I. Course Description

CHS/CTH 6621 History and Thought of the Eastern Church  3 credit hours

This course is a study of Orthodox Christianity from the first century to the present, examining both its historical development and its distinctive theological perspectives. Students will consider the actual and potential contributions of this ancient tradition to current theological conversations.

II. Student Learning Outcomes

Student Learning Outcomes

As a result of this course, students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate critical and faithful interpretation and responsible use of Scripture to describe, explain and critique the theology of the Eastern Orthodox Church.
2. Establish communal and personal disciplines that nourish Christian spiritual and moral formation, based on the theology and practices of the Eastern Orthodox Church.
3. [Not assessed] Form a missional vision of kingdom ministry within multi-cultural and multi-faith contexts.
4. Demonstrate critical theological reflection that is biblically faithful, historically grounded, contextually relevant, and integrated with life and ministry regarding the history and theology of the Eastern Orthodox Church.
5. [Not assessed] Develop ongoing practices of justice that bear witness to the full scope of the kingdom of God.
6. [Not assessed] Exhibit effective ministry skills relevant to intended areas of service.

III. Course Requirements

A. Textbooks and Other Materials

Required:


Optional:


B. Attendance
According to the Student Handbook, attendance at all class sessions is expected, unless the professor has been notified in advance and has approved the absence. Students should be on time and should stay through the duration of all classes. Any student missing more than six class hours (2 weeks) will be required to do additional work, receive a lower grade, audit or withdraw from the class, or be penalized otherwise at the discretion of the professor.

C. Assignments/Assessment of Student Learning

Brief descriptions of all assignments are below. See the Course Schedule for due dates.

1. Text Reading and Participation (10% of grade)
   Students must prepare for each weekly class by reading the assigned texts. In class, students are expected to ask questions, offer observations, and demonstrate initiative in engaging the material of the course and interaction with the professor and other students. Assignments must be completed by due dates to ensure that students are ready to share in class.

2. History Exam (20% of grade)
   At the end of the unit on the history of the Eastern Church students will sit an exam on the material covered. The test will include both objective questions regarding the basic facts of the Eastern Church’s history, as well as essay questions regarding the impact and influence certain events have had on Christianity at large. For the test date, see Course Schedule.

3. Research/Intersection Paper (40% of grade)
   Students must write a research paper that seeks to explore an aspect of the Eastern Orthodox Church and suggest how it has or how it could affect the church of the West today. Topics for the paper may come from either the history or the theology of the Eastern Church, and should be chosen based on student’s interest and the topic’s actual or potential impact or influence on the Church’s current situation today. Students will lead a discussion based on the topic of their paper. Papers must be 8-10 pages. Complete instructions will be given in class. For the paper due date, see Course Schedule.

4. Lead an Intersection Discussion (20% of grade)
   Students will be assigned a date and time to lead a class discussion based on the topic of their Research/Intersection Paper. This assignment will include a short (3-5 minute) presentation of their topic, and then a short (about 30 minutes) discussion regarding their topic. Students must develop several questions (5-10) to help them frame the discussion. Complete instructions will be given in Class. Intersection Discussions will be led during the last several weeks of class; dates and order for each student-led discussion will be determined in class.

5. Practice an Eastern Orthodox Spiritual Discipline OR Visit an Eastern Orthodox Service (10% of grade)
   Students will be asked to choose one of two things to complete: either a) choose a spiritual discipline that is common in Eastern Orthodoxy to practice during the semester; or b) attend an Eastern Orthodox service. Complete instructions will be given in class. The due date is the last class meeting of the semester (see Course Schedule) when we will hold an extensive summary discussion.

D. Calculation of Grade and Connection of Learning Outcomes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Graded Assignment</th>
<th>Learning Outcomes</th>
<th>Percent of Final Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reading and Participation</td>
<td>1, 4</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History Exam</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research/Intersection Paper</td>
<td>1, 4</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lead Intersection Discussion</td>
<td>1, 4</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eastern Orthodox Practice</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
IV. Course Schedule

This schedule is a tentative schedule; changes may need to be made during the semester. Students are responsible to check BlueQuill regularly for updates. Every effort will be made to communicate changes to the students in a timely and responsible manner.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Topics &amp; Activities</th>
<th>Assignments Due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Jan 12</td>
<td>NO CLASS FIRST WEEK [Instructor out of town]</td>
<td>Begin Readings!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Jan 20</td>
<td>Introductions: Persons, Purposes &amp; Process Setting the Story—West, meet East</td>
<td>Ware, <em>Introduction</em> (1-8); Louth, <em>Introduction</em> (xii-xx)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Jan 27</td>
<td>Begin the Eastern Story: Seven Councils and One Great Schism</td>
<td>Ware, 1, 2 &amp; 3 (11-72)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Feb 3</td>
<td>The Eastern Story, part 2: Mission, Moors &amp; Moscow</td>
<td>Ware, <em>Chapters 4, 5 &amp; 6</em> (73-125)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Feb 10</td>
<td>The Eastern Story, part 3: 20th Century to Today</td>
<td>Ware, <em>Chapters 7, 8 &amp; 9</em> (126-191)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 Feb 17</td>
<td>History Exam // Transition to Eastern Thought</td>
<td>Study for History Exam Louth, Chapter 1 (1-15)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 Feb 24</td>
<td>Eastern Thought: How Do We “Do” Theology? (Sources of the Orthodox Faith)</td>
<td>Ware, <em>Chapter 10</em> (195-207); Excerpt: Payton, <em>Light from the East</em>, Chapters 3 &amp; 4 (57-86)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 Mar 2</td>
<td>Eastern Thought: Who is God and What has He Done? (Theology and Creation)</td>
<td>Ware, <em>Chapter 11a</em> (208-18); Louth, Chapters 2 &amp; 3 (16-49)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar 7-11</td>
<td>ATS Spring Break</td>
<td>Nothing due this week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 Mar 16</td>
<td>Eastern Thought: Who are We and What have We Done? (Anthropology and Sin)</td>
<td>Ware, <em>Chapter 11b</em> (218-25); Louth, Chapters 5 &amp; 6 (66-95)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 Mar 23</td>
<td>Eastern Thought: Who is Christ and What has He Done? (Christology)</td>
<td>Ware, <em>Chapter 11c</em> (225-231); Louth, Chapter 4 (50-65); Excerpt: Payton, <em>Light from the East</em>, Chapter 7 (120-131)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 Apr 6</td>
<td><em>Eastern Thought: What is the Church?</em> (Ecclesiology)</td>
<td>Research/Intersection Paper Due: Ware, <em>Chapters 12, 13, 14 &amp; 15</em> (239-306)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 Apr 13</td>
<td>Orthodox Intersections with the West, part 1: Selected topical discussions</td>
<td>Ware, Chapter 16 (307-327); Student-led Discussions as Assigned</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 Apr 20</td>
<td>Intersection, part 2: Selected topical discussions</td>
<td>Student-led Discussions as Assigned</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 Apr 27</td>
<td>Intersection, part 3: Selected topical discussions</td>
<td>Student-led Discussions as Assigned</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 May 4</td>
<td>Summary Experience: Eastern Orthodox Spiritual Practices and Future Integration</td>
<td>Eastern Orthodox Spiritual Discipline or Worship Visit</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The following is a list of Assignments in the order of Due Date:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assigned Readings</td>
<td>As per <em>Course Schedule</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History Exam</td>
<td>Wednesday February 17th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research/Intersection Paper</td>
<td>Wednesday April 6th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lead an Intersection Discussion</td>
<td>April 13, 20 or 17th, as assigned</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eastern Orthodox Spiritual Discipline OR Worship Visit</td>
<td>Wednesday May 4th</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
V. Recommendations for Lifelong Learning

Like a tree, to stop growing is to begin dying. Students can look forward to lives spent strengthening their Core Identity in Christ, building their Christ-like Character, focusing their Calling, and honing their Competencies. And nowhere does this happen more fully, more truly, than in the trenches and crossfire of real-life ministry. It is the goal of this course to help the student begin to form patterns of experiencing, reflecting, and sharing their life and service which will help them continue to learn and grow as followers of Christ and leaders of His people.

VI. Seminary Guidelines

A. ATS Academic Integrity Policy
Ashland Theological Seminary expects each student to uphold the Seminary’s core value of academic excellence by contributing to an environment that is both challenging and supportive. In such an environment a student will neither seek nor offer improper assistance. All students have an obligation to be forthright in their academic endeavors and to respect ethical standards. The work that one submits for academic evaluation must be one’s own, unless an instructor expressly permits certain types of collaboration. Academic integrity requires that each student will use one’s own capabilities to achieve one’s fullest potential and will neither offer nor accept aid that is not in keeping with regularly accepted standards of academic integrity. Failure to conform to this conduct shall constitute academic dishonesty. The full Academic Integrity Policy statement may be found in the Student Handbook.

B. Academic Support Services
If you need assistance with writing projects for your coursework, contact the ATS Academic Support Center. The center provides free sessions with a peer consultant who can help you with all of your concerns about academic support including writing, critical thinking, documentation, reading skills, study skills, test taking skills, time management. Contact the center if you have a question about how to complete your assignment, if you have documentation questions, or if you would like to have your paper evaluated for areas needing improvement. The ATS Academic Support Center can be reached at 419-289-5162 or by e-mail at atswc@ashland.edu.

C. Students with Disabilities
A student who has a specific physical, psychological or learning disability and requires accommodations is encouraged to inform the instructor during the first days of the semester so that learning needs can be appropriately met. It is the student’s responsibility to document the disability with Disability Services located in the Center for Academic Support, Library Seventh Floor, (419) 289-5904, ssalvo@ashland.edu prior to receiving accommodations. Ashland University makes every effort to comply with Sections 504 and 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, and the Amendments to the Act (2008).

D. ATS Grading Scale

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percent</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>97-100</td>
<td>Superior achievement of course objectives, diligence and originality, high degree of freedom from error, outstanding evidence of ability to utilize course knowledge, initiative expressed in preparing and completing assignments, positive contributions verbalized in class.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>92-96</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>89-91</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>86-88</td>
<td>Good work submitted, commendable achievement of course objectives, some aspects of the course met with excellence, substantial evidence of ability to utilize course material, positive contributions verbalized in class, consistency and thoroughness of work completed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>83-85</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>80-82</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>77-79</td>
<td>Acceptable work completed, satisfactory achievement of course objectives, demonstrating at least some ability to utilize course knowledge, satisfactory class contribution.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>74-76</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade</td>
<td>Score Range</td>
<td>Description</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------</td>
<td>-------------</td>
<td>-------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>71-73</td>
<td>Passing but minimal work, marginal achievement of course objectives, poor performance in comprehension of work submitted, inadequate class contributions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>68-70</td>
<td>Unacceptable work resulting in failure to receive class credit, inadequacy of work submitted or of performance and attendance in class.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td>65-67</td>
<td>Unacceptable work resulting in failure to receive class credit, inadequacy of work submitted or of performance and attendance in class.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

VII. Selected Bibliography or References

**BOOKS:**


**ARTICLES:**


