td>Excellent</td>
<td>Clear evidence of original thinking, of analytic and synthetic ability; sound critical evaluations; broad knowledge base</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B RANGE: Good: Student shows critical capacity and analytic ability, understanding of relevant issues, familiarity with the literature.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>77-79</td>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>Very Good</td>
<td>Good critical capacity and analytic ability; reasonable understanding of relevant issues; good familiarity with the literature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>73-76</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>Good</td>
<td>Adequate critical capacity and analytic ability; some understanding of relevant issues; some familiarity with the literature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>70-72</td>
<td>2.7</td>
<td>Satisfactory at a post-baccalaureate level.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FZ</td>
<td>0-69</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Failure</td>
<td>Failure to meet the above criteria</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Policy on Late Assignments

The instructor reserves the right to deduct up to 0.5% of the final assignment grade for each day that an assignment is late. Students are generally granted a ‘grace week’ provided the instructor is informed of any special circumstances before the assignment deadline.

This penalty is not applied to students with medical or compassionate difficulties; students facing such difficulties are kindly requested to consult with their faculty advisor or basic degree director, who should make a recommendation on the matter to the instructor. The absolute deadline for the course is the examination day scheduled for the course. Students who for exceptional reasons (for instance, a death in the family or a serious illness) are unable to complete work by this date may request an extension (SDF = ‘standing deferred’) beyond the term. An SDF must be requested from the registrar’s office in the
student’s college of registration no later than the last day of classes 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. Course grades may be adjusted where they do not comply with University grading policy (http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/grading.htm) or college grading policy.

Policies

Accessibility. Students with a disability or health consideration are entitled to accommodation. Students 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 (linked from http://www.tst.edu/content/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. Students 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).

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 credit students are required to have a valid utoronto email address. Students must have set up a utoronto email address which is entered in the ROSI system. Information is available at 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.
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 should 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.

Course Schedule

Week 1 (September 13)
Religious and political chronology of Egypt
Origins of the Egyptian monasticism

Week 2 (September 20)
Origins & Terminology: monk (cenobite); anchorite; hermit; anachoresis.

Week 3 (September 27)
Early sources on monasticism (Apohlegmata Patrum; Historia Monachorum; History of Palladius; Life of Anthony; Life of Paul; Institutions of John Cassian)

Week 4 (October 4)
Foundation of the main Monastic Centers in the 4th/5th century: Scetis; Kellia; Nitria; Atripe; Saqqara; Bawit; Tabenese

Week 5 (October 11)
Rules of Pachomius; Writings of Shenute of Atripe

Week 6 (October 18)
Test 1 (1 hour)
Coptic Papacy and Monasticism

Week 7 (October 25)
Monasteries of the deserts and monasteries of the Nile Valley

Week 8 (November 1)
The impact of the Arab conquest of Egypt on the Coptic Church
Book review due date

Fall break: November 7-8, 2016 (no class on Nov. 8th)

Week 9 (November 15)
Monastic institutions from the 6th to the 8th centuries
Decline of monastic centers in the 9th century: Bawit, Kellia, Nitria and Monasteries of the Theban Mountain

Week 11 (November 22)
Coptic monks and monasteries during the different Islamic dynasties known from the Arabic literary and documentary sources (Al-Shabusti, al-Antaki, Papyri, Papers)

Week 12 (November 29)
Monks and monasteries as described in the mediaeval Arabic sources

Week 13 (December 6)
Test 2 (1 hour)
Term paper due date

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