



MARTYRIA

Graduate Theological Union and PAOI to Offer Master's in Orthodox Christian Studies

First Program West of Pennsylvania Program will begin September 2004

The Patriarch Athenagoras Orthodox Institute and the Graduate Theological Union will offer a Master of Arts in Orthodox Christian Studies. This is the first accredited graduate program in Orthodox Christian theology west of Pennsylvania. Applications for enrollment in September 2004 are now being accepted by the GTU.

According to Dr. Anton Vrame, Director of the PAOI, "The MA program provides an opportunity for men and women to study Orthodox theology at the GTU in a scholarly and systematic manner in order to pursue additional graduate studies, to serve the community in a lay capacity, or to explore the possibility of entering ordained ministry. Many of the courses were already being taught, so we merely reorganized them and placed them under the umbrella of this degree program. We are very pleased that the GTU accepted our proposal to create the program. This was a dream of the Institute's founders and now that dream is becoming a reality."

The program is a traditional two-year Master of Arts program, requiring fourteen courses, a language requirement, and a thesis. Faculty members from the Patriarch Athenagoras Orthodox Institute will offer courses and serve as advisors to students in the program. The program will also take advantage of the rich areas of instruction at the member schools of the Graduate Theological Union and the University of California, Berkeley.

The Patriarch Athenagoras Orthodox Institute was founded as a pan-Orthodox center at the Graduate Theological Union. Ecclesiastically, the Institute is under the jurisdiction of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople. Courses in Orthodox theology are taught through the Alexander G. Spanos Chair in Eastern Orthodox Studies of the GTU. Dr. John Klentos, a specialist in Orthodox liturgy teaches through the chair. Additional faculty teaching in the M.A. program will be Dr. Anton Vrame, a specialist in theology and education, and Paul Manolis, in Greek and modern Church history. The Institute will also be offering additional courses in Orthodox studies through adjunct faculty. For example, Dr. John Thomas, a specialist in Byzantine Studies will offer a course on the Byzantine Church. "Our hope," according to Dr. Vrame, "is that this pro-

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The members of the Graduate Theological Union are:

American Baptist Seminary
of the West

The Church Divinity School
of the Pacific (Episcopal)

Dominican School of Philosophy
and Theology

Franciscan School of Theology

The Jesuit School of Theology
at Berkeley

Pacific Lutheran School of Theology

Pacific School of Religion
(Multi-denominational)

San Francisco Theological Seminary
(Presbyterian)

Starr King for the Ministry
(Unitarian Universalist)

The GTU has 126 full-time faculty and numerous adjunct and visiting scholars, representing Roman Catholic, Protestant, Orthodox Christian, Jewish, and Buddhist faith traditions.

The GTU Library is one of the most comprehensive theological libraries in the United States.

The Master of Arts in Orthodox Christian Studies

The M.A. in Orthodox Christian Studies allows for focused study of the history, theology, liturgy, spirituality and praxis of the Orthodox Christian tradition from its origins to the present day. It is not designed to prepare a student for ordained ministry within the Orthodox Church. The purposes of the M.A. in Orthodox Christian Studies are:

1. to explore and to enrich one's knowledge and understandings of the Eastern Orthodox Church;
2. to provide an academic structure for sustained inquiry into the theology of the Eastern Orthodox Church;
3. to provide a theological foundation for service and leadership within an Orthodox parish or diocesan ministry;
4. to prepare students for academic study at the doctoral level.

The M.A. in Orthodox Christian Studies is structured to take advantage of the ecumenical and interfaith environment of the Graduate Theological Union. Students will study alongside other students from many different faith traditions, thus strengthening their ability to communicate Orthodox Christianity to others and to reflect upon Orthodox Christianity from the perspectives of others. This will prepare them for future engagement with the multireligious and multicultural contexts in which the Orthodox Church finds itself.

Program Requirements

The program requirements follow those of the GTU Common M.A., with additional stipulations. For details about the Common M.A. of the Graduate Theological Union and issues not covered by this description please consult the GTU Catalog (www.gtu.edu).

Courses

Fourteen full courses (42 units) are required, at least five of which shall be offered by faculty associated with the PAOI, and five offered by faculty from GTU member schools. Students must take one course each in Biblical Studies, History, Theology, and Ethics.

Eight courses (24 units) in Orthodox Christian Studies are required for the degree.

In the specialized M.A., the courses are distributed as follows:

- Orthodox Christianity: History and Theology
- Orthodox Christian Spirituality
- One course in each of the following: History, Liturgy, Theology and Patristics (may be fulfilled simultaneously with the general distribution).
- Two additional courses in an area of specialization (History, Liturgy, Spirituality, Theology, or Patristics).

Courses taught by GTU faculty that fulfill requirements for this degree will be identified on an annual basis. Courses taught by University of California at Berkeley that will fulfill requirements for this degree will also be identified. M.A. students may cross register for one course per semester at the University of California at Berkeley.

Language

A student must demonstrate proficiency in at least one language helpful to the study of Eastern Christianity (French, German, modern Greek, Russian, Church Slavonic, Serbian, Arabic, Coptic, et al) and the thesis topic of the student.

Thesis

Students are required to submit a thesis that represents the equivalent of at least two three-unit courses.

Residency

The M.A. in Orthodox Christian Studies requires two years of full-time study. Part-time study is possible, but requires permission of the GTU Dean and the Director of the PAOI.

Library Resources

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Why create a Master's Program?....

The first verb in the Institute's mission statement is "to educate." The creation of the Master of Arts in Orthodox Christian Studies at the Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley focuses that aspect of our mission in a new way. The Master's program will allow men and women to come to the Institute and the GTU and study Orthodox Christianity in a world- renowned graduate school. The program will achieve three objectives that I believe are central to educating in the Orthodox Way: to inform, to form, and to transform.*

The Master's Program will offer men and women from all backgrounds to be become informed about the Orthodox Church. Over the years, the Institute has accomplished this through the courses we offer. Most of the time, the students enrolled in Institute offerings are not Orthodox Christians. For example, last semester I taught "The Orthodox Church: History and Theology," an introduction to Orthodox Christianity. Nine students are enrolled in the course; not one is an Orthodox Christian. At the beginning of the semester, the students expressed that they were enrolled in the class because they knew very little about the Orthodox Church. Hopefully, the course has informed them.

Perhaps some of these students will take additional courses in Orthodox Christianity and further their knowledge. They in turn will share their knowledge with their congregations, furthering the knowledge that other Christians have about the East. Perhaps non-Orthodox students will enroll in the MA program to become experts in the Orthodox Church, just as some Orthodox scholars study other religious traditions and become experts in them.

There are also plenty of Orthodox adults who know very little about their own Orthodox Tradition. By enrolling in the MA program, these students will be better informed about their faith and heritage. They will encounter the history, theology, spirituality, liturgy, life and experience of the Orthodox Church in courses, readings, and discussions with their teachers and fellow students. They will conduct research and write about issues that are important to them and the church. They will be in a

position to share their knowledge with others and through their vocations. Some may decide to pursue additional education to serve the church as scholars, teachers, or clergy.

The Master's Program will also help form students' thinking about the Church. Over a two-year course of study - fourteen courses, a language, a thesis - one's perspective will undoubtedly be shaped. Like an art student, who can know the differences between eras and painters, this student should be able to look at questions and "see with the eye of the Church" in order to formulate a response.

The unique ecumenical and interfaith environment of the GTU will also form a student. Like the world around us, Orthodox students at the GTU will find themselves as one voice of faith among many voices. In this environment, one must be able to express one's own faith clearly, listen attentively to someone with another perspective, and engage in a constructive conversation. It means learning to be open to the possibility that another tradition will have an insight or response to a question that will teach you something about your own tradition.

The MA Program creates the possibility for transformation for its students and the Church communities they represent. All students will be transformed in some respects merely by acquiring information. Learning merely to stay the same... well, it isn't learning at all. By design, education should be transformative: life giving, life sustaining, and life enriching. Transformation requires real change and growth by asking and reflecting on the implications of the new knowledge, then making a decision to act accordingly, whether it means reading an additional book, praying a new prayer, or serving the community in a new way.

Anton C. Vrame, Ph.D.

*I am grateful to my teacher, Prof. Thomas Groome of Boston College, for this phrase.

PAOI Courses 2004-2005

Every year the faculty of the Institute will teach courses that fulfill requirements for the Master of Arts. In 2004-2005, the course offerings will be as follows. For details about course meetings, course numbers, full descriptions, etc. consult the GTU on-line schedule, Colleague, at www.gtu.edu.

Fall Semester ('04)

Orthodox Christianity: History/Theology (Vrame): A survey of the history and theology of the Orthodox Christian Church. Traces through issues of Authority and the Conciliar tradition, Trinitarian theology, Christology, anthropology, iconography, liturgy, and other select topics. (Evenings)

Hagiography (Klentos): A study of saints' lives (in English translation) reveals not only characteristics of sanctity and spirituality in the Christian East, but also historical contexts and theological concepts.

Early Liturgical History (Klentos): An introduction to Eucharist, Initiation, and Daily Prayer from the Early Church and Patristic times, through the Byzantine era, to the Medieval period.

Proseminar in Liturgical Research Methods (Klentos): Methods and questions surrounding Liturgical Studies, leading to an integration historical approaches, theological inquiry, with the recent disciplines of ritology and ethnoliturgy.

Beginning Modern Greek (Manolis): Introduction to basic grammar and vocabulary needed to begin reading and speaking Modern Greek. This course is a prerequisite for Intermediate Modern Greek.

Spring Semester ('05)

Orthodox Christian Spirituality (Klentos): A general introduction to the broad themes of and major figures in Eastern Christian spiritual traditions. Working almost exclusively from primary texts (in English translation), students will encounter a wide range of traditions - Syrian, Greek, Armenian, and Slavic - from the second century to the present day. (Evenings)

Orthodox Christian Theology: Christ and Person (Vrame): An in-depth look at the Christology and Anthropology of the Eastern Church.

Eucharist in Ecumenical Context (Klentos): An historical/theological analysis of the Sacrament of Eucharist in the Orthodox, Roman Catholic, and various Protestant traditions.

The Byzantine Church (Thomas): A survey of the institutions of the Byzantine Church, including the patriarchate, bishoprics, dioceses, clergy, churches, monasteries, philanthropic foundations, individual holy men and women from late antiquity to the 15th century.

Orthodoxy in America (Manolis): A survey of the history of the Orthodox churches in America, from the early 18th century Russian mission to the present.

Intermediate Modern Greek (Manolis): Building upon the foundations developed in Beginning Modern Greek, students will deepen their knowledge of spoken and written Modern Greek.

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Support a Student with a Scholarship

The creation of the Master of Arts in Orthodox Christian Studies has created the possibility for men and women to study Orthodox Christianity in one of the most stimulating scholarly environments in the United States. The intellectual resources of the Graduate Theological Union and the University of California, Berkeley, are available to students as they pursue their academic goals in Orthodox theology, which they can utilize in service to the community.

The PAOI must strive to create the finest educational environment it can create to support our students, from instructional quality to academic resources. All areas of Institute life should be upgraded to meet the needs and expectations of our future students and faculty. They deserve nothing less than our full support and commitment.

Education is expensive. Tuition at the GTU/PAOI will run approximately \$11,000 per year. Then there are the costs of housing, insurance, and books and the other essentials to a well-balanced life.

Now is the time for the community to support the men and women who will enroll in the program with scholarships.

You may want to add to one of our existing scholarship funds.

- the Fr. Leonidas Contos Endowment
- the Paul Christopoulos scholarship
- the PAOI General scholarship fund.

You may want to establish a scholarship fund at PAOI, which will permanently support a student. A scholarship fund can be created in honor or memory of a loved one. It can be created to support academic excellence or a student with financial need. In the case of endowment funds, only part of the proceeds from the investment are used for the scholarship; the rest is rolled into the fund; the initial principal amounts to the endowment are inviolable.

For details about establishing a scholarship fund, contact the Institute.

The Master of Arts in Orthodox Christian Studies from p. 2

The Library of the Graduate Theological Union provides students and faculty with a rich and unique learning environment. The Library's collection reflects the broad theological and academic spectrum of the GTU, as well as the diversity found within Christian traditions and within global Christianity. In addition, the collection is growing in the areas of Judaism, Buddhism, Hinduism and Islam.

The PAOI's Manolis Library is one of the largest resources in Orthodox theology outside of an Orthodox seminary. It contains over 11,000 volumes in Orthodox theology, Byzantine Studies, History, and related areas. Of particular interest is the large collection of liturgical texts. The Library also contains journals from the entire Orthodox world in a variety of languages.

Students of the GTU have borrowing privileges at the Library of the University of California, Berkeley, one of the five largest university libraries in the United States.

Financial Aid

Students are expected to apply for financial aid through the Graduate Theological Union. The PAOI has some scholarship resources available for students enrolled in the MA program.

Accreditation

The MA in Orthodox Christian Studies is awarded by the Graduate Theological Union, which is accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) and the Association of Theological Schools (ATS).

Faculty

Anton C. Vrame, Ph.D. Director, PAOI. Assistant Professor of Orthodox Christian Studies, GTU. Area of specialization: Theology and Education.

John Klentos, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Eastern Orthodox Studies, GTU. Area of specialization: Liturgy.

John Thomas, Ph.D., Adjunct Assistant Professor. Area of specialization, Byzantine History.

Paul G. Manolis, Area of specialization: Modern Greek and History.

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gram will be so successful that we will be able to hire an additional full-time faculty member fairly quickly. Ideally, we would like to see the creation of an endowed chair at the Institute itself.”

The Graduate Theological Union is an ecumenical and interfaith consortium of nine independent seminaries and ten affiliated centers based in Berkeley, California. About the creation of the program, Rev. Dr. Arthur Holder, Dean of the Graduate Theological Union stated, “I am delighted that the Patriarch Athenagoras Orthodox Institute and the Graduate Theological Union will cooperate to offer an MA in Orthodox Christian Studies. Building on the long-standing affiliation between the two institutions, this new academic program will enable students to study the rich heritage of Orthodox theology and spirituality in the context of an ecumenical and interreligious environment.”

For more information about the MA in Orthodox Christian Studies, contact either the Graduate Theological Union or the Patriarch Athenagoras Orthodox Institute.

For more information contact:

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