GRADUATE COURSE DESCRIPTION

Term: Fall 2016
Instructor: Dr. Marcus Plested
Course #: THEO 8412
Course Title: History of Christian Thought 2
Topic: Byzantine Tradition

Content:

This course allows for in-depth study and discussion of the Byzantine theological tradition from the seventh to fourteenth centuries, focusing on its foremost figures St Maximus the Confessor and St Gregory Palamas. We shall begin with the principal sources of St Maximus' theological synthesis (Dionysius, Macarius and Evagrius) and move on via a sustained study of Maximus to look by way of survey at theologians such as St John of Damascus, St Theodore the Studite, St Photius of Constantinople, St Symeon the New Theologian, St Theophylact of Ochrid, St Gregory of Cyprus, and St Gregory of Sinai. We will then devote close attention to Palamas and the Hesychast controversy. Topics include mystical prayer, Christology, deification/theosis, the essence-energies distinction, the theology of the icon, East-West relations, and Byzantine scholasticism.

Format:

Weekly seminar

Assignments and/or Examinations:

- Presentation and assignments

Language Pre-requisites:

- Greek highly desirabe but not essential