



**Course Syllabus**  
**TRP2531H – Orthodox Pastoral Role and Formation**  
**Trinity College**  
**Toronto School of Theology**  
**January to April (Winter/Spring) 2017**

***Instructor Information***

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Instructor:	Rev Fr Theodore Paraskevopoulos, Adjunct Professor
Office Location:	Larkin Building, Office 317
Telephone:	(647) 278.0058
Email:	<a href="mailto:fr.ted@mac.com">fr.ted@mac.com</a>
Office Hours:	Fr Theodore is available on Tuesdays from 6pm-7pm in Larkin 317 or via email anytime.

***Course Identification***

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Course Number:	TRP2531H
Course Name:	Orthodox Pastoral Role and Formation
Course Location:	Larkin Building, Room ____ ( <i>and online section</i> )
Class Times:	Tuesdays 7pm to 10pm
Prerequisites:	None

***Course Description***

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This course will be an introduction to the role and function of the Orthodox priest within the parish setting as well as other pastoral and chaplaincy roles (both clerical and lay). Students will be introduced to selected writings ranging from Scripture to the Fathers to contemporary theologians. We will be covering themes such as vocation, ordination, counseling, confession, and parish and personal life. While this course will briefly explore the biblical and historical origins and development of the priesthood and pastoral roles, its primary focus will be on the contemporary role of the priest or lay pastor in the modern world and parish life.

Students will be evaluated on their class participation, a book review (8-10 pages) and a final paper (15-20 pages).

*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.*

## ***Expanded Course Description***

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From the earliest years of Christianity the Church has placed a strong emphasis on the proper leadership. Depending on the era, the local elder/bishop/presbyter has always been seen as not only a teacher but as one who helps lead his local flock towards Christ. Modern Orthodox Christians would call this process “spiritual formation.” While it is Christ Himself who is the head of the Church and its chief celebrant, the specific priesthood of believers (or eldership) is what allows the Grace of God to be accurately and effectively transmitted to His people in every time and place. Orthodox priests are not masters of the sacraments but rather their servants. They do not create grace but rather invoke it. Nevertheless, it is their personal example, behaviour, personality and sanctity that play a key role in the spiritual formation of their flock. This course will endeavour to explore role of the priest in this capacity: the capacity of spiritual formation. How is this achieved, both for the priest and the layperson?

This course will be an introduction to the role and function of the Orthodox priest within the parish setting as well as other pastoral and chaplaincy roles (both clerical and lay). Students will be introduced to selected writings ranging from Scripture to the Fathers to contemporary theologians. We will be covering themes such as vocation, ordination, counseling, confession, and parish and personal life. While this course will briefly explore the biblical and historical origins and development of the priesthood and pastoral roles, its primary focus will be on the contemporary role of the priest or lay pastor in the modern world and parish life.

## ***Course Resources***

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### **Required Course Readings**

*A set of readings will be made available on the course portal drawing on selections from the following works.*

Behr-Sigel, Elisabeth. *The Ministry of Women in the Church*. Crestwood, NY: SVS Press, 1991.

Chryssavgis, John. *Soul Mending: The Art of Spiritual Direction*, Brookline, Massachusetts: Holy Cross Orthodox Press, 2000.

Chrysostom, John. *Six Books on the Priesthood*, New York, NY: SVS Press, 1984.

Ford, David C. *Women and Men in the Early Church: The Full Views of St. John Chrysostom*. South Canaan, PA: St. Tikhon's Seminary Press, 1996.

Gillet, Lev (A Monk of the Eastern Church). *Serve the Lord with Gladness – Basic Reflections on the Eucharist and the Priesthood: Our Life in the Liturgy, Be My Priest*. New York: SVS Press, 1990.

Hausherr, Irene. *Spiritual Direction in the Early Christian East*. Kalamazoo, Michigan: Cistercian Publications, 1990.

Holmes, Michael W. *The Apostolic Fathers*, Grand Rapids, Michigan: Baker Books, 1999.

Morelli, Fr. George. (2006a, March 6). *Asceticism and Psychology in the Modern World*.

<http://www.orthodoxytoday.org/articles6/MorelliMonasticism.php>

Morelli, Fr. George ( 2010, April 21). *Clergy Burnout and Fatigue*.

<http://www.orthodoxytoday.org/OT/view/morelli-clergy-burnout-and-fatigue>

Morelli, Fr. George. (2006, December 5). *Understanding Clergy Stress: A Psychospiritual Response*.

<http://www.orthodoxytoday.org/articles6/MorelliClergyStress.php>

St. John of Kronstadt. *Counsels on the Christian Priesthood*. Crestwood, NY: St. Vladimir's Seminary Press, 1994.

Shahovskoy, Archbishop John. *The Orthodox Pastor: A Guide to Pastoral Theology*. New York, NY: SVS Press, 2008.

Vlachos, Bishop Hierotheos, *Orthodox Psychotherapy: The Science of the Fathers*. Levadia, Greece: Birth of the Theotokos Monastery, 1994.

## 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

In addition, for the online section, the portal will be used in the following ways:

- Delivering weekly course lectures and seminars (available also for classroom-based students for review)
- Enabling student participation and interaction in the blogs, discussion forums and other online communications (see course requirements and evaluation below)

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

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Students successfully completing this course will be able to:

- Identify the biblical and early church/patristic origins of the pastoral role, and trace the shifts in the understanding of the role of the pastor throughout the Church's tradition
- Understand the Orthodox theological view of a "pastor" and of service today in the context of the "modern age" and the challenges that accompany such a position
- Be familiar with the process of spiritual preparation for service and with the ongoing spiritual disciplines and healthy habits that pastors should have as well as the pitfalls and obstacles to pastoral ministry
- Identify and discuss key pastoral issues/challenges associated with the role of the pastor as it pertains to the spiritual formation of the people being cared for

## 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>
Identify the biblical and early church/patristic origins of the pastoral role, and trace the shifts in the understanding of the role of the pastor throughout the Church's tradition	Lectures / seminar discussions Book review	Religious heritage Cultural context Capacity for ministry Personal and spiritual formation
Understand the Orthodox theological view of a "pastor" and of service today in the context of the "modern age" and the challenges that accompany such a position	Lectures / seminar discussions Final paper	Religious heritage Cultural context Capacity for ministry Personal and spiritual formation
Be familiar with the process of spiritual preparation for service and with the ongoing spiritual disciplines and healthy habits that pastors should have as well as the pitfalls and obstacles to pastoral ministry	Lectures / seminar discussions Final paper	Religious heritage Cultural context Capacity for ministry Personal and spiritual formation

Identify and discuss key pastoral issues/challenges associated with the role of the pastor as it pertains to the spiritual formation of the people being cared for	Lectures / seminar discussions Final paper	Religious heritage Cultural context Capacity for ministry Personal and spiritual formation
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Online section course elements: please note that the lectures and seminar discussions will be recorded and viewable in the course portal and followed by online discussion.

## ***Evaluation***

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### **Requirements – Classroom Section**

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

1. Class Participation: regular attendance and vigorous participation in weekly discussion, based on readings, will be expected every week – 20%
2. Critical book review: write a critical book review of St. John Chrysostom, *Six Books on The Priesthood* (SVS Press, New York 1984). (8-10 pages) – 30% (Due Date: TBA)
3. Final Paper (15–20 pages): topics for the final paper will be chosen during the semesters, in consultation with the instructor – 50% (Due Date: TBA)

### **Requirements – Online Section**

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

1. Class Participation: regular and vigorous participation in weekly online discussion forums, based on readings, will be expected every week – 20%
2. Critical book review: write a critical book review of St. John Chrysostom, *Six Books on The Priesthood* (SVS Press, New York 1984). (8-10 pages) – 30% (Due Date: TBA)
3. Final Paper (15–20 pages): topics for the final paper will be chosen during the semesters, in consultation with the instructor – 50% (Due Date: TBA)

## Grading System

Letter Grade	Numerical Equivalents	Grade Point	Grasp of Subject Matter	Other qualities expected of students
<b>A RANGE: Excellent: Student shows original thinking, analytic and synthetic ability, critical evaluations, and broad knowledge base.</b>				
A+	90-100	4.0	Profound and Creative	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
A	85-89	4.0	Outstanding	
A-	80-84	3.7	Excellent	Clear evidence of original thinking, of analytic and synthetic ability; sound critical evaluations; broad knowledge base
<b>B RANGE: Good: Student shows critical capacity and analytic ability, understanding of relevant issues, familiarity with the literature.</b>				
B+	77-79	3.3	Very Good	Good critical capacity and analytic ability; reasonable understanding of relevant issues; good familiarity with the literature
B	73-76	3.0	Good	
B-	70-72	2.7	Satisfactory at a post-baccalaureate level.	Adequate critical capacity and analytic ability; some understanding of relevant issues; some familiarity with the literature
FZ	0-69	0	Failure	Failure to meet the above criteria

## Policy on Late Assignments

The instructor reserves the right to deduct up to 2.5% of the final assignment grade for each week 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

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**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](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](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.

**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***

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*To follow*

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