Course Code:

**26.00.01 Theology (by field of study)**

Field of study: Orthodox Christian Theology

This basic course of study for the Orthodox Christian Theology major includes the following components and can be described in the following way:

This discipline involves a systematic study of the Christian theological tradition, its sources, history and the study of the contemporary state of Orthodox Christianity.

The object of study is the Christian faith, the history and methods of its study, and Orthodox Christianity as the whole of its conceptual-theoretical, practical and cultural-historical expressions.

This field of study, which is grounded in methodological traditions received within Orthodox Christian circles yet also makes use of methods from the natural sciences and humanities, provides the student with a chance to discover the content of Christian teaching, the practice of religious life, and the history and various sociocultural aspects of the Russian tradition of Orthodox Christianity, while not failing to place these within a broader interconfessional, interreligious, etc. context.

The study of contemporary processes occurring within the ROC and other Orthodox Christian churches is an important part of this field of study, as is the study of the Orthodox relationship to: other confessional and religious traditions; other teachings, movements, and organizations; historical, social, economic and political processes; as well as to science, education, culture, art, and the state and society as a whole.

Possible directions for focus within the field of Orthodox Christian Theology include:

* 1. The system and structure of theological knowledge. The establishment and historical development of theological thought. Theological methodology. The value based, epistemological and methodological particularities of theological research. Theology and its place within the system of scientific knowledge and learning. Theology, philosophy and religious studies.
  2. Biblical studies. Biblical research both historically and in its contemporary state of play. Biblical studies methodology. Biblical theology. Biblical history. The Bible in the context of the history of religion and culture. The theory and methodology of biblical translation. Auxiliary biblical disciplines.
  3. Patristics and study of the church fathers, its history and the modern state of the field. Methodology within this field. Patristic theology. Study of the church fathers as source material, use of texts from the fathers, and patristic hermeneutics.
  4. Dogmatic theology. The history of church dogmatics. The systematic and comparative aspects of Orthodox Christian teaching.
  5. Moral theology, asceticism and mystical theology. The history of the development and teaching of moral theology. Applied Christian Ethics.
  6. Church History. History of the Orthodox Church. The History of Christian Churches. Methodological approach to church-historical knowledge. Christian Theology of History. Auxiliary church-historical disciplines.
  7. Canon Law (translator’s note: study of church canons, their application and authority). The history and method of application of law and authority for different Christian confessions. The history of Canon Law. Church/State relations in terms of the legal context and relative authority. Marriage law and the ecclesial justice system.
  8. Liturgics. Historical and comparative Liturgics. Texts used in church worship and the language of church worship. Orthodox Christian Hymnography. Liturgical Theology.
  9. Christian Missiology and Catechetics. The theological basis, history and contemporary practice of catechesis. Theology of education. History, theory and methodology of Christian education.
  10. Science and Theology. Scientific knowledge in the history of Christian Theology. The theological understanding of history and the current state of play in the natural and social sciences and the humanities. Dialogue between science and religion.
  11. Foundational Theology, Apologetics, and philosophical Theology. Christian anthropology. Political Theology. Theological analysis of issues which are relevant for life in our times.
  12. Hagiography and the study of the lives of the saints. Historical hagiography. History of the canonization of saints. The veneration of saints across history and in our modern times. The history and veneration of Christian relics.
  13. Theological Aesthetics. Church Art.
  14. Theology of culture. Christianity and world culture both historically and in our modern times.
  15. Pastoral Theology. Ecclesial-hierarchical service both historically and in modern practice. The make-up and structure of the church. Homiletics. The institutional aspects, practice and basic forms of church life. Social teaching and practice of different Christian confessions both historically and in our times. Organizational forms for social service among Christians.
  16. Theological understanding of the diversity of religious life both historically and in our times. Interconfessional and interreligious dialogue.