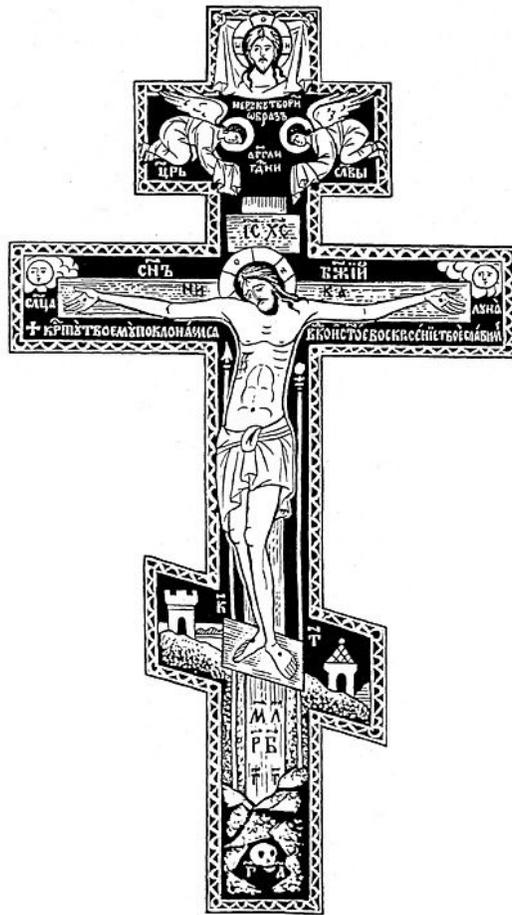


# ST. ATHANASIUS ACADEMY OF ORTHODOX THEOLOGY

## ASSOCIATE OF ARTS IN THEOLOGY



2019 COURSE CATALOG

[www.saaot.edu](http://www.saaot.edu)

v1.3.2

## GENERAL INFORMATION

St. Athanasius Academy of Orthodox Theology is an academic community of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America serving through Research, Writing, and Education. We offer a Correspondence Study Program, operate a Prisoner Education Program, and carry out various programs of research and study to prepare materials presenting the Orthodox Christian faith to Americans, such as The Orthodox Study Bible. For online studies, visit [www.saaot.edu](http://www.saaot.edu) to apply.

**MATRICULATED STUDENTS:** The **Associate of Arts in Theology** program offers students a unique opportunity to study the Orthodox faith at a fraction of traditional undergraduate tuition costs. The program's curriculum consists of four essential parts: (1) unique coursework in Orthodox theological studies and appropriate general education requirements, (2) practicum in an Orthodox ministry setting, (3) a mentor is assigned to each student from enrollment to graduation to facilitate achievement, (4) a regular colloquium for engagement and collaboration with fellow students. All courses are self-paced and one at a time. The assigned mentor helps the student stay on task until graduation. Students are required to have 60 credit hours to graduate.

**NON-MATRICULATED STUDENTS:** Our structure and process allow for students to enroll in specific courses without pursuing graduation. Course descriptions begin after the section titled Program Overview.

**TUITION & FEES:** All lower division (associate's level) courses are \$225 per course. The total estimated cost for tuition and fees for a student to complete all coursework at the Academy is \$4,000. Class materials (textbooks and other required resources) are a maximum of \$50 per course. If the student decides to purchase all course materials (other options exist), then the total estimated cost of tuition plus materials is about \$5,000.

The non-refundable application fee is \$25 for all students.

## CURRICULUM GUIDANCE & POLICY

The curriculum is structured to be completed in about two years. Written essay-style examinations are administered in each class. The grading scheme is as follows, 4 (A, excellent), 3 (B, above average), 2 (C, average), 1 (D, below average), 0 (F, requirements not met). Students may not continue in the program while carrying failing grades.

Each of the modules consists of four courses comprised of directed reading, video and audio lecture presentations, interactive essays, and asynchronous forums for weekly engagement between the professor and student.

Final examination essay topics can be found in advance at the end of each course syllabus. Students will please note, however, that the syllabus as originally posted (including some essay questions), are subject to minor changes from year to year. In case of such changes, students will be given the option to complete their course according to the previous syllabus. If the student desires to rewrite an examination for which he or she receiving a failing grade, he or she may do so with the consent of the appropriate faculty. Only one rewrite per examination is permitted.

## PROGRAM OVERVIEW

A brief overview of the curriculum may be found below, followed by an annotated course catalog. All classes, including practicum, are worth three credit hours. Each module is made up of 15 credit hours: 12 are from courses plus three from the practicum.

Module 1	
	Excellence in Online Learning (optional workshop)
3	ENG 101: English Composition I
3	SG 101: Salvation & Spiritual Growth
3	TH 101: The Incarnation
3	CHST 101: Pentecost to 313
2	PC 101: Practicum: Intro to Project Management
Module 2	
3	TH 102: Foundations of Orthodox Christian Ethics
3	SG 102: Humility & Spiritual Guidance
3	LTS 101: Introduction to the Divine Liturgy
3	CHST 102: The Seven Ecumenical Councils
2	PC 102: Practicum
Module 3	
3	PHL 101: Introduction to Philosophy
3	SG 201: Grace & Mercy
3	LTS 201: The Sanctification of Time
3	TH 201: The Use of the Holy Scriptures in the Orthodox Church
2	PC 201: Practicum
Module 4	
3	MATH 201: Personal Finance
3	LTS 202: The Sanctification of Life - Sacraments
3	TH 202: American Civil Religion
3	SW 101: Introduction to Human Services

## MODULE ONE

### **Course 1: ENG 101: English Composition I**

A practical study for the aspiring writer. Covers the tasks of preparing interesting, attention-grabbing introductions to essay articles; making writing concrete; formulating descriptions of people; probing a topic by setting forth questions to ask yourself about it; keeping and organizing notes and ideas on your topic; grammatical devices to make your point clear; learning to draw sharp contrasts; finding evidence and proof (as well as putting it in a useable form); sorting out the elements of your topic; visualizing your audience. It is expected that students will have mastered elementary grammar, spelling and composition.

### **Course 2: SG 101 - Salvation and Spiritual Growth**

Course Description: A step-by-step development and presentation of the Orthodox Christian answer to our dilemma as human beings descended from Adam, of God's plan for salvation and our response. Includes an examination of the nature of spiritual combat, the unseen warfare -- who our real enemy is, Who God is and Who Christ is, what it means that God forgives our sins, how we are joined to Christ, and where we go from there. Provides assistance with prayer and other vital aspects of the life of a Christian, relating the personal to the corporate.

### **Course 3: TH 101 - The Incarnation: Basic Considerations**

Course Description: A detailed study of those aspects of the Incarnation of the Son of God dealt with by St. Athanasius of Alexandria in his famous work commonly called On the Incarnation. The historical and theological significance of St. Athanasius receives first attention, followed by a study of his book from beginning to end. Topics range from the Fall and resulting dilemma, through implications of the Incarnation - Christ's death and resurrection, to refutations of both Jewish and Gentile unbelief. The course closes with a discussion of the great and holy things gained in and through Christ.

### **Course 4: CHST 101 - Pentecost to 313**

Course Description: A chronological study, progressing from the Ascension of Christ through the period of growth and persecution until the legalization of Christianity with the Edict of Milan in 313 AD. In addition to following the activities of the apostles, course material provides data on the context within which the Church was established, grew, and experienced persecution within the confines of the Roman Empire. Along with the Scriptures, the writings of church fathers and historians are used to provide as full a picture as possible of the events in these first three centuries.

### **Course 5: PC 101 - Practicum: Introduction to Project Management**

Course Description: In the first part of this course, the student will learn how to research, propose, plan, execute, and evaluate the results of a project within the student's home parish or community. This will be followed by a survey in the parish to determine future project plans.

## MODULE TWO

### **Course 1: TH 102 - Foundations of Orthodox Christian Ethics**

Course Description: Introduces some basic issues involved in ethics from an Orthodox perspective, establishing theological foundations and relating them to philosophical and practical issues. Evil and sin are discussed in terms of experience and therapy. Human moral capacity, natural moral law and related issues are covered in connection with the Scriptures and the Fathers. Deals with ethical decision making, evangelical ethic and confrontation to the image and likeness of God. Some background in theology and philosophy helpful.

### **Course 2: SG 102 - Humility and Spiritual Guidance**

Course Description: A course that, in one sense, starts from the beginning, as if the reader were just beginning to inquire about following God. In another, the content is so deep that any Christian, at any point in life, can receive help from starting at the beginning. This is a start on the essence of Christian spirituality.

### **Course 3: LTS 101 - Introduction to the Divine Liturgy**

Course Description: A topical study of the Divine Liturgy (the Sunday and Feast Day Worship Liturgy of the Orthodox Church), concentrating on the Liturgy as a vehicle for worship. It describes its intrinsic connection with Scriptures found throughout its basic rites and activities, including processions, the Sign of the Cross, censuring, etc. It notes the significance and meaning of Church art, architecture, fixtures, vestments, and the general shape of the liturgy. It discusses the role of the liturgy in our procession to and preparation for the heavenly realm.

### **Course 4: CHST 102 - The Seven Ecumenical Councils**

Course Description: TBA

### **Course 5: PC 102 - Practicum in Applied Orthodox Theology**

Course Description: Graduation from the program requires each student to complete four projects (one in each module). These projects should be viewed as an application of the theology they are learning in their home parish setting. The topic of the project is submitted to the course professor and subject to approval by the student's priest and professor. It is expected that these projects are a new activity not already being engaged by the student. Each student is encouraged to develop a project which incorporates his/her strengths and abilities in a parish setting.

## MODULE THREE

**Course 1: PHL 101 - Introduction to Philosophy**

Course Description: TBA

**Course 2: SG 201 - Grace and Mercy**

Course Description: A continuation of the above course. The one and primary goal of this course is to help the student progress into an unceasing journey of communion with God – including the goal set forth in the Scriptures for our spiritual development, exemplified in such passages as 2 Peter 1:2-11, “Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.”

**Course 3: LTS 201 - The Sanctification of Time**

Course Description: A scriptural and liturgical commentary on the calendar of the Church, including a topical approach to the annual cycle of movable and fixed feasts. Content evolves generally around the Gospel lesson read on a given Sunday or feast day. The annual cycle of movable feasts centers on Easter, while the annual cycle of fixed feasts highlights the major and minor feasts not included in the movable cycle. Themes of feasts and times of the year are expounded and explained.

**Course 4: TH 201 - The Use of the Holy Scriptures in the Orthodox Church**

Course Description: A study of the history of use of the Scriptures in the Church from ancient days to the present, including an analysis of the relationship between the Scriptures and Tradition. Subjects include: What is the Bible? How did we get the Bible? Doctrine -- what shall we teach and how do we know? How do we interpret the Scriptures? The relationship between history and Tradition. The nature and task of the Church. History of Orthodox Tradition and how to discern between the true Tradition and "old error."

**Course 5: PC 201 - Practicum in Applied Orthodox Theology**

Course Description: Graduation from the program requires each student to complete four projects (one in each module). These projects should be viewed as an application of the theology they are learning in their home parish setting. The topic of the project is submitted to the course professor and subject to approval by the student's priest and professor. It is expected that these projects are a new activity not already being engaged by the student. Each student is encouraged to develop a project which incorporates his/her strengths and abilities in a parish setting.

## MODULE FOUR

**Course 1: MTH 202 - Personal Finance**

Course Description: With an emphasis on the materials and philosophy as presented by Dave Ramsey, this course will teach personal finance practices. In addition, the course will also briefly review budgeting practices and income/expense ledgers to prepare the student for finance meetings in parish councils and other non-profit organizations.

**Course 2: LTS 202 - The Sanctification of Life - Sacraments**

Course Description: Orthodox Christianity teaches the doctrine of theosis, whereby humans take on divine properties. A key scripture supporting this is 2 Peter 1:4. In the 4th century, Athanasius taught that God became Man that Man might become God. Essentially, Man does not become divine, but in Christ can partake of divine nature. This understanding of salvation restores God's image in man. One such theme is release from mortality caused by desires of the world.

**Course 3: TH 202 - American Civil Religion**

Course Description: This course examines the role and expression of religion in American society from a sociological perspective, especially the interaction between religion and politics in American public life. Sociological concepts will also be related to the historic experience of Orthodox Christianity, both in the 'mother countries' and in American society.

**Course 4: SW 101 - Introduction to Human Services**

Course Description: This course establishes a base practice for social work. As a foundational level course, it is of significant importance in the curriculum. Students will study the history of social work through the eyes of those who set out to change the world through the establishment of the profession of social work and their advocacy in the field of social welfare. They will be introduced to the roles and responsibilities of professional social workers, the mission of the profession as it relates to social and economic justice, and the importance of advocating for the poor and the disadvantaged. Students will learn skills of self-reflection and self-regulation in the management of personal values and professionalism. Students will learn the importance of ethical behavior. They will learn about advocacy and the importance of research and life-long learning. This course addresses the multitude of current and dynamic issues facing social workers today. It addresses the importance of professional social work in critical practice settings and how the profession is making a difference in changing the world through advocacy for social and economic justice.

**Course 5: PC 202 - Practicum in Applied Orthodox Theology**

Course Description: Graduation from the program requires each student to complete four projects (one in each module). These projects should be viewed as an application of the theology they are learning in their home parish setting. The topic of the project is submitted to the course professor and subject to approval by the student's priest and professor. It is expected that these projects are a new activity not already being engaged by the student. Each student is encouraged to develop a project which incorporates his/her strengths and abilities in a parish setting.

## SPECIAL STUDIES

### **TH 305 - Comprehensive Study of the Prologue of the Gospel of John**

Course Description: In the Easter Morning Service of the Orthodox Church, the first eighteen verses of the Gospel of John is the Gospel reading. In this course we offer a comprehensive study of this Gospel portion, with emphasis on interpretation and application. Content and lessons center on the teachings of the Church Fathers on the Prologue.

### **CHST 305 - The Apostolic Fathers, Part 2: St. Polycarp and the Shepherd of Hermas**

Course Description: A continuation in the study of CHST 300, centering on the letter and martyrdom of St. Polycarp and on the second century document, The Shepherd, written by Hermas of Rome. The relationship of each to the doctrine and practice of the Church is given special attention.

### **CHST 306 - Christological Issues of the Fourth Through Eighth Centuries**

Course Description: A study of those issues concerning the Son of God and His Incarnation which the Church dealt within its famous Seven Ecumenical Councils of the Fourth through the Eighth century. The theological issues, historical circumstances, personalities, and other pertinent background materials provide the setting for a study which concentrates on how these matters relate to Christian belief, our salvation, life and worship.

### **SG 305 - Prayer Life**

Course Description: The goal of this course is to guide the student to a deeper understanding of the spiritual significance of a disciplined prayer life and how developing a habit of prayer is a necessary ingredient if one desires to build and grow in understanding the grace of God and the fullness of His Church.

### **LTS 305 - Introduction to the History of Christian Liturgy**

Course Description: An historical introduction, demonstrating the continuity and early development of Christian worship. Starting with the Old Testament, the course of study moves on through worship in the New Testament to the earliest descriptions of Christian liturgy in Church writings. Finally, study is made of the shape taken by the Sunday Liturgy throughout the ancient Church, up to the fourth century A.D.

## **FACULTY/COURSES**

### **Fr. John Fenton**

CHST 101 - Pentecost to 313

CHST 102 - The Seven Ecumenical Councils

### **Fr. John Finley**

LTS 101- Introduction to the Divine Liturgy

LTS 201 - The Sanctification of Time

LTS 202 - The Sanctification of Life - Sacraments

**Fr. Matthew Howell**

PC 101 - Practicum: Introduction to Project Management

PC 102 - Practicum

PC 201 - Practicum

PC 202 - Practicum

**Frederica Mathewes-Green**

ENG 101 - English Composition I

**Fr. Ernesto Obregon**

SG 101 - Salvation & Spiritual Growth

SG 102 - Humility & Spiritual Guidance

SG 201 - Grace & Mercy

**Fr. Gregory Rogers**

TH 101 - The Incarnation

TH 102 - Foundations of Christian Ethics

TH 201 - The Use of the Holy Scriptures in the Orthodox Church

TH 202 - American Civil Religion