

# Advanced Reading Course: The Classics of the Coptic Tradition (7,5 ECTS credits)

Level: 1st cycle

Discipline: THEOLOGY (Historical Theology)

Course ID: 2015

## Admission requirements

General admission requirements for university studies. 60 ECTS credits in theology or religious studies.

## Educational goals

After completing the course, the student is expected to be able to:

- Give accounts of the different meanings of the word “Coptic” as well as the contribution of the School of Alexandria to theological thinking.
- Describe how Egypt functioned as a diverse multiethnic and multilingual society in this period
- Identify the key Fathers of the Coptic Church and exhibit knowledge of the early monastic Fathers.
- Exhibit knowledge of the Arabic conquest as well as the diverse expressions of Christian Arabic literature.
- Account for the position of the Coptic church towards the council of Chalcedon.
- Evaluate the interaction between cultural continuity and religious transformation.
- Articulate an advanced understanding of the Coptic Church through the ages.

## Course content

This course explores the richness of one of the most ancient churches in the world, the Coptic church of Egypt. It starts with the definition of the word “Coptic,” and how this applies to the school of Alexandria featuring key figures such as Clement and Origen, in the third century. Other key figures treated in the course are Athanasius of Alexandria, Anthony the Great, Cyril of Alexandria, Severus of Antioch, as well as some later, lesser known, theologians.

## Teaching and examination

Teaching will take place in the form of seminars where primary sources are discussed. Students are expected to read and bring notes of 1-2 pages for each seminar. The course will be examined through written assignments and an oral exam. The written assignments will take the form of two shorter essays, each of 5-6 pages (together 60% of the final grade). The oral exam covers all the material of the course and counts for 40% of the final grade.

## Bibliography

Allen, Pauline, Hayward, C. T.R. *Severus of Antioch*, London and New York: Routledge 2004, p.3-58.

Ashwin-Siejkowski "Clement of Alexandria," *The Wiley Blackwell Companion to Patristics*, Parry, K (ed). Oxford- Sussex: Wiley, 2015, p. 84-97.

Binns, J., *The T & T Clark History of Monasticism*, London- New York, T & T Clark 2020, p. 33-55.

Brakke, David, "Athanasius" *The Early Christian World*, P. Esler (ed) vol 2, London- New York: Routledge 2001, p 1102-1127.

Edwards, "Origen of Alexandria," *The Wiley Blackwell Companion to Patristics*, Parry, K (ed). Oxford- Sussex: Wiley, 2015, p.98-110

Farag, Lois M. "Alexandrian Theological Exegesis: Athanasius and Cyril of Alexandria," *The Coptic Christian Heritage: History, Faith, and Culture*. Editor. Routledge. 2014.

McGuckin, *Saint Cyril of Alexandria , the Christological controversy, its history, theology and texts*, Supplement os to Vigiliae Christianae 23, Leiden-New York: Brill 1994, p. 175-223.

Mikhail, Maged S. A. "Historical Definitions and Synonyms for "Copt" and Coptic: The Construction of Communal Identity in Pre-Moder Egypt at the Nexus of Language, History and Ethnogenesis," *Journal of the Canadian Society for Coptic Studies* 13 (2021) 11-45.

Moawad, "Coptic Historiography," *Coptic Civilization, two thousand years of Christianity in Egypt*, Gawdat Gabra (editor), Cairo – New York: American University in Cairo Press 2014, p.11-18.

Moawad, Samuel "Some Features of Coptic Identity" *Ancient Near Eastern Studies* 53 (2016) 249-274.

Swanson, Mark, *The Coptic Papacy*, Cairo New York: American University in Cairo Press, 2011.

## Reference literature

*Coptic Encyclopedia*, A. S. Atiya (ed) New York: MacMillan 1991. Online with several additions

*Historical dictionary of the Coptic Church*, Gawdat Gabra (ed.) New York: Scarecrow 2010. Several entries.

See also "Kursplaner: allmänna bestämmelser" (Course plans: General rules)

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Valid as 2024-01-15