



NEWMANINSTITUTET

HÖGSKOLA FÖR TEOLOGI, FILOSOFI OCH KULTUR

Course plan

The Liturgical Year (7.5 ECTS credits)

Level: 1st cycle

Discipline: THEOLOGY

Course ID: 0220

Admission requirements

General admission requirements for university studies. Students taking part in the course as a part of their Bachelor's degree program must have completed Course A, Introduction in Philosophy and Theology (30 ECTS credits), or corresponding courses. Students taking part in the course as a freestanding course are expected to have corresponding prior knowledge.

Educational goals

After having completed the course the students are expected to:

- be able to report on the Christian liturgical year with special attention to Byzantine liturgical tradition;
- be able to report on the historical development and theological foundations of the liturgical calendar;
- show an understanding of the interconnections between specific feasts, rites, iconography and theology within the Eastern Christian tradition;
- Be able to make a written analysis of an essential Eastern Christian feast based on analysis of liturgical texts or icons.

Course content

The purpose of this course is to familiarize students with the theology, spirituality and history of the Christian liturgical year (with special attention to the Byzantine liturgical tradition).

The course will look at (a) historical development of the liturgical calendar, its seasons and principal feasts; (b) theological foundations and meaning of the liturgical year in general and specific feasts in particular; (c) liturgical texts and rites of selected feasts; (d) iconography of selected feasts in the Byzantine tradition. Special attention will be given to the artistic expressions of the Church's theology of feasts, i.e. Byzantine icons of the great feasts. In this way the course will open a holistic perspective on the liturgical year with regard to its biblical and theological foundations, its interpretation in Church tradition over centuries and its spiritual relevance for modern Christians.

Teaching and examination

Teaching is given by means of lectures and discussion seminars in Uppsala and online. Students are expected to do assigned readings, to participate in working sessions and to write a short (5-7 pp.) essay on a selected feast, unfolding its theological and spiritual meaning and significance based on the analysis of liturgical texts, of the festal icon and of secondary scholarly literature.

The course is taught in English. The final paper is preferably to be written in English; it is, however, also permitted to write it in Swedish.

Bibliography

Liturgical texts:

The main source for this course will be the liturgical text of Byzantine tradition, found in English translation through direction by the course leader. For each class a specific list of selected texts will be provided.

Secondary literature:

Corbon, Jean, *The Wellspring of Worship*, Ignatius Press, 2005.

Hart, Aidan, *Festal Icons: History and Meaning*, Gracewing Publishing, 2022.

Hopko, Thomas, *The Winter Pascha: Reading for the Christmas-Epiphany Season*, Crestwood; New York : St. Vladimir's Seminary Press, 1984

Hopko, Thomas, *The Lenten Spring*, Crestwood; New York: St. Vladimir's Seminary Press, 1998

Johnson, Maxwell E., *Between Memory and Hope: Readings on the Liturgical Year*. Collection of Articles, Collegeville, Pueblo book, Liturgical Press, 2000

Thomas, Talley, *The origins of the liturgical year*, Collegeville, The Liturgical Press, 1991

Wybrew, Hugh, *Orthodox feasts of Jesus Christ and Virgin Mary....* Liturgical texts with commentary. Crestwood; New York, St. Vladimir's Seminary Press, 2000

A number of important articles (in total about 50 pp.) on selected topics will be provided during the course (online).

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

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