

CODE: THO 6376

TITLE: Foundational Texts in Eastern Christian Spirituality

CREDITS: 3 cr.

SESSION: Winter 2010

PROFESSOR: Andriy Chirovsky

DESCRIPTION	This course seeks to establish a basic literacy in some of the most influential texts of the Eastern Christian ascetico-mystical tradition.
OBJECTIVES	To identify the texts across the spectrum of history that have established a clearly discernable and significantly unified vision of the journey of the Christian believer from spiritual infancy to a mature vision of life in Christ as the acquisition of the Holy Spirit and the achieving of ceaseless prayer, the narrow way towards becoming « partakers of divine nature » as promised in 2Peter 1 :4.
WORKLOAD	After a series of introductory lectures, the course will rely heavily on student presentations in a seminar format, as various classic texts from the early centuries until our own time are placed in context and their central message is drawn out. Each student will prepare both oral presentations and a written handout on the various themes discussed in the readings. A 12-15 page research paper will be required, and a final oral exam will attempt to achieve a final synthesis.
EVALUATION	Class presentations by students 10% Handouts by students 10% Research paper 40% Final Oral exam 40%
REQUIRED TEXTS	A bibliography of required texts will be presented at the beginning of the course.
RECOMMENDED TEXTS	Tomas Spidlik, <i>The Spirituality of the Christian East</i> . Kalamazoo, MI : Cistercian Publications, 1986. Olivier Clement, <i>The Roots of Christian Mysticism</i> . Hyde Park, NY : New City, 1993.