THE850 Theology of the Major Eastern Fathers
Summer, 2013

Essential Information
Please refer to the following resources for information essential for the successful completion of courses and degree programs at Nazarene Theological Seminary. Links to these resources are available in the Essential Information section at http://support.nts.edu.

- NTS Mission Statement & Purpose Degree Objectives
- Tips for online learning success
- NTS library services
- NTS textbook information
- Online technical requirements and Moodle support information
- NTS Student Handbook including statements on quality of work, plagiarism, and academic probation
- Handbook for Inclusive Language

Instructor Information
Professor: Dr T.A. Noble
Office: (816) 268 5487
Office Hours: By appointment

Course Narrative & Rationale
TBA

Catalog Description
This seminar engages in discussion arising from reading significant works of the major Eastern Fathers of the Christian Church. These include Irenaeus, Clement of Alexandria, Origen, Athanasius, Basil of Caesarea, Gregory of Nazianzus, Gregory of Nyssa, the Cappadocians, and Cyril of Alexandria. Texts are selected to throw light on the contribution of these theologians to the central beliefs of the church, particularly the Person and Work of Christ and the doctrine of the Holy Trinity. Their view of personal holiness is also considered. In the last weeks of the semester, an attempt is made to gain a strategic grasp of the shape of the Nicene Theology.
**Course Objective**

To understand the theology of the major Eastern Fathers in the context of their time so that we can wrestle with the contemporary relevance of their insights to our theology and preaching.

**Degree Objectives**

The class will further the following degree objectives listed in the catalog:

- Master of Divinity: Objective 3
- Master of Arts (Theological Studies): General Academic Track: Objectives 1 and 2
  - Research Track: Objectives 1, 2 and 4

**Course Outcomes**

1. The student will gain a direct familiarity of some of the main writings of Irenaeus, Clement, Athanasius, the Cappadocians and Cyril of Alexandria (Assignments 1, 5).
2. The student will gain a deeper knowledge of the writings of one of the above and/or of one aspect of Patristic theology (Assignments 2, 4, 7).
3. The student will gain a more comprehensive knowledge of the general shape, content and focus of Patristic theology (Assignments 3, 6, 7).

**Required Texts & Course Materials**

- Irenaeus, *Proof of the Apostolic Preaching* (St Vladimir’s, 1997)
- Cyril of Alexandria, *On the Unity of Christ* (St Vladimir’s, 1995)

Students will also be required to read sections of works in the Ante-Nicene Fathers and the Nicene and Post-Nicene Fathers which are available on-line or in the NTS Library. See Section A of the Course Outline below.

**Recommended Texts & Course Materials**

See Select Bibliography

**Course Outline**
Section A

Most of the primary documents which are not in Hardy’s *Christology of the Later Fathers* are available in the reference section of the library and on the internet at Ante-Nicene Christian Library (otherwise known as the Ante-Nicene Christian Fathers) and at Nicene and Post-Nicene Fathers. If necessary you should print a copy of each document not in Hardy and bring it to class. Some may be accessible on line, but it is more convenient to have printed copies. All students are expected to read the primary documents in advance of discussion in class. Those who are leading each seminar are expected also to have read the secondary works given in the Select Bibliography. The names of those assigned to lead each seminar will be given once registration is completed.

Irenaeus: 20th May (Discussion leader: )
Irenaeus, *Proof of the Apostolic Preaching* (St Vladimir’s, 1997)
Against Heresies (Ante-Nicene Fathers, Vol. 5), Bk II, 1-2, 9-10; Bk III, 1-2, 5-7, 16-20

Clement of Alexandria: 21st May (Discussion leader: )
The Miscellanies (ANF, Vols 4 & 12), Bk I, 9; Bk 2, 2-4, 6, 11-15; Bk IV, 18-26; Bk VII, 1-3, 6, 7, 10-16

Origen (22nd May: )
*On First Principles [De Principiis],* (ANF, Vol. 10), Preface, Bk I, 1-8; Bk. II, 1-3, 6-7

Athanasius (23rd May: )

The Cappadocians (24th May: )
  Gregory of Nyssa, *The Catechetical Oration [=Address on Religious Instruction]* (in LCC, Vol. 3)

Cyril of Alexandria (27th May: )
Third Letter to Nestorius (LCC, Vol. 3, ed. Hardy)

Section B

Discussion in the remaining seminars: T.F. Torrance, *The Trinitarian Faith* (1988). Prepare for each seminar by reading the chapter(s) carefully in advance.

28th May

29th May
Chapter 4, ‘God of God, Light of Light’ and Chapter 5, ‘The Incarnate Saviour’

30th May
Chapter 6, ‘The Eternal Spirit’ and Chapter 7, ‘The One Church’

31st May
Chapter 8, ‘The Triunity of God’
Course Assignments & Requirements

Pre-module

Introduction: Introduce yourself to your other classmates in the Moodle Introduction Forum by April 15.
1. To read all the primary texts in advance, taking notes.
2. To prepare to lead one seminar by reading the listed secondary literature for that seminar in advance, taking notes.

During the module

4. To lead discussion in one assigned seminar
5. To take notes on each of the other seminars as preparation for a file of theological reflections (see below).

Post-module

6. To submit by Friday, 7th June a file of theological reflections on each seminar (one page per seminar hour) summarizing the theological contribution of each major writer studied and his significance for contemporary issues
7. An essay of around 3,000 to 4,000 words on one of the Fathers or on an aspect of the theology of the Fathers, the topic to be approved by the professor.

Distribution of Student Learning Hours

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>pre-module hours</th>
<th>module hours</th>
<th>post-module hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Face-to-face Class Sessions</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Online Participation in forums, groups, etc.</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Assignments and Learning Activities</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exams &amp; Quizzes</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>30</td>
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Method for Submitting Assignments
All assignments are to be submitted on Moodle

**Form and Style Expectations**

Please conform to Turabian

**Inclusive Language**

NTS is committed to the equality of women and men. Recognizing that people have often used the English language in ways that imply the exclusion or inferiority of women, NTS urges students, faculty, and staff to avoid sexist language in public discourse, in classroom discussions, and in their writings. All written work presented to meet course requirements must use gender inclusive language.

**Policy Regarding Late Work & Missed Exams**

Late work will be given a lower grade

**Additional Costs**

There are no additional costs apart from printing documents.

**Grading Scheme**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GRADE</th>
<th>LANGUAGE SKILLS</th>
<th>STRUCTURE</th>
<th>INFORMATIONAL CONTENT</th>
<th>ARGUMENT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>Impeccable grammar, spelling and punctuation; wide vocabulary; fluent, creative, expressive, even imaginative</td>
<td>Highly organized in paragraphs (and sections) with introduction &amp; conclusion; form elegantly reflects content; a symphony!</td>
<td>Wide and deep knowledge from careful reading of all the suggested bibliography plus other reading or knowledge</td>
<td>A clear and coherent line of argument from introduction to conclusion, paragraphs following a clear and logical sequence of thought; awareness of the wider significance of the question; comprehensive coverage of major relevant points.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>Good grammar, spelling,</td>
<td>Organized in paragraphs in the suggested</td>
<td>Extensive reading</td>
<td>A clear case for the conclusion; clear sequence</td>
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In accordance with the provisions of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, NTS is committed to providing students with disabilities the opportunity to participate and benefit from its programs and activities. Accordingly, NTS will make reasonable modifications to its programs and activities to accommodate otherwise qualified students with disabilities, unless such modifications would impose an undue burden on the operation of the particular program or activity or would fundamentally alter the nature or purpose of the program or activity. Students needing accommodations should contact the Office of the Registrar. They also should contact the instructor no later than the end of the first class session to discuss learning needs and adaptive strategies that have been beneficial for the student in the past.

**Class Attendance**

Attendance at classes is essential for realizing the maximum benefit of your education. Since the professor in each course is best acquainted with the importance of consistent attendance, he or she will determine the rules for attendance.
If you must be absent because of extenuating circumstances, contact the professor as soon as possible to discuss the situation.

If a student is absent for 9 hrs of a two week module or is absent (does not participate) four or more weeks of the pre/post module, the professor may automatically fail the student.

Daily attendance records must be reported for those obtaining V.A. and Department of Education benefits. Students must make the professor aware if their attendance must be recorded.

**Audio and Video Recordings**

In order to foster a safe learning environment in which various viewpoints are respected, audio or video recordings or transcripts thereof by students is prohibited without the permission of the faculty member in charge of the course. If permission is granted, redistribution of these recordings or transcripts thereof outside the scope of the course is prohibited.

Students enrolling in videoconferencing courses or participating in certain synchronous Moodle activities should be aware that their images and voices will be transmitted digitally through the videoconferencing equipment and may be recorded. Continued enrollment in these courses constitutes willingness to participate in the class with these conditions. If you have privacy concerns, please discuss your enrollment with the Registrar.

**Course Calendar**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Assignment</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Pre-Module Begins</td>
<td>Introductions 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Module Face to Face Begins</td>
<td>4 &amp; 5</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>4 &amp; 5</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Post-Module Begins (Week 8 if 1 Week)</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Select Bibliography

A ‘Patrology’ is an encyclopedia of Patristics. The best known is:


This is in four volumes:

- Volume 1  The Beginnings of Patristic Literature From the Apostles to Irenaeus
- Volume 2  The Ante-Nicene Literature after Irenaeus
- Volume 3  The Golden Age of Greek Patristic Literature
- Volume 4  The Golden Age of Latin Patristic Literature from the Council of Nicea to the Council of Chalcedon

For each of the Fathers you will find a brief biography, a survey of his writings (with full bibliographies of editions, translations and studies), and an outline of his theology (with a bibliography of secondary works).

The following standard works of *Dogmengeschichte* may be helpful as background reading:

Gerald Bray, *Creeds, Councils and Christ*, Downers Grove: IVP, 1984

See also:

Christopher A. Hall, *Reading Scripture with the Church Fathers*, Downers Grove: IVP, 1998

The following are more specialized in some cases dealing with Orthodox theology since the Fathers:

G.L. Prestige, *Fathers and Heretics*, London: SPCK, 1940 (Chapters on Origen, Athanasius and Cyril)
Frances Young, *From Nicea to Chalcedon*, London, 1983

Publications which specialize in the Patristic teaching on **Christian holiness**:

Mayeul de Dreuille, *Seeking the Absolute Love*, New York: Gracewing, 1999

**Works on specific Patristic theologians:**

**Irenaeus**


**Clement of Alexandria**


**Origen**


**Athanasius**


**The Cappadocians**

John McGuckin, *St Gregory of Nazianzus: An Intellectual Biography*, Crestwood: St Vladimir’s, 2001

**Cyril of Alexandria**

Lionel R. Wickham, *Cyril of Alexandria: Select Letters*, OUP, 1983