CODE: THO 2131W (M.Div.) **TITLE: General Introduction to the Eastern Churches** **CREDITS:** 3 cr. **TERM:** Fall 2016 **PROFESSOR:** Andrew T. Onuferko	
DESCRIPTION	The online course aims at a general introduction to the four families of Eastern Churches: Eastern Orthodox, Oriental Orthodox, Eastern Catholic and the Assyrian Church of the East. Following a review of the history that shaped the development of the Eastern Churches (including schisms, attempts at re-union and the impact of Islam), the course focuses on the history and culture of: 1) the Assyrian Church of the East, 2) the Coptic and Armenian Orthodox Churches, 3) the Orthodox Churches of Greece and Russia, 4) the Maronite and Ukrainian Catholic Churches. Subsequently, the course examines the East's distinctive approaches to liturgy, art, architecture, music, spiritual life, monasticism, social service, hagiography, mission and theology. The course ends with an assessment of the current state of these Churches in North America and their approaches to inter-Christian and inter-religious relations. Field trips to Eastern Christian communities are part of the course requirement. The Field Research Paper focuses on four key aspects of pastoral ministry: 1) Word of God and Catechesis, 2) Liturgy and Prayer, 3) Diakonia (Serving One's Neighbour), 4) Parish Leadership-Stewardship
PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES (MDiv ECS)	(I) Knowledge of heritage (I) Understanding of the contemporary cultural context (I) Capacity for ministerial and public leadership (I) Growth in Spiritual depth and moral integrity I = Introduction S = Strengthening A= Advanced N/A=Does not apply to this course
COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES	1. To enable students to become familiar with the wide variety of Eastern Christian Churches. 2. To expose students to Eastern Christian liturgy, theology, spirituality, culture and pastoral practices in order to prepare for ministry 3. To provide a basic understanding of the historical background of these Churches, in order to give the student a broader view of Christianity in general. 4. To prepare students for more advanced courses in the Eastern Christian Studies programs at Saint Paul University
WORKLOAD	• Approximately 50 pages of readings per week, supplemented by class notes • 1-2 page weekly reflection on readings and/or online discussion to specific questions • Mid-term written exam • Research Paper (12-15 pages) on a particular Eastern Christian community • Final written exam
EVALUATION	• Weekly Discussion 10% • Weekly Reflections 15% • Mid-term exam 25% • Research paper 25% • Final written exam 25%
REQUIRED TEXTS	Ware, Timothy, *The Orthodox Church* (revised edition), London: Penguin, 1993. Roberson, Ronald, *The Eastern Christian Churches: A Brief Survey* (revised 7th edition), Rome: Edizioni Orientalia Cristiana, 2008. [Available on-line at the CNEWA website (Catholic Near East Welfare Assn., www.cnewa.org] Additional required reading material and extensive source material will be made available online on the course website.
RECOMMENDED TEXTS	Additional recommended texts and source material specific to each session will be made available online on the course website.