

Course Syllabus
TRP2171 – Sanctification of Time: Orthodox Liturgy of the Hours and Liturgical Year
Trinity College
Toronto School of Theology
September to December (Fall) 2019

Instructor Information

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Course Identification

Course Number: TRP2171
Course Name: Sanctification of Time: Orthodox Liturgy of the Hours and Liturgical Year
Course Location: Larkin Building, Room 212 (*and online section*)
Class Times: Mondays 7pm to 9.30pm
Prerequisites: None

Course Description

This course will explore through classroom lectures and seminar discussions the texts and pastoral practice of the daily cycle of the liturgy of the hours and the yearly cycle of feasts, fasts and commemorations of the Byzantine (Orthodox and Eastern Catholic) churches, including the historical evolution and theological meaning of those rites. Some consideration will also be given to the liturgies of the hours and liturgical year of the Oriental Orthodox churches, specifically the Syriac, Coptic and Ethiopian rites. The course will also further develop the concept of liturgical theology and the reflect on pastoral practice in the celebration of daily and festal services.

Students will be evaluated on their class participation, a short essay or presentation on a psalm or canticle, a liturgical reflection journal, a festal seminar presentation and final oral exam.

For the online section, classroom lectures and seminars will be recorded and made available to view on the course portal. Participation will be via online discussion forums, and the final oral exam will be replaced by a take-home written exam.

Expanded Course Description

The aim of this course is to explore the way in which the church over the centuries has employed the various cycles of time — daily, weekly, and annual — to redirect our lives toward the kingdom of God, which is our ultimate goal. Just as all the major passages of our lives, from birth to death, are sanctified, so also is the daily course of life. The approach will be primarily historical, moving through the origin and development of the cycles of time in both Judaism and Christianity.

The first half of the course will focus on the daily cycle, the liturgy of the hours, which is the most primitive: Vespers, Compline, Midnight Office, Mattins, the Little Hours and Typical Psalms. The second part will focus on the annual cycles of the liturgical year, including the moveable paschal cycle, as well as the cycle of fixed feasts and commemoration of saints.

In addition to studying the historical development and structure of these services and commemorations, the course will explore their hymnography and themes from different perspectives, including theological, pastoral and literary, and deepen students' understanding of liturgical theology and the meaning of these commemorations within the broader theological context of the church and salvation in Christ.

The focus of this course will be on the Byzantine rite as used in the Orthodox and Eastern Catholic churches, with some exploration (including through student seminars) of the liturgies of the hours and liturgical year of the Oriental Orthodox churches.

There are no prerequisites for this course. Students should have a good grounding in both Old and New Testament. Students without such a background should speak to the instructor who will provide some remedial reading prior to beginning the course.

Course Resources

Required Course Readings

Required readings – liturgical texts, articles and book extracts – will be provided via the course portal, which students can choose to view online or download and print.

Recommended Books

The following books are recommended for this course, both to supplement in-class / online discussion and for the preparation of the short essay/presentation and seminar discussion.

- George Barrois, *Scripture Readings in Orthodox Worship* (SVS Press)
- Paul Bradshaw, *Daily Prayer in the Early Church: A Study of the Origin and Early Development of the Divine Office* (Wipf & Stock)
- Paul Bradshaw and Maxwell Johnson, *The Origins of Feasts, Fasts and Seasons in Early Christianity* (SPCK)
- Alkiviadis Calivas, *Great Week and Pascha in the Greek Orthodox Church and Come Before God* (both Holy Cross Press)
- Oscar Cullman, *Christ and Time: The Primitive Christian Conception of Time and History* (Wipf & Stock)
- Job Getcha, *The Typikon Decoded: An Explanation of Byzantine Liturgical Practice* (SVS Press)
- Lev Gillet (A Monk of the Eastern Church), *The Year of Grace of the Lord* (SVS Press)
- George Guiver, *Company of Voices: Daily Prayer and the People of God* (SPCK)
- Thomas Hopko, *The Lenten Spring* and *The Winter Pascha* (both SVS Press)
- William Mills, *Feasts of Faith: Reflections on the Major Feast Days* (Holy Transfiguration Monastery)

- Alexander Schmemmann, *Liturgy and Life; Great Lent; Introduction to Liturgical Theology* (all SVS Press)
- Robert Taft, *The Byzantine Rite: A Short History* (Liturgical Press)
- Robert Taft, *Beyond East and West: Problems in Liturgical Understanding* (Pontifical Oriental Institute)
- Robert Taft, *The Liturgy of the Hours in East and West*, 2nd edition (Liturgical Press)
- Thomas Talley, *The Origins of the Liturgical Year* (Liturgical Press)
- Nicholas Uspensky, *Evening Worship in the Orthodox Church* (SVS Press)
- Gregory Woolfenden, *Daily Liturgical Prayer: Origins and Theology* (Ashgate)

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) for further help.

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

Students successfully completing this course will be able to:

- Be familiar with the main structures of the daily, weekly and annual cycles of the Orthodox church and identify and navigate the main service books
- Understand the theology of the liturgy of the hours and their constitutive parts (psalms, hymns, prayers) and analyse the worldview generating — and resulting from — this worship
- Outline the main stages of the development of the 'Byzantine rite' liturgy of the hours, including in relation to other traditions (eg Coptic and Ethiopian and other eastern offices)
- Describe the principal feasts, seasons and important commemorations of the moveable (paschal) and immoveable cycles of the Orthodox liturgical year, and their underlying theological themes
- Reflect on the issues arising from the attempt to celebrate the cycles of Orthodox services today, and to elucidate principles for responding to these concerns

Programme Outcomes

Course Outcomes: Knowledge of the Area of Concentration	Course Elements	Programme Outcomes
<i>Students successfully completing this course will be able to:</i>	<i>This outcome will be achieved through these course elements:</i>	<i>This course outcome corresponds to these aspects of the Basic Degree Learning Outcomes</i>
Be familiar with the main structures of the daily, weekly and annual cycles of the Orthodox church and identify and navigate the main service books	Lectures / seminar discussions Short essay/presentation Liturgical reflection journal Seminar presentation Final exam	Religious heritage Cultural context Capacity for ministry Personal and spiritual formation
Understand the theology of the liturgy of the hours and their constitutive parts (psalms, hymns, prayers) and analyse the worldview generating — and resulting from — this worship	Lectures / seminar discussions Short essay/presentation Liturgical reflection journal Final exam	Religious heritage Cultural context Personal and spiritual formation
Outline the main stages of the development of the 'Byzantine rite' liturgy of the hours, including in relation to other traditions (eg Coptic and Ethiopian and other eastern offices)	Lectures / seminar discussions Final exam	Religious heritage Cultural context
Describe the principal feasts, seasons and important commemorations of the moveable (paschal) and immoveable cycles of the Orthodox liturgical year, and their underlying theological themes	Lectures / seminar discussions Seminar presentation Final exam	Religious heritage Cultural context Capacity for ministry Personal and spiritual formation
Reflect on the issues arising from the attempt to celebrate the cycles of Orthodox services today, and to elucidate principles for responding to these concerns	Lectures / seminar discussions Liturgical reflection journal Final exam	Religious heritage Cultural context Capacity for ministry Personal and spiritual formation

Evaluation

Requirements – Classroom Section

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

- **Class participation (10%):** most sessions will include a period of discussion of primary or secondary sources and liturgical texts. All students are expected to read all texts thoroughly. Students will be assigned a grade based upon their preparedness for and participation in these sessions.
- **Presentation on a psalm or canticle (20%):** students will prepare and deliver 15-minute presentation during one of the class sessions, commenting on an assigned psalm or canticle from the Liturgy of Hours.
- **Liturgical journal (10%):** students will write six reflective journal entries (approximately 250 words each) reflecting on themes from the course (eg new personal insights into liturgical prayer and spiritual life, reflections on liturgical experiences, including difficulties or confusing elements or suggestions for liturgical renewal).
- **Festal seminar presentation (30%):** students will prepare and lead a seminar discussion on an assigned feast or liturgical commemoration. (Alternative project, suitable for those preparing for presiding at liturgical services: overview of a particular commemoration in a post-festal period, including detailed rubrics and ritual guidance for a full cycle of liturgical services, suggested sermon notes, etc. Students may also propose an alternative creative project.)
- **Oral final exam (30%):** students will be assigned a take-home exam sheet requiring commentary on liturgical texts and responses to essay questions. Having prepared their responses at home they will present them orally to the instructor during an examination timeslot.

Requirements – Online Section

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

- **Online class participation (10%):** most of the weekly sessions will include reading and reviewing primary or secondary sources and liturgical texts. Students must read all texts thoroughly and actively participate in the discussion forums set up on each weekly theme. Students will be assigned a grade based upon their preparedness for and participation in these sessions.
- **Short essay or presentation on a psalm or canticle (20%):** students will prepare a 1,000 word essay or prepare and deliver 15-minute recorded video presentation, commenting on an assigned psalm or canticle from the Liturgy of Hours.
- **Liturgical journal (10%):** students will write six reflective journal entries reflecting on themes from the course (eg new personal insights into liturgical prayer and spiritual life, reflections on liturgical visits, suggestions for liturgical renewal).
- **Festal seminar presentation (30%):** students will prepare and lead an online forum-based seminar discussion on an assigned feast or liturgical commemoration. The presentation may include video or audio podcast if desired. (Alternative project, suitable for those preparing for presiding at liturgical services: overview of a particular commemoration in a post-festal period, including detailed rubrics and ritual guidance for a full cycle of liturgical services, suggested sermon notes, etc. Students may also propose an alternative creative project.)

- **Final exam assignment (30%):** students will be assigned a take-home exam requiring commentary on liturgical or other primary source texts and responses to essay questions.

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, policies found in the TST conjoint program handbooks, or college grading policy.

Policies

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.

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. 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

Week 1 – Introduction to the Course

- course overview, syllabus, reading list, expectations
- glossary and resources
- the worshipping church
- the five 'cycles' and overview of the main service books
- time and the 'sanctification of time'

Week 2 – The Liturgy of the Hours in the 'Byzantine' rite today

- overview of contemporary 'Byzantine' Orthodox Liturgy of the Hours structure and analysis of the main services (Vespers, Mattins, Great Compline) on different days (ordinary and festal)
- prayer in the New Testament and its Jewish background

Week 3 – Formation of the Tradition and Emergence of the 'Byzantine Rite'

- daily prayer in the first three centuries of the church
- cathedral office from the fourth century
- monastic office from the fourth century
- monastic versus cathedral structures
- development and synthesis of the 'Byzantine' rite daily offices

Week 4 – Theology of the Liturgy of the Hours

- review and further consideration of the development and synthesis of the 'Byzantine rite' liturgy of the hours
- toward a theology of the liturgy of the hours
- the liturgy of the hours as the church's school of prayer
- contemporary issues and liturgical renewal
- psalm/canticle presentations

Week 5 – The Liturgy of the Hours in Other Eastern Rites

- review and further consideration of Liturgy of the Hours theology and contemporary issues
- the 'Byzantine rite' compared to Armenian, Assyro-Chaldean, West-Syrian and Maronite, Coptic and Ethiopian traditions
- psalm/canticle presentations
- theology of the liturgical year: sacramentality of time, Christ as salvation history, and eschatology and history

Week 6 – The Liturgical Year

- overview of the cycles (days of the week, eight-weekly octoechos, menaion and movable/paschal) of the church year
- historical development
- the development of the lectionary
- further exploration of the main service books
- calendar reforms and controversies
- psalm/canticle presentations (if necessary)

Week 7 – Lent, Holy Week and Pascha

- overview of services and themes (including seminar presentations):
 - pre-Lent and Lenten period
 - the feast of the Entry into Jerusalem (Palm Sunday)
 - holy week
 - great and holy Friday
 - great and holy Saturday
 - Pascha
 - bright week

Week 8 – Pentecost and Beyond

- overview of services and themes (including seminar presentations):
 - the period of Pentecost
 - the feast of Ascension
 - the feast of Pentecost
 - the feast of All Saints
 - the Sundays after Pentecost

Week 9 – The Feasts of the Lord: Nativity, Theophany, Transfiguration

- overview of services and themes (including seminar presentations):
 - Advent fast
 - the feast of the Nativity
 - the feast of Theophany
 - the feast of the Transfiguration
 - the feast of the Elevation of the Cross

Week 10 – The Feasts of the Theotokos: Nativity, Entry, Annunciation, Meeting, Dormition

- overview of services and themes (including seminar presentations):
 - the feast of the Nativity of the Theotokos

- the feast of the Entry of the Theotokos into the Temple
- the feast of Annunciation to the Theotokos
- the feast of the Meeting of the Lord (the Presentation of the Theotokos)
- the feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos

Week 11 – The Commemoration of Saints

- communion of the saints
- services and themes of principal saints' commemorations throughout the year (including seminar presentations)

Week 12 – Course Review

- review of course themes and preparation for the final exam
- further reflection on renewal of the celebration of the cycles of Orthodox services today

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