

Course Syllabus
TRP3115/6115 – Sanctification of Life: The Orthodox Mysteries (Sacraments)
Trinity College
Toronto School of Theology
January to April (Winter/Spring) 2024

Instructor Information

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Course Identification

Course Number: TRP3115/6115 (*formerly TRP2117*)
Course Format: *In-class and Online*
Course Name: Sanctification of Life: The Orthodox Mysteries (Sacraments)
Course Location: Larkin Building, Room 340 (*and online section*)
Class Times: Mondays, 7pm to 9pm
Prerequisites: None

Course Description

This course will explore the liturgical understanding of human existence from the central liturgical rites of the Orthodox Church covering every aspect of life: birth, marriage, ordination, confession, healing from sickness, and death. The course will thus provide an overview of the history, theology and current practice of the holy mysteries (sacraments), with a view to understanding the sacramentality of the world and the centrality of liturgy and sacraments in contemporary Christian life and ministry.

Expanded Course Description

This course will explore the liturgical understanding of human existence from the central liturgical rites of the Orthodox Church covering every aspect of life: birth, marriage, ordination, confession, healing from sickness, and death. The course will thus provide an overview of the history, theology and current practice of the holy mysteries (sacraments), with a view to understanding the sacramentality of the world and the centrality of liturgy and sacraments in contemporary Christian life and ministry.

The main focus on this course will be on the 'Byzantine' rite of the Eastern Orthodox Churches, but consideration will also be given to the sacramental rites of the Oriental Orthodox Churches, specifically the Coptic, Ethiopian, Armenian and Syriac traditions.

Students will gain solid familiarity with the actual rites and texts, and learn to reflect theologically upon these mysteries as well as the Trinitarian foundation of all sacramental life, guided by readings of Patristic texts and articles and commentary from modern Orthodox theologians. Students will be expected to apply the theological worldview and meaning of these rites to contemporary life and pastoral circumstances. The evolution through time and modern issues of liturgical practice will also be studied, along with the possibility of renewal and reform 'for the life of the world' today.

Course Resources

Required Books

The following books should be acquired for this course as they will be read in their entirety. Both are in print, so easily purchased online, and also available as e-books.

- Alexander Schmemmann, *For the Life of the World* (St Vladimir's Seminary Press)
- Hilarion Alfeyev, *Orthodox Christianity, Volume V: Sacraments and Other Rites* (St Vladimir's Seminar Press)

Required Course Readings

Further required readings – liturgical and patristic 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 research paper.

- *Great Book of Needs*: Byzantine rites for baptism, confession, marriage, anointing, funerals
- Dumitru Staniloae, *The Experience of God, Volume 5: The Sanctifying Mysteries* (Holy Cross Orthodox Press) – an alternative to the Alfeyev book above if you have access to it

Baptism and Chrismation

- Nicholas Denysenko, *Chrismation: A Primer for Catholics* (Pueblo)
- Aidan Kavanagh, *The Shape of Baptism: The Rite of Christian Initiation* (Liturgical Press)
- Gennadios Limouris and Nomikos Michael Vaporis, eds, *Orthodox Perspectives on Baptism, Eucharist, Ministry* (Holy Cross Orthodox Press)
- Alexander Schmemmann, *Of Water and the Spirit* (St Vladimir's Seminary Press)
- Edward Yarnold, *The Awe-Inspiring Rites of Initiation* (Liturgical Press): 4th century catechisms

Marriage

- John Chrysostom, *On Marriage and Family Life* (St Vladimir's Seminary Press)
- John Chrysavgis, *Love, Sexuality and the Sacrament of Marriage* (Holy Cross Orthodox Press)
- Paul Evdokimov, *The Sacrament of Love* (St Vladimir's Seminary Press)
- Lawrence Farley, *One Flesh: Salvation through Marriage in the Orthodox Church* (Ancient Faith)
- David & Mary Ford, eds, *Glory and Honor: Orthodox Christian Resources on Marriage* (St Vladimir's Seminary Press)
- Stanley Harakas, *Guidelines for Marriage in the Orthodox Church* (Light & Life Publishing)
- George Koshy, *Marriage: The Mysteries of Love* (Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Boston)
- John Meyendorff, *Marriage: An Orthodox Perspective* (St Vladimir's Seminary Press)

Ordination (Diaconate, Priesthood, Episcopacy)

- Joseph Allen, ed, *Vested in Grace: Marriage and the Priesthood in the Christian East* (Holy Cross Orthodox Press)
- John Chrysostom, *Six Books on the Priesthood* (St Vladimir's Seminary Press)
- John Chrysavgis, *Remembering and Reclaiming Diakonia: The Diaconate Yesterday and Today* (Holy Cross Orthodox Press)
- Lewis Patsavos, *A Noble Task: Entry into the Clergy in the First Five Centuries* (Holy Cross Orthodox Press)

Confession

- Peter Chamberas, *The Mystery of Repentance and Confession in the Orthodox Church*
- James Dallen, *The Reconciling Community: The Rite of Penance* (Liturgical Press)
- Hieromonk Gregorios, *Repentance and Confession* (New Rome Press)
- Anthony Khrapovitsky, *Confession: A Series of Lectures on the Mystery of Repentance* (Holy Trinity Publications)
- Pope Shenouda III, *The Life of Repentance and Purity* (St Vladimir's Seminary Press)

Anointing of the Sick

- Hieromonk Gregorios, *Illness and the Believer* (New Rome Press)
- Jean-Claude Larchet, *The Theology of Illness* (St Vladimir's Seminary Press)
- Paul Meyendorff, *The Anointing of the Sick* (St Vladimir's Seminary Press)
- John Zizioulas, *Illness and Healing in Orthodox Theology* (Sebastian Press)

Funeral

- J. Mark & Elizabeth J. Barna, *A Christian Ending: A Handbook for Burial in the Ancient Christian Traditions* (Divine Ascent Press)
- Hieromonk Gregorios, *Be Ready: An Approach to the Mystery of Death* (New Rome Press)
- Richard Rutherford, *The Death of a Christian: The Order of Christian Funerals* (Liturgical Press)

Other Mysteries

- Gus George Christo, *The Consecration of a Greek Orthodox Church According to Eastern Orthodox Tradition* (Edwin Mellen Press)
- Nicholas Denysenko, *The Blessing of Waters and Epiphany: The Eastern Liturgical Tradition* (Routledge)

Course Website

- 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>.

Course Learning Objectives/Outcomes

Basic Degree Level

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

(A) IN RESPECT OF GENERAL ACADEMIC SKILLS

- to work with both primary and secondary sources and to gather, analyse and prepare materials for reflection and engaged class discussion
- to prepare and deliver a seminar presentation and lead a class discussion
- to write a critical book review
- to evaluate (or develop) a syllabus and curriculum materials within a Christian formation project

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

- to identify and describe the main rites and texts of the celebration of holy mysteries (sacraments) in the Orthodox Church, focusing on the 'Byzantine' rite, with a comparative study of aspects of the Oriental Orthodox traditions (Coptic, Armenian, Ethiopian, and Syriac)
- to interpret and analyse the theological worldview of the liturgical celebration of the mysteries
- to discuss the Trinitarian foundation of all sacramental life and the 'world as sacrament'
- to apply the theological vision emanating from the mysteries to contemporary pastoral situations
- to review the historical evolution of the sacramental rites, analyse issues in modern practice and assess the possibility of liturgical renewal and reform

(C) IN RESPECT OF PERSONAL AND SPIRITUAL FORMATION

- to manage their own learning
- to demonstrate behaviour consistent with academic integrity and social responsibility

(D) IN RESPECT OF MINISTERIAL AND PUBLIC LEADERSHIP

- to demonstrate qualities and skills necessary for ministry, further study, and community involvement

- to exercise initiative, personal responsibility, and accountability in both personal and group contexts
- to work effectively with others

Advanced Degree (Graduate) Level

GRADUATE “DEGREE LEVEL EXPECTATIONS”	CORRESPONDING COURSE GOALS AND OUTCOMES	CORRESPONDING COURSE ELEMENTS / ASSIGNMENTS
<p>EXPECTATIONS: <i>In this course students are expected to demonstrate the following:</i></p>		
<p>1. Depth and Breadth of Knowledge is defined as a set of increasing levels of understanding within a student’s area of specialization, methodologies, primary & secondary sources, historical developments and inter-disciplinarity.</p>	<p>To identify and describe the main rites and texts of the celebration of holy mysteries (sacraments) in the Orthodox Church, focusing on the ‘Byzantine’ rite, with a comparative study of aspects of the Oriental Orthodox traditions (Coptic, Armenian, Ethiopian, and Syriac)</p>	<p>Class discussions/participation</p>
<p>2. Research and Scholarship is defined as the ability to identify a new or unresolved question, to locate that question within a corpus of scholarly research & assess critically the relevant literature, to adopt a methodology(-ies), and to then formulate a thesis and reasoned argument(s) on the basis of the evidence.</p>	<p>To interpret and analyse the theological worldview of the liturgical celebration of the mysteries</p>	<p>Class discussions/participation Seminar presentation</p>
<p>3. Level of Application of Knowledge is defined as the ability to engage in self-directed or assisted research, and the ability to produce innovative or original analysis within the context of graduate seminars and courses. In some cases this includes the application of a research language.</p>	<p>To discuss the Trinitarian foundation of all sacramental life and the ‘world as sacrament’</p> <p>To apply the theological vision emanating from the mysteries to contemporary pastoral situations</p>	<p>Class discussions/participation Seminar presentation Research essay</p>
<p>4. Professional Capacity or Autonomy is defined as the ability to translate the knowledge gained in other</p>	<p>To demonstrate an ability to summarise and evaluate theoretical work and</p>	<p>Class discussions/participation Seminar presentation Research essay</p>

GRADUATE “DEGREE LEVEL EXPECTATIONS”	CORRESPONDING COURSE GOALS AND OUTCOMES	CORRESPONDING COURSE ELEMENTS / ASSIGNMENTS
<p>research or professional settings, e.g., to undertake further studies in their area of concentration; or to enter or return to other professional vocations for which an advanced understanding of Theological Studies is necessary or beneficial.</p>	<p>communicate this learning in a clear and accurate manner</p>	
<p>5. Level of Communication Skills is defined as the ability to communicate complex and/or ambiguous ideas, issues, and conclusions clearly and effectively.</p>	<p>To communicate the ideas and conceptual and methodological frameworks of Orthodox sacramental and liturgical theology to a variety of audiences (including to basic degree students and advanced degree peers)</p>	<p>Class discussions/participation Seminar presentation</p>
<p>6. Awareness of the Limits of Knowledge is defined as the recognition that Theological Studies is a complex discipline, comprising: a broad array of subject areas; methods and sources; various ecclesiastical traditions and social contexts; and insights from other disciplines.</p>	<p>To review the historical evolution of the sacramental rites, analyse issues in modern practice and assess the possibility of liturgical renewal and reform</p>	<p>Class discussions/participation Seminar presentation Research essay</p>

Evaluation

Basic Degree Requirements

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

- **Class participation (20%):** students will be evaluated on their overall class attendance and participation in class discussions on the weekly required readings. *Asynchronous online students will participate via online activities and discussion forums on the course portal.*
- **Liturgical reflection paper (10%):** students will write a 400-500 word reflective essay following a visit to a liturgical service of one of the holy mysteries
- **Research paper or creative project (50%)**
 - **Research paper option:** students will write a 1,500-2,000 word research paper or critical book review on a topic of their choice to be agreed with the instructor, and also present a brief online summary of their research during the final weekly session. The assignment will be graded as follows:
 - 10% for submission of topic and initial bibliography
 - 10% for thesis statement and detailed outline
 - 60% for the final essay
 - 10% for proper format including bibliography (Turabian)
 - 10% for the online summary
 - **Creative project option:** instead of the research paper or seminar presentation, students may in consultation with the instructor choose to complete a creative work (art, music, poetry, etc.) of equivalent weight
- **Oral final exam (20%):** in a scheduled (online or in-person) oral exam, students will respond to questions on the course themes

Advanced Degree (Graduate) Requirements

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

- **Class participation (20%):** students will be evaluated on their overall class attendance and participation in class discussions on the weekly required readings. Advanced degree students will need to demonstrate in class discussion an ability to summarise and evaluate theoretical work and communicate this learning in a clear and accurate manner. *Asynchronous online students will participate via online activities and discussion forums on the course portal.*
- **Seminar presentation (30%):** students will prepare and record a 20-25 minute lecture presentation (e.g. video recording of slide presentation) focusing on the celebration and significance of an aspect of one of the holy mysteries within a particular tradition. An element of creative and original engagement with the themes and connection with a wider theological perspective will be expected of advanced degree students. Note that the presentation must be done within the week (or one of the weeks) assigned to that sacrament or theme.
- **Research paper (50%):** students will write a 2,500 to 3,000 word research paper or critical book review on a topic of their choice to be agreed with the instructor, and also present a brief online summary of their research during the final weekly session. Advanced degree students will need to demonstrate in their papers a fluency with the main liturgical theological themes of the course, including engagement with the main authors and ideas discussed.

Grading System – Basic Degree Level

Letter Grade	Numerical Equivalents	Grade Point	Grasp of Subject Matter	Other qualities expected of students
A RANGE: Excellent: Student shows original thinking, analytic and synthetic ability, critical evaluations, and broad knowledge base.				
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 RANGE: Good: Student shows critical capacity and analytic ability, understanding of relevant issues, familiarity with the literature.				
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

Grading System – Advanced Degree (Graduate) Level

All 5000, 6000 and 7000 level courses use the following alpha grading scale:

A+	(90-100)	Profound & creative
A	(85-89)	Outstanding
A-	(80-84)	Excellent
B+	(77-79)	Very Good
B	(73-76)	Good
B-	(70-72)	Satisfactory at a post-baccalaureate level
FZ	(0-69)	Failure

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

Late work (Basic Degree). Basic Degree students are expected to hand in assignments by the date given in the course outline. Penalties will not be applied to students with medical or compassionate difficulties; 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. The absolute deadline for the course is the examination day scheduled for the course. Students who for exceptional reasons (e.g., 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.

Late work (Advanced, Graduate Degree). The prima facie deadline for the completion of work in a course is the last day of the examination week for the trimester in which the course is taken. Students are expected to meet the course deadlines of the instructor offering the course and are advised to plan their research projects accordingly. Students who find themselves unable to meet deadlines for completing coursework can, under certain conditions, receive extensions for completing the work after the dates set by the college in which the course is offered.

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, 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 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 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 and Sacramental Theology

Topics

- course overview, syllabus, reading list, expectations
- glossary and resources
- theology and problematics of the holy mysteries (sacraments)

Short Lecture: Sacraments and Sacramental Theology

Readings for Class Discussion

- Alexander Schmemmann, *For the Life of the World*, chapter 1 (pp 11-22), and both appendices (pp 117-151)
- Introduction to the *Book of Needs*

Week 2 – The Mysteries of Initiation: Baptism and Chrismation

Topics

- baptism and chrismation in the New Testament and early church
- historical development of the catechumenate and mysteries of initiation

Short Lecture: Baptism in the Early Church

Readings for Class Discussion

- Hilarion Alfeyev, *Orthodox Christianity, Volume V: Sacraments and Other Rites*, chapter 1
 - Alternative reading: Dumitru Staniloae, *The Experience of God: Orthodox Dogmatic Theology – Volume 5: The Sanctifying Mysteries*, pp 1-25
- Selections from Edward Yarnold, *The Awe-Inspiring Rites of Initiation: Baptismal Homilies of the Fourth Century*, pp 65-95 [Cyril of Jerusalem], pp 155-71 [John Chrysostom], pp 173-263 [Theodore of Mopsuestia] and pp 265-270 [Apostolic Tradition of Hippolytus]

Week 3 – The Mysteries of Initiation: Baptism and Chrismation II

Topics

- detailed study of the services of baptism and chrismation
- theological reflection

Short Lecture: Services of Baptism and Chrismation

Readings for Class Discussion

- Alfeyev, *Sacraments and Other Rites*, chapters 2 and 12
 - Alternative reading: Dumitru Staniloae, *The Sanctifying Mysteries*, pp 27-72
- Services of Baptism and Chrismation

Week 4 – The Mysteries of Initiation: Baptism and Chrismation III

Topics

- the reception of converts and baptismal controversies
- contemporary baptismal issues and renewal
- baptism and Pascha / baptism within the Divine Liturgy

Short Lecture: Reception of Converts and Baptismal Controversies

Readings for Class Discussion

- Schmemmann, *For the Life of the World*, chapter 4 (pp 67-79)
- Services of Prayers after Birth, Naming and Churching after 40 Days
- Prayers after Miscarriage (Book of Needs)
- Prayers after Miscarriage (new form)
- John Erickson, "The Reception of Non-Orthodox into the Orthodox Church: Contemporary Practice"
- Peter Alban Heers, "The Recognition of the Baptism of the Heterodox as the Basis for a New Ecclesiology (In Step with Vatican II)"

Week 5 – The Mystery of Confession (Repentance)

Topics

- repentance in the New Testament and early church
- historical development of confession
- detailed study of the service of confession
- theological reflection, contemporary issues and renewal

Short Lecture: Historical Development of the “Mysteries” of Confession

Readings for Class Discussion

- Alfeyev, *Sacraments and Other Rites*, chapter 4
 - Alternative reading: Staniloae, *The Sanctifying Mysteries*, pp 113-133
- Kallistos Ware, "The Orthodox Experience of Repentance"
- Selections from Anthony Khrapovitsky, *Confession: A Series of Lectures on the Mystery of Repentance*
- Service of Confession (Repentance)

Week 6 – The Mystery of Crowning (Marriage)

Topics

- marriage in the New Testament and early church
- historical development of marriage
- detailed study of the services of betrothal and crowning
- theological reflection, contemporary issues and renewal

Short Lecture: Historical Development of Marriage as a Sacrament

Readings for Class Discussion

- Alfeyev, *Sacraments and Other Rites*, chapter 7
 - Alternative reading: Staniloae, *The Sanctifying Mysteries*, pp 167-191
- Schmemmann, *For the Life of the World*, chapter 5 (pp 81-94)
- Services of Betrothal and Crowning

Week 7 – The Mysteries of Ordination and Consecration

Research Paper Topic and Initial Bibliography due

Topics

- ministry in the New Testament and early church
- historical development of the threefold order of ministry (bishops, presbyters, deacons)
- detailed study of the services of ordination and consecration
- continued detailed study and theological reflection on ordination and consecration
- minor orders (subdeacons, readers)
- deprecated orders (deaconesses, chanters, etc)
- contemporary issues and renewal

Short Lecture: *Threefold Order of Ministry*

Readings for Class Discussion

- Alfeyev, *Sacraments and Other Rites*, chapter 7
 - Alternative reading: Staniloae, *The Sanctifying Mysteries*, pp 135-165
- St John Chrysostom, *On the Priesthood* (Book 3)
- Services of Ordination and Consecration

Week 8 – The Mystery of Anointing of the Sick

Topics

- illness and healing in the New Testament and early church
- historical development of the mystery of anointing
- detailed study of the service of anointing
- theological reflection
- contemporary issues and renewal

Short Lecture: *The Mystery of Holy Unction – Work of the Church*

Readings for Class Discussion

- Alfeyev, *Sacraments and Other Rites*, chapter 6
 - Alternative reading: Staniloae, *The Sanctifying Mysteries*, pp 193-200
- Service of Anointing

Week 9 – The Mystery of the Funeral and Burial

Topics

- death and burial in the New Testament and early church
- historical development of prayers for the departed, as well as the mystery of the funeral and burial
- theological reflection on the communion of the saints and prayers for the departed

Short Lecture: Communion of the Saints – Remembering the Christian Departed

Readings for Class Discussion

- Alexander Schmemmann, *For the Life of the World*, chapter 6 (pp 95-106)
- Kallistos Ware, “Dare We Hope for the Salvation of All?”
- selections of prayers for the departed

Week 10 – The Mystery of the Funeral and Burial II

Research Paper Thesis and Detailed Outline due

Topics

- detailed study of the funeral and burial service
- theological reflection
- contemporary issues and renewal

Short Lecture: Burial and Memorial Services

Readings for Class Discussion

- Alfeyev, *Sacraments and Other Rites*, chapter 9
- Services at the Departure of the Soul from the Body and of the Burial of an Infant, a Lay Person and Priest

Week 11 – The Other Mysteries

Topics

- other holy mysteries (eg consecration of church, great blessing of water, monastic tonsure, blessing of home)
- sacraments vs “sacramentals”

Short Lecture: The Fulness of the Mysteries

Readings for Class Discussion

- Alfeyev, *Sacraments and Other Rites*, chapters 8, 10, 11, and 13
- Services of Monastic Tonsure, etc.
- Service of Consecration of a Church (and other ecclesiastical and liturgical blessings)
- Service of Blessing of a Home at Theophany / Service of Blessing a New Home

Week 12 (course ends 5 April) – Course Review

Readings for Class Discussion

- Alexander Schmemmann, *For the Life of the World*, chapter 1 (pp 11-22) and two appendices (pp 117-151): review and reconsider these chapters from week 1 in light of what we have learned

Research Paper due at the end of the exam period

The final oral exam will be scheduled by appointment

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