

**Course Syllabus**  
**TRH2452HF L0101**  
**Modern Orthodox Theology (15th to 21st c.)**  
**Trinity College**  
**Toronto School of Theology**

**September - December (Fall) 2022**

13 July 2022.

***Instructor Information***

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Instructor: Dr Paul Ladouceur  
Office Location: Larkin Building, Office 324  
Phone: 416-978-2170 (in-session only – leave no messages)  
E-mail: paul.ladouceur@utoronto.ca // 123thabor@gmail.com  
Office Hours: By appointment

***Course Identification***

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Course Number: TRH2452  
Course Name: TRH2452H Modern Orthodox Theology (15th to 21st c. )  
Course Location: Larkin Building, Room 214 (or nearby).  
Class Times: Mondays and Thursdays 19:00-21:30:  
September 12, 15, 19, 22.  
October 13, 20, 24, 27.  
November 24, 28.  
December 1, 5.  
Prerequisites: None

***Course Description***

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This course studies Orthodox theology from the fall of Constantinople in 1453 to the present, with a focus on the period since the mid-nineteenth century. Course material includes lectures by the Instructor, a book for review, and extracts from books, and articles and essays. Evaluation of student learning for both in-class and online sections will be by two short papers on assigned primary readings (20%), a book review (30%), and an oral presentation and research essay (50%).

## ***Expanded Course Description***

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After the great historic period of Orthodox theology in the 14th century, dominated by Saint Gregory Palamas, Orthodox thought and theology suffered long centuries of stagnation as a result of the Mongol occupation of Russia, Ottoman oppression in the Byzantine world, and Western influences on Orthodox theology and ecclesial life. In the 19th century Orthodox theology began to emerge from the “Western Captivity”, initially in Russia, and the 20th century witnessed a flowering of Orthodox theology, such as was not seen for many centuries. Theologians in countries of Orthodox tradition and among Orthodox communities in the West revived neglected aspects of Orthodox theology and examined a very wide range of theological themes, frequently opening original perspectives on traditional questions or addressing new issues. Underlying modern Orthodox theology is the general question of the engagement of Orthodox theology with the problems raised in “modern” and “post-modern” societies by such forces as secularism, relativism, atheism, political ideologies, humanism, social pluralism, ethical problems, science, ecumenism, interfaith contacts and globalization. The insight of modern Orthodox theology on such questions leads to an enriched understanding of the Faith in the contemporary world and provides the basis for a deepening of spiritual life.

This course will allow students to familiarize themselves with the principal theologians, themes and writings of modern Orthodox theology. The course will highlight the two main theological approaches of the 19th and 20th centuries, religious philosophy and neo-patristic theology, mindful of both personal and theological convergences and divergences among the leading figures. The course will cover Orthodox theology after the 14th century; Western influences in Orthodoxy; the Russian theological academies; Orthodox dialogues with Protestantism and with Anglicanism; the “Symbolic Books” of the 17th century; the origins of the Patristic revival in the 18th century; the Russian religious renaissance of the 19th and early 20th centuries; the origins and characteristics of the major modern theological approaches; leading Orthodox theologians.

The course will also focus on several selected major theological issues as case studies highlighting differences in approach, emphasis and doctrines among major modern Orthodox thinkers. The course will not cover specific theological themes that are taken up in more detail in other courses, such as ecclesiology, ecumenism and religious diversity (TRT2651), and the theology of the human person (TRP2172).

## ***Course Resources***

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### **Required Course Books**

**The following books should be acquired for this course:**

1. *“Behold I Make All Things New”*: *Readings in Modern Orthodox Theology* (“Course Reader”). This will be available on the course Quercus website in early September.
2. Paul Ladouceur, *Modern Orthodox Theology: “Behold, I Make All Things New”* (London: T&T Clark, 2019).
3. Vladimir Lossky, *The Mystical Theology of the Eastern Church* (Crestwood, NY: St. Vladimir's Seminary Press, 1997).

## **Recommended General Bibliography**

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- Arjakovsky, Antoine, *La Génération des penseurs religieux de l'émigration russe, La revue La Voie (Put')*, 1925-1940, L'Esprit et la lettre, Paris-Kiev, 2002. 754 p. UTL: no  
*The Way: Religious Thinkers of the Russian Emigration in Paris and their Journal*, Michael Plekon and John A. Jillions, eds. (University of Notre Dame Press, 2013). DC718 .R8 A7813 SMS/Rob
- Blane, Andrew, ed., *Georges Florovsky, Russian Intellectual, Orthodox Churchman* (Crestwood NY: St. Vladimir's Seminary Press, 1993). BX738.O779 F564 Rob/SMC
- Bulgakov, Sergius, *The Orthodox Church* (1935) (Crestwood NY: St Vladimir's Seminary Press, 1988).  
Serge Boulgakov, *L'Orthodoxie: Essai sur la doctrine de l'Église* (Lausanne: L'Âge d'homme, 1980).  
UTL: no
- Clendenin, Daniel, *Eastern Orthodox Christianity: A Western Perspective* (Grand Rapids MI: Baker Academic, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., 2003). 192 p.
- Copleston, Frederick Charles, *Russian Religious Philosophy: Selected Aspects* (University of Notre Dame Press, 1988). 248 p.
- Cunningham, Mary B., and Elizabeth Theokritoff, eds., *The Cambridge Companion to Orthodox Christian Theology* (Cambridge University Press, 2008). 348 p. BX320.3.C36 SMC/Trin.
- Evdokimov, Paul, *Le Christ dans la pensée russe*, Cerf, 1970. 244 p. BT198.E9 Rob/Regis/SMC
- Florovsky, Georges, *Les Voies de la théologie russe, L'Âge d'homme*, Lausanne, 2001. 474 p.  
BT30 .R9 F5513 1991 Rob  
*The Ways of Russian Theology, Collected Works*, Vols. 5-6 ( 1972). BX260.F55 Rob/SMC/Trin
- Gallaher, Brandon, and Paul Ladouceur, eds., *The Patristic Witness of Georges Florovsky: Essential Theological Writings* (London: T&T Clark, 2019). BX320.3 .F56 2017 SMC/Trin.
- Gavrilyuk, Paul L., *Georges Florovsky and the Russian Religious Renaissance* (Oxford & New York: Oxford University Press, 2013). BX597 .F65 G38 2013 SMC and online.
- Jakim, Boris, and Robert Bird, eds., *On Spiritual Unity: A Slavophile Reader* (Hudson, NY: Lindisfarne Books, 1998). B4231 .K45 1998X Rob
- Kornblatt, Judith Deutsch, and Richard Gustafson, eds., *Russian Religious Thought, Recovering the Roots of Russian Religious Philosophy* (Madison WI: University of Wisconsin Press, 1996). 266 p.  
BR932.R87 Rob
- Ladouceur, Paul, *Modern Orthodox Theology: "Behold, I Make All Things New"* (London: T&T Clark, 2019). BX320.3 .L33 2019 Knox/SMC/Trin
- Lossky, Nicolas, *Histoire de la philosophie russe*, Payot, 1954. UTL: no.  
*A History of Russian Philosophy* (London: Allen and Unwin, 1952). B4201.L6 Rob/SMC/Trin
- Louth, Andrew, *Modern Orthodox Thinkers. From the Philokalia to the Present* (London: SPCK, 2015; Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2015). BX320.3 .L688 2015 SMC
- Lossky, Vladimir, *Essai sur la théologie mystique de l'Église d'Orient*, Aubier, Paris, 1944; Le Cerf, 1990; 2006. BV5082.2.L67 1990 Rob  
*The Mystical Theology of the Eastern Church* (Crestwood, NY: St. Vladimir's Seminary Press, 1997). 252 p. BV5082.L673 Rob/Regis/SMC/Trin
- Meerson, Michael Aksionov, *The Trinity of Love in Modern Russian Theology* (Quincy IL: Franciscan Press, 1998). 255 p. [on Soloviev, Ivanov, Merezhkovsky, Berdiaev, Florensky, Karsavin and Bulgakov].  
BT111.2.M44 1998 SMC
- Meyendorff, John, *Living Tradition, Orthodox Witness in the Contemporary World* (St Vladimir's Seminary Press, Crestwood NY, 1978). BX320.2.M475 Rob/SMC/ICS

- Mong, Ambrose, *Purification of Memory: A Study of Orthodox Theologians from a Catholic Perspective* (Cambridge: James Clarke, 2015). [on Meyendorff, Afansiev, Zizioulas, Florovsky, Bulgakov, Lossky, Berdyaev, Pelikan]. BX320.3 .M66 2015 SMC
- Nichols, Aidan, *Light from the East, Authors and Themes in Orthodox Theology* (London: Sheed & Ward, 1995). 234 p. [on Lossky, Meyendorff, Bulgakov, Romanides, Trembelas, Afanasiev, Florovsky, Schmemmann, Nellas, Yannaras, Evdokimov]. BX320.2.N53 Rob/SMC/Trin
- Plekon, Michael, *Living Icons: Persons of Faith in the Eastern Church* (University of Notre Dame Press, 2002). 337 p. [on Seraphim of Sarov, Bulgakov, Skobtsova, Gillet, Evdokimov, Krug, Afanasiev, Schmemmann, Meyendorff, Men] BX390.P58 2002 SMC
- Plekon, Michael, ed., *Tradition Alive: On the Church and the Christian Life in Our Time: Readings from the Eastern Church* (Lanham MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 2003). 288 p. BX382.T73 SMC
- Schmemmann, Alexandre, *For the Life of the World: Sacraments and Orthodoxy* (Crestwood NY: St Vladimir's Seminary Press, 1970).
- Schmemmann, Alexander, ed., *Ultimate Questions: An Anthology of Modern Russian Religious Thought* (Holt, Rinehart & Winston, 1965; St. Vladimir's Seminary Press, 1977). 311 p. BX478 .U48 1965 SMC/Regis/Trin
- Schmemmann, Alexander, "Russian Theology 1920-1972: An Introductory Survey," *Saint Vladimir's Theological Quarterly* (1972).
- Spidlik, Tomas, *L'Idée russe, Une autre vision du monde*, éd. Fates, Troyes, 1994. 394 p. BT703.S648 UTL Downsvie
- Valliere, Paul. *Modern Russian Theology: Bukharev, Soloviev, Bulgakov: Orthodox Theology in a New Key* (Grand Rapids MI: Eerdmans, 2000). 443 p. BX320.V35 Rob/SMC
- Vekhi/Landmarks: A Collection of Articles about the Russian Intelligentsia*, Marshall Shatz & Judith Zimmerman, eds. (Armonk NY: M.E. Sharpe, 1994.) DK255.V4413 Rob
- Jalons*, trad. Claire Vajou (Paris: Le Cerf, 2011). UTL: no.
- Ware, Timothy (Kallistos), *The Orthodox Church: An Introduction to eastern Christianity* (London: Penguin Books, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. 1993; 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. 2015). BX106 .W3 1997 Trin/Robarts/Regis. *L'Orthodoxie, L'Église des sept conciles* (Paris: Le Cerf, 3e éd., 2002). UTL: no.
- Ware, Kallistos, *The Inner Kingdom* (Crestwood NY: St Vladimir's Seminary Press, 2000). BX350.W37 Rob/SMC
- Ware, Kallistos, *Orthodox Theology in the Twenty-First Century* (Geneva: World Council of Churches, 2012). BX320.3.K355 SMC
- Witte Jr., John, and Frank S. Alexander, eds., *The Teachings of Modern Orthodox Christianity on Law, Politics, and Human Nature* (New York: Columbia University Press, 2007). 371 p. [on Soloviev, Berdiaev, Lossky, Skobtsova, Staniloae]. BR115 .L28 T43 Rob/SMC/Trin
- Yannaras, Christos, *Orthodoxy and the West: Hellenic Self-Identity in the Modern Age* (Brookline MA: Holy Cross Orthodox Press, 2006). 379 p. BX613 .G5313 Rob/SMC
- Zenkovsky, Basile, *Histoire de la philosophie russe*, Gallimard, 1953. B4201 .Z414 V.1 SMC  
V.V. Zenkovsky, *A History of Russian Philosophy* (New York: Colombia University Press, 1953). B4201 .Z413 Rob/Trin
- Zernov, Nicholas, *The Russian Religious Renaissance of the Twentieth Century* (New York: Harper & Row, 1963). 410 p. BR936.Z4 Rob/SMC

For a more detailed bibliography, see also the chapter-by-chapter Selected Bibliography in Ladouceur, *Modern Orthodox Theology*, 455-486.

## ***Course Website***

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This course uses the University of Toronto online learning facility called Quercus for its course website. To access Quercus, 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 will 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>.

Auditing students and regular students who have trouble accessing Quercus should ask Sydney Yeung at the Faculty of Divinity of Trinity College ([divinity@trinity.utoronto.ca](mailto:divinity@trinity.utoronto.ca)) for further assistance.

## ***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:

- Understand and describe the main approaches to Orthodox theology since the fall of Constantinople in 1453.
- Be familiar with the principal Orthodox theologians and centers of Orthodox thought during the past six centuries, especially from the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century to the present.
- Describe and explain the main themes and issues of modern Orthodox theology, including the relationship with earlier Orthodox theology and differences of approach among Orthodox theologians and between Orthodox theology and other Christian theologies, both using specialized theological language and formulations, and employing less technical language for a general public with little familiarity with theological language;
- Distinguish and explain in modern Orthodox theology teachings reflecting essential dogmas and those reflecting personal teachings and theological opinions (“theologoumena”);
- Describe and evaluate the contributions of important modern Orthodox theologians to the development of modern Orthodox thought;
- Discuss and assess, following a critical reading and review, Vladimir Lossky’s *The Mystical Theology of the Eastern Church*.

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

Students successfully completing this course will be able to:

- employ insights gleaned from modern Orthodox theology in their own spiritual life and formation.

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

Students successfully completing this course will be able to:

- articulate and apply the wisdom of Orthodox theology to their pastoral ministry or service within the church, and in public fora.

## ***Evaluation***

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

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

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| 1. Introductions to Selected Readings<br>from the Course Reader                              | 20% |
| 2. Critical review of Vladimir Lossky,<br><i>The Mystical Theology of the Eastern Church</i> | 30% |
| 3. Oral Presentation and Research Essay  | 50% |

All written assignments must be handed in no later than **December 15, 2022**.

See Annexes 1 and 2 for additional information on Course Requirements.

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

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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.

### **Policy on Late Assignments**

Arrangements must be made in advance for work submitted after the deadline. If circumstances (such as medical or compassionate difficulties) require that work be turned in late, contact the instructor at the earliest possible juncture to agree on a new time-line and other details. The final deadline for the submission of written material will be announced at the beginning of the course. For Fall courses, this will normally be December 15.

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.

### **General 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 or sending by e-mail.

**Obligation to check e-mail.** At times, the course instructor may send out important course information by e-mail. To that end, students must provide the instructor with a current valid e-mail address and check this address regularly for communications concerning the course.

## ***Course Outline***

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### PART I HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVES ON MODERN ORTHODOX THEOLOGY

1. Orthodox Theology from the 14th to the 19th Centuries
2. Theology in Imperial Russia
3. The Russian Religious Renaissance
4. Neopatristic Theology
5. The New Theology in Greece
6. Theology in Romania
7. Issues in Contemporary Orthodox Theology

### PART II. THEMES AND CONFLICTS IN MODERN ORTHODOX THEOLOGY

*Case Studies will be selected for student oral presentations and a written essay from the topics listed below or others to be identified at the beginning of the course. A preliminary bibliography will be provided to registered students:*

1. Tradition, Dogma, Doctrine and Theologoumena in Orthodoxy
2. Divine Wisdom (Sophia – Sophiology)
3. Apophatic Theology (Apophatism)
4. The Divine Energies (Neo-Palamism)
5. The Name of God and the Onomatodoxy Controversy
6. Social Theology
7. Political Theology
8. Theology of the Environment

**Registered students will be provided a more detailed outline and course schedule at the beginning of the course.**

**This syllabus is subject to change in accordance with the regulations in the TST *Basic Degree Handbook*.**

## TRH2452 – Modern Orthodox Theology

### **Supplementary Information – Course Requirements**

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#### **1. Introductions to Selected Readings from the Course Reader 20%**

Students are required to prepare a brief introduction and commentary (600-800 words) for two of the selected readings (marked with an asterisk \* in Annex 3) from the Course Reader “*Learn from Me...*” Introductions to readings should focus on the main idea or theme in the reading and add personal comments or reflections as appropriate. In-class students will make an oral presentation in class and will post a written version to the course Quercus website. Online students will e-mail a written version to the Instructor and will post it to the course Quercus website.

#### **2. Book Review 30%**

This assignment is to write a critical review of Vladimir Lossky’s *The Mystical Theology of the Eastern Church*. The review should follow standard essay format, with footnotes for sources other than *Mystical Theology*. References to this Lossky book may be made in brackets in the text itself, e.g. (*Mystical Theology*, 123). You may use and cite other writings by Vladimir Lossky or other authors.

Students may wish to consult secondary sources on Vladimir Lossky, especially Rowan Williams’s doctoral thesis (available online). Students should also bear in mind the reviews of *The Mystical Theology* by Georges Florovsky and Serge Verkovsky in the Course Reader (readings 25 and 26).

The review should be a minimum of 1,700 words and a maximum of 2,000 words. The review is due no later than **October 31, 2022**, and may be in English or in French. It must be submitted by e-mail (**Word format only, no pdf, odt etc.**).

Your review of Vladimir Lossky’s *The Mystical Theology* should address the following specific issues and questions (students are encouraged to use the questions as an outline of their review):

1. Who is the author? In what context did he write the book? Who is the intended audience?
2. Vladimir Lossky is sometimes criticised for over-emphasizing apophatism – apophatic theology, the unknowable aspect of the divinity – to the detriment of cataphatic or positive theology. What is the basis of this critique and how do you react to it from your reading of the book?
3. Lossky is also criticised for making too sharp a distinction between the “economy of the Son” and the “economy of the Holy Spirit”, to the detriment of the unity of the Holy Trinity. What is the basis of this critique and how do you react to it?
4. Vladimir Lossky is sometimes referred to as the “theologian of the person”. How does personalism feature in the *The Mystical Theology*?
5. How does *The Mystical Theology* contribute to the revival of Palamite theology in modern Orthodoxy?
6. Discuss Lossky’s use of the Fathers of the Church in his *Mystical Theology*. Does he have “favourite” authors? Does he neglect certain Fathers?
7. Why should Lossky chose to terminate his book on Orthodox theology with presentations on St Seraphim of Sarov (Ch. 11) and St John Chrysostom’s Pascal sermon (Ch. 12)?
8. What aspects of the book are most helpful or enlightening to you personally?

### 3. Oral Presentation and Final Written Essay 50%

Each student will focus on one major research theme or “case study” among those listed in Part II of the Course Outline (see page 10), or another theme directly relevant to the subject of the course. The research theme will be selected in consultation with the Instructor, following the Research Essay Proposal in Annex 2. The theme will be the subject of an oral presentation in the seminar portion of the course (classes 9-12) and will also be the subject of the written essay. *The Research Essay Proposal must be submitted by e-mail no later than September 22, 2022.*

Both the oral presentation and the written assignment should focus on the writings and the theological approach, methods, teachings and conclusions of the authors, as well as on problems and critiques of their work. Attention should be paid to points of convergence and divergence among authors. Students should utilise both primary and secondary material.

The **oral presentation** should be no more than **20 minutes (about 2,000-2,200 words)**. Presentations **must be accompanied** by an outline of the presentation and a bibliography of writings and sources consulted in preparing the presentation, and will be posted to the course Quercus site. Other documentation may include a statement of the issues, extracts of the authors’ works (quotations), and conclusions. If technical arrangements can be made, online students will make their oral presentations live via Zoom. Otherwise, a suitable time will be agreed upon between the student and the instructor for a private Zoom session for the oral presentation.

The final written essay should be a minimum of 3,000 words and a maximum of 3,500 words. The essay is due no later than **December 15, 2022**, and may be in English or in French. It must be submitted by e-mail (**Word format only, no pdf, odt etc.**).

#### Essay Format

- The essay should be in Word, using Times New Roman 12 pt.
- Footnotes should be numbered consecutively throughout the text and placed at the bottom of the page on which the reference occurs, using the footnote feature of Word.
- The Bibliography should be located after the body of the essay and any annexes and include all references consulted, even if not quoted directly in the body of the essay.
- Students should follow the Chicago/Turabian Note-Bibliography citation style – summary: [www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/turabian/turabian-notes-and-bibliography-citation-quick-guide](http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/turabian/turabian-notes-and-bibliography-citation-quick-guide).

#### Criteria for the Assessment of the Essay

1. Scope of research undertaken and employed.
2. Clear and concise presentation of material.
3. Establishment of linkages (continuities and discontinuities) among ideas and authors.
4. Originality of the student’s ideas, analysis and conclusions.
5. Correct use of both primary and secondary sources.
6. Correct use of and format for citations, references and footnotes.
7. Adequate bibliography.
8. Proper essay format and correct grammar, spelling and punctuation.
9. The following is **insufficient** for the purposes of this class: an essay or answers to questions on the take-home exam consisting solely of quotations or summaries of material, without further comment, analysis, interpretation or use of secondary material – that is, no personal “value-added” input.
10. Also **unacceptable** is material copied from books, articles or internet without proper attribution: this is plagiarism. All material copied or quoted from these sources must be accompanied by proper references (footnotes).

## ANNEX 2

Orthodox School of Theology at Trinity College

TRH2452 – Modern Orthodox Theology

Prof. Paul Ladouceur

paul.ladouceur@utoronto.ca / 123thabor@gmail.com

416-978-2170

(in-session only; no voice mail)

### ***Research Essay Proposal***

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Indicate your ***name and e-mail address***, the ***course number and title***, and the ***date***.

Prepare a one or two page proposal for your research essay with the following elements:

1. Describe the background or context of the ***Problem*** that you wish to address in your research essay (maximum 200 words).
2. Formulate the ***Research Question*** derived from the Problem that will drive your research.
3. Develop a preliminary ***Thesis Statement*** that you think may be the answer to your Research Question.
4. Compose an Essay ***Title*** (no more than 10 words).
5. Include a ***Preliminary Bibliography*** (*minimum* of 12 items and *maximum* of 20 items (books and articles or essays), divided into Primary Material and Secondary Material (if appropriate). Indicate with an asterisk (\*) items that you have or have easy access to.
6. Develop a ***Preliminary Outline*** (titles only) of your oral presentation and essay.

For additional information concerning the requirements for the Research Essay, format and criteria for assessment, see Annex 1 of the Course Syllabus.

You can use the headings below as a template for your proposal.

## Orthodox School of Theology at Trinity College

Dr. Paul Ladouceur  
paul.ladouceur@utoronto.ca // 123thabor@gmail.com

### ***Research Essay Proposal***

Date:

Course Number and Name:

Your Name:

E-mail:

Context or Problem:

Research Question:

Thesis Statement:

Tentative Essay Title:

Preliminary Outline:

Preliminary Bibliography: