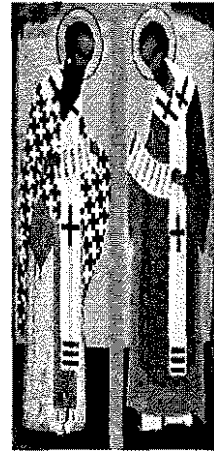


EASTERN CHRISTIAN ICONS
RGH 3755/6755H
ABBREVIATED AAAS GRANT

PROF. JAROSLAV SKIRA
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Class: xxxx

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Description: A history of Eastern Christian icons and architecture, and the iconoclastic controversy. Readings from Nicea II, Theodore the Studite, John of Damascus and Theodore Abū Qurrah. Iconography and spirituality. Byzantine, Slavic, Coptic, Ethiopian and modern icons. The techniques of writing an icon. Lectures-seminar, reflection papers, major paper. [Cross-listed to Theology].

Goals: To be able to situate the development and use of icons within various historical and cultural contexts. To be able to summarise main features of the thought of early church authors and modern theologians. To identify common and diverse traditions of the spirituality, liturgy, aesthetics and art in Eastern Christianity. To be able to explain the meanings and symbolism of different types of icons of Christ, Mary and major feast days. To be able to elaborate on some of the commonalities and differences in art and aesthetics in other Christian traditions. Graduate (AD) students should be able to accomplish these goals at a higher level, with advanced critical analysis and communication (both oral and written).

COURSE OUTLINE

1. INTRODUCTION & OVERVIEW

JAN. 9

- course requirements; overview of materials; introductory video (23 min.) and discussion.

2. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND: CHRISTOLOGY & ICONOCLASM **JAN. 16**

The prohibition of images in the Scriptures; the christological context; Dura-Europas.

A. Weekly Readings:

Baggley, John. *Doors of Perception*. Chp. 2: 6-20.

Pelikan, Jaroslav. "Graven Images: Ambiguity of the Iconographic Tradition." *Imago Dei: The Byzantine Apologia for Icons*. Chp. 2: 41-66.

Old Testament readings: Ex. 20.4, 20.23; Deut. 27.15; Numb. 21.4-9; Ex. 25.18; Ezek. 40, 41.

B. Additional Readings (Optional):

Sahas, Daniel. *Icon and Logos*. Introduction. [selections].

Sendler, Egon. "The History of the Icon." *The Icon: Image of the Invisible*. Chp. 1: 7-36.

3. THE TRIUMPH OF ORTHODOXY: THE ICONOPHILE POSITION (I) **JAN. 23**

John of Damascus (676-749); Theodore Abū Qurrah (755-830); Iconoclastic council of 754; St. Catherine's monastery (Sinai) & St. Sophia's (Constantinople). Types of icons of Christ.

A. Weekly Readings:

Cormack, Robin. "In the Shadow of St. Sophia: Byzantine Art in the Sixth Century and Its Aftermath, 527-680." *Byzantine Art*. Chp. 2: 37-62, 66-73.

John of Damascus. *On the Divine Images*. (Selections: 13-28).

Zelensky, Elizabeth & Lela Gilbert. "The Sinai Pantocrator." *Windows to Heaven: Introducing Icons to Protestants and Catholics*. Grand Rapids, MI: Brazos, 2005. 103-120.

B. Additional Readings (Optional):

Baggley. *Doors of Perception*. Chp. 3.

Ouspensky/Lossky. *The Meaning of Icons*. Icons of Christ: 69-75.

4. THE TRIUMPH OF ORTHODOXY: THE ICONOPHILE POSITION (II) **JAN. 30**

The Council of Nicea II (787) and the Sunday of Orthodoxy; Theodore The Studite (759-826). Types of icons of the Theotokos-Mary.

Due: Reflection paper #1.

A. Weekly Readings:

Sahas, Daniel. *Icons and Logos*. (Selections from the acts (horos) of the Council of Nicea II: 92-97, 154-157, 176-180).

Theodore the Studite. *On the Holy Icons*. (Selections: 20-23, 26-33, 38-41).

Dadosky, John. "Mother of God, Stone Broke Loose from the Mountain." *Image to Insight: The Art of William Hart McNichols*. University of New Mexico, 2018. 92-93.

For Further Reading:

Ouspensky/Lossky. *The Meaning of Icons*. Icons of Mary: 76-104.

5. SPIRITUALITY OF ICON WRITERS & PRAYING WITH ICONS

FEB. 6

Prayer: before writing an icon, and for the consecration of icons; beginning to read & write icons; the Face.

Video: *How to Write an Icon*. (Sheptytsky Institute of Eastern Christian Studies). (1, excerpts).

A. Weekly Readings:

Baggley, John. *Festival Icons for the Christian Year*. Chp. 1 (Introduction).

Cavarnos, Constantine. "The Function of Icons." *Orthodox Iconography*. Chp. 3: 30-48.

Nichols, David F, Lisa R Betts, and Hugh R Wilson. "Decoding of Faces and Face Components in Face-Sensitive Human Visual Cortex." *Frontiers in Psychology* 1 (2010): 28-28.

Quenot, Michel. "Preparation & Materials, etc." *The Icon*. 83-91, 111-119.

B. Additional Readings (Optional):

Quenot. Chp. 4: "The Theological Elements of An Icon." *The Icon*.

6. ICONOGRAPHY IN KYIVAN-RUS'

FEB. 13

Ukrainian and Russian Icons (11th - 15th centuries); St. Sophia's (Kyiv). Icon: Rublev's Trinity.

A. Weekly Readings:

Zibawi, Mahmoud. "From Rus' to Russia." *The Icon*. Chp. 8: 125-144.

Baggley. *Festival Icons*. Chp. 4 & 5 (Nativity & Presentation).

Nouwen. *Behold the Beauty of the Lord*. Chp. 1 (Rublev's Trinity).

B. Additional Readings (Optional):

Evdokimov. "Andrei Rublev's Icon of the Holy Trinity." *The Art of the Icon*. Chp. 24: 243-257.

Baggley. *Doors of Perception*. Nativity icon: pp.122ff.

*** READING WEEK: FEB. 17-21 ***

7. ARCHITECTURE, ICONOSTASES AND FESTIVAL ICONS

FEB. 27

Ancient, medieval and modern icon-screens; initial stages of writing an icon.
Icons of the Iconostasis & of Saints.
Video: *How to Write an Icon* (2, excerpts).

Due: Reflection paper #2.

A. Weekly Readings:

Evdokimov, Paul. "The Church Building." *The Art of the Icon*. Chp. 12: 143-161.
Baggley. *Festival Icons*. Chp. 2, 3 & 16 (On Mary).

B. Additional Readings (Optional):

Quenot. *The Icon*. [Iconostasis and Festal icons]. Chp. 1: 47-64 only.
Ouspensky/Lossky. *The Meaning of Icons*. Icons of Iconostasis & Saints: 105-141 & 141-216.

8. ICONS OF CHRIST / COLOURS AND PERSPECTIVES

MAR. 5

Laws of colour and inverse-perspective; stages of writing an icon.
Video: *How to Write an Icon* (3 & 4, excerpts).

A. Weekly Readings:

Baggley. *Festival Icons*. Chp. 6 & 7 (Theophany & Transfiguration).
Hart, Aidan. "Proportion & Geometry." *Techniques of Icon & Wall Painting*. 5: 84-99.
Sendler, Egon. "The Icon and Laws of Perspective." *The Icon*. 8: 119-134.

B. Additional Readings (Optional):

Sendler. Chp. 10: "The World of Colours." & Chp. 12: "Technical Preparation." *The Icon*.

9. ICONS OF THE PASCHA & COMPLETING AN ICON

MAR. 12

Further discussion and analysis of icons from the Lenten period. Saints.
Video: *How to Write an Icon* (5 & 6, excerpts).

A. Weekly Readings:

Baggley. *Festival Icons*. Chps. 8 & 9 (Pre-Pascha Icons) & Chps. 10, 11 & 12 (Holy Week icons).

B. Additional Readings (Optional):

Sendler. Chp. 13: "Painting the Icon." *The Icon*.

10. LITURGY & ICONS: A MODERN UKRAINIAN CHURCH

MAR. 19

Icons in the liturgical and architectural setting. Modern Icons.
Video: if time permits, on *The Iconography of Sts. Volodymyr & Olha Ukrainian Catholic*

Church (Chicago) [excerpts].

A. Weekly Readings:

Baggley. *Festival Icons*. Chp. 13-15 (Ascension & Pentecost icons).

Melone, M.E. "In the Work of Human Hands." *He Dwells in Our Midst*. 29-38.

B. Additional Readings (Optional):

Evdokimov. "The Church Building." *The Art of the Icon*. Chp. 12: 143-161.

Ouspensky. "Symbolism of the Church." *The Orthodox Ethos*. 153-168.

11. CONCLUSION: AESTHETICS, ARCHITECTURE AND WORSHIP TBD: MAR. 26

Visit to a church to experience iconography in its liturgical and architectural setting.

The date and place will be announced in class. Note: The date and time may be moved to an earlier date in the course schedule subject to site availability.

Most likely we will visit: The Malcove Collection, University of Toronto Art Centre.

A. Weekly Readings: TBA.

12. CONCLUSION: AESTHETICS, ARCHITECTURE AND WORSHIP TBD: APR. 2

Visit to a church or museum [as above].

Most likely site visit: St. George's Greek Orthodox Church (Bond Street).

A. Weekly Readings: TBA.