

Introduction to Eastern Orthodox Theology

30 credits

The course aims to introduce students to the life, faith and practice of the Eastern Orthodox Church. The course will explore theological topics such as salvation, tradition, and the concept of man, and students will also be introduced to the Liturgy, the liturgical year, icons, and saints. There will be opportunities to reflect on questions such as how asceticism can lead to inner peace, in what way marriage can be a way of becoming human and how canon law has operated within history. The course will make a study of specific churches in contemporary society and the challenges they face. From this broad perspective the student will gain a good foundation and overview of this fascinating Christian tradition.

Following this part time distance course is an ideal way to deepen your knowledge of the Eastern Orthodox tradition during one academic year.

Length: 1 year, 30 ECTS credits
Study pace: Half-time
Type of instruction: Distance learning
Language of instruction: English
Level: University, introductory level
Organizer: Stockholm School of Theology
 (University College Stockholm)

DISTRIBUTION OF COURSES

Semester	Course Title	Credits / ECTS
Fall Semester	Theology and History	7.5
	Patristics: Sources and Methods	7.5
Spring Semester	Perspectives of life: Canon Law, Marriage and Asceticism	7.5
	The Eastern Orthodox Church in History and the Present	7.5

THEOLOGY AND HISTORY FROM AN EASTERN PERSPECTIVE

This course introduces theology from the perspective of the Eastern Orthodox tradition. More precisely it investigates the theological self-understanding of certain influential 20th century Eastern Orthodox theologians who have been based in the West. We will examine their theological emphases and methods.

This course introduces the liturgical dimension of Orthodox tradition, understood as a communal experience of the divine. A special emphasis will be placed on the Divine Liturgy and icons. Students will learn about how the Divine Liturgy has evolved, its structure and the theological significance of *leitourgia*. The theology of icons occupies a prominent place within Orthodox theology and this course introduces students to their theological significance and meaning.

PERSPECTIVES OF LIFE: CANON LAW, MARRIAGE AND ASCETISM

In the Orthodox tradition faith has always been considered as something that determines the patterns of daily life and communal interaction. This course will focus on three ways in which the tradition has contributed to the ordering of individual and communal life: Canon law, marriage, and asceticism.

As an institution, the Church has organized itself according to certain rules or 'canons'. Students will be introduced to the ways in which these canons have developed through history and to their relevance today.

Marriage is one of the most basic and widespread forms of social organization. This course introduces students to the understanding of the sacrament of marriage in Eastern Orthodox tradition, as well as discussing the place of marriage in society today.

Asceticism has always played a prominent role in Orthodox theology and spirituality. While usually associated with the lives of monks and nuns it has also had a much wider impact within Orthodoxy, with implications for the lives of all Orthodox people. This course will introduce the Orthodox understanding of the ascetic way of life.

ORTHODOXY AND MODERN SOCIETY: CHALLENGES

The course provides a deeper understanding of the historical development of Eastern Christianity with a special emphasis on the development after the fall of Constantinople, i.e. from 1453 to the present. Students choose one of two paths to follow: Either (1) The development of the Patriarchate of Constantinople and the Orthodox Church in Russia, the Balkans, Europe, and the United States; or (2) The development of Orthodoxy in the Arabic-speaking world and in the Middle East.

REQUIREMENTS

Applicants must meet general requirements for university studies.

Students from outside Sweden, or students who cannot verify proficiency in English, are required to take an internationally recognized test, e. g. TOEFL, IELTS or equivalent.

COST OF STUDY

Students at Stockholm School of Theology are not required to pay tuition fees if they are citizens of Sweden or another EU country or if they have been granted permission to live in Sweden. The information about tuition fees for other international students is available on <https://ehs.se/tuition-fees>. However, all students registered for academic programs are required to pay a student union fee, which is 100 SEK per term for distance students.

HOW TO APPLY

Apply through www.universityadmissions.se or www.antagning.se from March 16 – April 15, 2020 (any additional application periods will be announced on www.universityadmissions.se and www.antagning.se)

For all questions related to the program please visit <https://www.ehs.se/eastern-christian-studies> or contact lecturer Daniel Örhvall at daniel.ohrvall@sanktignatios.org.

Contacts for questions related to the application process can be found [here](#).