

RELIGION 840:312
MODERN GREEK STUDIES 489:312
GREEK CHRISTIANITY
SPRING 2011

Point your browser to www.rutgersonline.net for copies of all course documents, announcements, and a variety of other useful information.

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Greek Orthodoxy—the usual title by which we know the Greek Christian churches today is itself a complicated phrase. Christianity's earliest texts are available to us almost entirely in Greek, so in one sense all varieties of the Christian religion are "Greek". And all varieties of Christians consider themselves to have the right (Greek: *orthos*) teaching (*doxa*)—that is, consider themselves orthodox. So what is universally Christian about Greek Orthodoxy? And what is unique about its Greek-ness and doctrine? In this course, we will study the history of some of the central features of Greek Orthodox Christianity: its doctrine, organization, history, and worship. Some of these features are common to all Christianities: the distinction between "orthodoxy" and "heresy", for example. Others are unique: the precise way that Greek Orthodox Christians revere icons, for example. It is my hope that students will take away from this course both a deeper understanding of Christianity in general and a historically-informed sense of how its various forms have developed, sometimes in opposition to one another.

YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR EVERYTHING IN THIS SYLLABUS, REGARDLESS OF WHETHER THE PROFESSOR REMINDS YOU OF A SPECIFIC PROVISION OR NOT!!!!!! READ IT AND RE-READ IT!!!!!!

The following pages contain ESSENTIAL practical information. They are, so to speak, your Bible, your fundamental guide to passing the course. If you lose or misplace this syllabus, it is available on the companion site for this course (rutgersonline.net) and on the Religion Department website (religion.rutgers.edu). **Please go through this syllabus as soon as possible and note all assignments and examinations on your calendar!!!!** While the professor will try to remind you about such assignments, the professor is herself absentminded about such things and relies on a DETAILED, WRITTEN calendar. She recommends that you do the same.

Required Readings will be online EITHER at rutgersonline under “Doc Sharing” OR at other websites, which will be detailed in the assignments below.

Some readings will be from the Bible. If you already own a Bible, you may use that one. If you do not own a Bible, or want to purchase a new one, I recommend *The HarperCollins Study Bible: New Revised Standard Version, with Apocrypha/deuterocanonical Books*.

If you do not own and do not want to purchase a Bible, you can read the assigned texts online at www.biblegateway.com

GRADING/GRADE DISTRIBUTION:

Two take-home midterm examinations @ 20% = 40%

Take-home section of final exam @ 20%

Take-home examinations are graded for content, clarity, and style. Please see the criteria for grading writing under “Grading” at www.rutgersonline.net

Multiple-choice section of final exam @ 20%

Participation 20% There are discussion questions for most days the class meets. Please use them both to help determine what is important in the readings AND to prepare for class. Criteria for grading participation are under “Grading” at www.rutgersonline.net

Please familiarize yourself with these standards. Participation is an active and rewarding process which requires more than mere attendance.

Attendance and Promptness:

Students are required to attend lectures and discussions. Aware, however, that illnesses, family crises, and such can make even the most diligent student miss class, the professor allows 3 absences without penalty. The 3 absences are not recommended, should be used only when you NEED to, and are NOT negotiable. Do not use up three absences just because you have them and then expect a fourth absence when you are ill or have an emergency to be excused. For **every absence beyond three**, your grade will drop 1/3 of a grade-point (e.g., from A to B+, from B+ to B, from B to C+, and so on).

If you arrive after the roll has been called, you must talk to me after class is over. You are allowed to be *moderately* late up to three times during the semester without penalty.

Your **fourth late arrival will be treated as an absence**, as will any subsequent late arrivals. Please note that I will not make exceptions for late arrivals caused by campus bus schedules or parking problems. If you arrive more than 40 minutes after the class begins you are welcome to attend but you will be marked down as absent rather than late for that class.

IF, BECAUSE OF OTHER COMMITMENTS, YOU CANNOT MAKE IT TO CLASS ON TIME, YOU SHOULD DROP THE COURSE.

Reading assignments.

All reading assignments should be completed BEFORE class on the day for which they are assigned.

January 20: First class meeting.
No assignment.

January 24: What is Greek Orthodoxy? How does it relate to other types of Christianity?

- Read and think about DISCUSSION questions online at rutgersonline.net . If you have problems getting onto the website, let Professor Kolbaba know and she will email them to you.
- In the Bible, read the Gospel According to John, chapters 1-10.
- Read Timothy Ware, *The Orthodox Church. New edition* (London: Penguin Books, 1993), pp. 1-8. Online: rutgersonline.net – go to “Doc Sharing”.

January 27: What is Greek Orthodoxy? What are its basic teachings?

- Read and think about DISCUSSION questions online at rutgersonline.net .
- In the Bible, read the Gospel According to John, chapters 11-21.

January 31: Basic teachings of Greek Orthodoxy, part 2.

- Read and think about DISCUSSION questions online at rutgersonline.net
- Read proto-orthodox statements of faith online at rutgersonline.net under “Doc Sharing”—statements by Ignatius of Antioch and Irenaeus of Lyon.
- In the Bible, read The Letter to the Hebrews.

February 3: Some 2nd-3rd-century developments in Greek Orthodox teaching: Mary and other saints.

- Read and think about DISCUSSION questions online at rutgersonline.net
- Read *The Infancy Gospel of James* online at rutgersonline.net under “Doc Sharing”

February 7: Saints, persecutions, martyrs, and more saints

- Read and think about DISCUSSION questions online at rutgersonline.net
- Read “The Martyrdom of Perpetua and Felicity” online at rutgersonline.net under “Doc Sharing”

February 10: 4th-century theological developments and controversies

- Read and think about DISCUSSION questions online at rutgersonline.net
- Read Richard Price and Michael Gaddis, *The Acts of the Council of Chalcedon, vol. 1* (Liverpool: Liverpool University Press, 2005), pp. 4-9, online at rutgersonline.net under “Doc Sharing”
- Read selections from Athanasios’s speeches against the Arians, online at rutgersonline.net under “Doc Sharing”

- Read “The Muratorian Fragment,” online at rutgersonline.net under “Doc Sharing”
- Read Athanasius on the canon from his 39th Festal Letter, online at rutgersonline.net under “Doc Sharing”

February 14: 5th-6th-century theological developments and controversies: one or two natures in Christ

Professor hands out midterm instructions (take-home).

- Read and think about DISCUSSION questions online at rutgersonline.net
- Read Price and Gaddis, *Acts of Chalcedon*, 1: 9-56, online at rutgersonline.net under “Doc Sharing”
- Read “Letters of Cyril of Alexandria and Nestorius of Constantinople,” Coakley and Sterk, pp. 165-174, online at rutgersonline.net under “Doc Sharing”
- Read “Definition of Faith of the Council of Chalcedon,” Coakley and Sterk, pp. 175-176, online at rutgersonline.net under “Doc Sharing”

February 17: CLASS DOES NOT MEET

February 21: CLASS DOES NOT MEET

BUT

**Take-home midterm due in the dropbox at rutgersonline.net by 1:00 p.m.
LATE PAPERS WILL BE PENALIZED.**

February 24: Beginning a unit on church authority, government, organization, and history. The Apostles.

- Read and think about DISCUSSION questions online at rutgersonline.net
- In the Bible, read *The Acts of the Apostles*, chapters 1-14.

February 28: The Gentile Churches

- Read and think about DISCUSSION questions online at rutgersonline.net
- In the Bible, read *The Acts of the Apostles*, chapters 15-28.
- In the Bible, read *The Letter to the Galatians*.

March 3: Apostolic Succession and Synods

- Read and think about DISCUSSION questions online at rutgersonline.net
- Read selections from Irenaeus of Lyon, *Against Heresies*, online at rutgersonline.net under “Doc Sharing”

March 7: Imperialization and Orthodoxy—The Triumph (?) of the Church

- Read and think about DISCUSSION questions online at rutgersonline.net
- Read selections from Eusebius of Caesarea, online at rutgersonline.net under “Doc Sharing”
- Read Emperor Justinian I’s (527-565) statement about the roles of the empire and the church, online at rutgersonline.net under “Doc Sharing”

- Read Ware, *Orthodox Church*, from p. 40, paragraph beginning “At the heart” to p. 42.

March 10: Emperors and Orthodoxy in the age of iconoclasm

- Read and think about DISCUSSION questions online at rutgersonline.net
- Read selections from John of Damascus, *On the Divine Images*, Coakley and Sterk pp. 289-297, online at rutgersonline.net under “Doc Sharing”

March 14 and March 17 SPRING BREAK

March 21: Other institutions of the church: patriarch, synod, pastoral clergy

- Read and think about DISCUSSION questions online at rutgersonline.net
- Read J.M. Hussey, *The Orthodox Church in the Byzantine Empire*, pp. 297-335, online at rutgersonline.net under “Doc Sharing”

March 24: Other institutions of the church: monasteries.

- Read and think about DISCUSSION questions online at rutgersonline.net
- Read J.M. Hussey, *The Orthodox Church in the Byzantine Empire*, pp. 335-349, online at rutgersonline.net under “Doc Sharing”
- Read Ware, *Orthodox Church*, p. 37, paragraph beginning “Monasticism” to p. 40, paragraph ending “formerly he fled”, online at rutgersonline.net under “Doc Sharing”

March 28: Other institutions of the church: hospitals.

- Read and think about DISCUSSION questions online at rutgersonline.net
- Read Timothy Miller, *The Birth of the Hospital*, “Epilogue”, pp. 207-217, online at rutgersonline.net under “Doc Sharing”

March 31: The end of the Byzantine Empire—adjustments.

No assignment.

Professor hands out instructions, second midterm examination.

April 4: CLASS DOES NOT MEET

BUT

**Take-home midterm due in the dropbox at rutgersonline.net by 1:00 p.m.
LATE PAPERS WILL BE PENALIZED.**

April 7: Starting a unit on worship and practice. Baptism and Eucharist in the early church.

- Read and think about DISCUSSION questions online at rutgersonline.net
- In the Bible, read The Gospel According to Matthew 26: 26-30; 28:16-20.
- In the Bible, review The Acts of the Apostles 8:26-39.
- In the Bible, read 1 Corinthians 11:17-34.
- Read *Didache* (an early second-century source) on baptism and Eucharist, chapters 7, 9, and 10, Coakley and Sterk pp. 14-15, online at rutgersonline.net under “Doc Sharing”

April 11: The development of a priesthood; sacralization and the division of clergy from laity.

- Read and think about DISCUSSION questions online at rutgersonline.net
- Additional reading will be announced.

April 14: The sacraments and their setting: baptism and Eucharist

- Read and think about DISCUSSION questions online at rutgersonline.net
- Ware, *Orthodox Church*, pp. 264-288, online at rutgersonline.net under “Doc Sharing”

April 18: Sacraments, continued.

- Read and think about DISCUSSION questions online at rutgersonline.net
- Additional reading will be announced.

April 21: Sacraments, part 3

- Read and think about DISCUSSION questions online at rutgersonline.net
- Ware, *Orthodox Church*, pp. 288-306, online at rutgersonline.net under “Doc Sharing”

April 25: Sacraments, part 4

- Read and think about DISCUSSION questions online at rutgersonline.net
- Additional reading will be announced.

April 28: Icons and other practices

- Read and think about DISCUSSION questions online at rutgersonline.net
- Ware, *Orthodox Church*, pp. 206, paragraph on icons, online at rutgersonline.net under “Doc Sharing”
- Additional reading will be announced.

May 2: Other practices, continued.

- Read and think about DISCUSSION questions online at rutgersonline.net
- Additional reading will be announced.

Final exam: take-home portion will be handed out in class on May 2.

In-class portion will take place during the standard final exam period; check finalexams.rutgers.edu for date and time.

Extra credit assignment: BEFORE March 28, attend Divine Liturgy at a Greek Orthodox Church (unless you already attend a Greek Orthodox Church regularly—in which case see below). Write up a BRIEF—no more than 2 pages—account of your impressions. This account may include some of the following elements (just hints to get you started): How was the ceremony like and unlike religious ceremonies with which you are more familiar? If you're a Christian, how did the service compare to services in your church? If you follow some other faith, was there anything familiar? How did the clergy and people interact (if they did)? Did the people behave as you expect people to behave in a religious setting? What did you think of the decoration of the church? Did you find any parts of it puzzling? Familiar? Foreign? Or feel free to simply tell me what struck you the most.

For those who want to attend a Greek Orthodox service, the most convenient place for most Rutgers students to go is St. George's Greek Orthodox Church on River Road in Piscataway. Check out service times and other details at <http://www.stgeorgepiscataway.org/>

If you attend a Greek Orthodox Church regularly, complete the assignment EXCEPT attend Sunday service at a Christian Church that comes out of the western European tradition—that is, a Roman Catholic or Protestant Church, rather than a different kind of Orthodox Church. I'll be happy to give you some suggestions if you e-mail me or ask me after class.

If you complete this assignment and hand it in by noon on March 28, I will raise your grade on either midterm—your choice—by 2/3 of a grade (using a grade-scale with pluses AND minuses; so, for example, a C- becomes a C+, a C a B-, a C+ a B, a B- a B+, and so on).

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