



St. Stephen's Course of Study In Orthodox Theology

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“Church History II: The Christian Church from the seventh century to modern times”

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Course Description:

The purpose of this unit is to develop an appreciation for the growth and expansion of the Church, as well as its setbacks, from the iconoclastic to modern times; and to come to an appreciation of the ethnic diversity and geographic extent of the Orthodox Church, especially following the collapse of the Byzantine Empire.

Objectives:

At the end of this reading period, the learner will be able to:

1. List the major events in the iconoclastic controversy.
2. List the major arguments used by each side in the controversy.
3. Explain the role of Charlemagne in the separation of the churches, East and West.
4. Explain the effect of Church reformation in the West on the unity of the Churches.
5. Describe the governmental pattern of the Orthodox Church.
6. List the major events of the Orthodox Church under Islam.
7. List the major events in the development of the Church of Russia from the 10th through the 20th century.
8. Discuss the status of five different national Orthodox Churches today.

Requirements:

- A. Keep a notebook (for your own use) of important dates, events, personalities, and definitions.
- B. Complete the Hussey' Orthodox Church text.
- C. Pass a final examination consisting of three questions in essay format.
- D. Write a 5-10 page review of one of the books listed under "Additional Readings" (to be submitted together with the final exam).

Readings:

Hussey, Joan. The Orthodox Church in the Byzantine Empire (New York: Oxford University Press. 1990)

ISBN: 0-19-826456-9

Primary text. This text is as good a general survey as exists of the Orthodox Church to the twentieth century; the sweep is broad and fast-moving. By contrast, the "additional" works listed below slow down and focus on some formative period or episode. Each learner is to complete one of these; they should be available from a local Public or University library.

Boojamra, John The Church and social reform: the policies of Patriarch Athanasios of

Constantinople (New York : Fordham University Press, 1994)

ISBN: 0-8232-1335-8

Recommended

Dvornik, Francis. Byzantium and the Roman Primacy (New York: Fordham University Press, 1979)

ISBN 0-8232-0701-3

Recommended

Every, George. The Byzantine Patriarchate. 451-1204 (London: SPCK. 1962)

ISBN: 0-404-17015-3

Recommended

Hussey, Joan. Church and Learning in the Byzantine Empire, 867-1185 (New York : Russell and Russell, 1963)

Recommended

Hussey, Joan. The Byzantine world (Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 1982)

ISBN: 0.313-23148-6

Recommended

Nicol, Donald. The Church and Society in the Last Centuries of Byzantium (London: Cambridge University Press, 1979)

ISBN: 0-521-22438-1

Recommended

Runciman, Steven. The Great Church in Captivity: a study of the Patriarchate of Constantinople from the eve of the Turkish conquest to the Greek war of independence (New York : Cambridge University Press, 1968) LCCN:

ISBN: 0-521-31310-4

Focus Questions:

The following questions are offered as a means of focusing your attention:

1. What was iconoclasm and to what other forces was it related?
2. What was the significance of the years 787 and 843 in the iconoclastic controversy?
3. What were Photius' relations with the Western Church?
4. What was the Filioque controversy? When did it arise? What was the Orthodox reaction to it?
5. What was Islam and how did it effect the Church theologically and geographically? How did Orthodox Christians adjust to life under the Muslims?
6. Why is the Orthodox "community" in North America referred to as the "Diaspora"? Where else are Orthodox Christians in "diaspora"?
7. Who were the outstanding personalities of the Church in the 14th century?
8. What relations existed between the Orthodox and the Protestants in the 6th century?
9. How did Christianity spread to Russia? (Give dates and names.)
10. How did Christianity spread in Bulgaria and Serbia between the 9th and 15th centuries?
11. What was the significance of the "so-called" Schism of 1054?
12. What, in brief, were the events surrounding the union efforts of 1274 (Lyons) and 1439 (Florence)? What other union efforts have been made?
13. What are the major Orthodox Churches today? What are their relationships and relative importance?

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