

CODE: THO 6375	TITLE: Foundational Texts in Eastern Christian Church History
CREDITS: 3 cr.	
SESSION: Fall 2006	PROFESSOR: John Jillions

DESCRIPTION	History and its interpretation are central to Eastern Christianity. The discernment of authentic Tradition from passing custom is a key task in the contemporary life of the Eastern churches. The burdens of church history have also spilled over into social and political conflicts in the Eastern Christian world. Thus the historian has an important role. This course will look at a wide variety of primary texts which describe and interpret past events and persons and have helped shaped Eastern Christian identity in the Middle East, Byzantium, the Slavic world and North America. These documents and writers will be analyzed in light of their own historical context and with the insights of modern scholarship.
OBJECTIVES	To give students an opportunity to read and critically analyze a range of important primary documents of Eastern Church history (in translation) against the background of their context and with the aid of current scholarship. To enable students to reflect critically on the meaning and interpretation of history in the Christian East, and the impact this has today.
WORKLOAD	Weekly critical review (2 pages) based on the assigned readings (40-50 pages) Class presentation Research paper Final oral exam
EVALUATION	Weekly review 20% Class presentation 20% Research paper 30% Final oral exam 20% Participation 10%
REQUIRED TEXTS	Anthology prepared by professor
RECOMMENDED TEXTS	