



St. John Chrysostom writing with St. Paul looking over his shoulder
Milan, Ambrosian A 172, Sup., fol. 263^v (property of the Biblioteca Ambrosiana)
from Margaret Mitchell, *The Heavenly Trumpet*, plate 4, p. 505

PAPPAS PATRISTIC INSTITUTE SUMMER STUDIES PROGRAM

Courses and Faculty

JULY 17-22, 2016
AT HOLY CROSS GREEK ORTHODOX SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY
BROOKLINE, MA

MORNING COURSES

9:15-12:15

THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW IN THE PATRISTIC TRADITION

Dr. Brian Matz

TAMING THE THOUGHTS: ASCESIS IN THE MONASTIC WRITINGS

Dr. Despina D. Prassas

THE DESERT FATHERS: STORIES AND SAYINGS FOR CONTEMPORARY LIFE

Dr. Sean Moberg

THE PROBLEM OF EVIL IN THE WRITINGS OF THE FATHERS

Dr. David Goodin

THE DIVINE LITURGY CELEBRATED AND INTERPRETED IN THE PATRISTIC PERIOD

Teva Regule

REPENTANCE, RECONCILIATION, AND CONFESSION IN THE FATHERS

Dr. Georae Tsakiridis

AFTERNOON COURSES

2:00-5:00

ANCIENT CHRISTIAN SPIRITUAL PRACTICES: A GUIDED TOUR

Rev. Dr. Paul Kolbet

PATRISTIC TEXTS ON THE CHURCH AND SALVATION

Dr. Anthony P. Coleman

20TH CENTURY NEO PATRISTIC THEOLOGIES: FLOROVSKY AND HIS FOLLOWERS

Dr. Paul Gavriluk

READING SCRIPTURE WITH THE FATHERS: STUDIES IN PATRISTIC THEOLOGY OF INTERPRETATION

Dr. Bruce Beck

THE THEOLOGY AND HERMENEUTICS OF IRENAEUS OF LYONS

Dr. David Jorgensen

PATRISTIC (META)ETHICS

Dr. Daniel Robinson

MORNING COURSES

The Gospel of Matthew in the Patristic Tradition

Dr. Brian Matz, Carondelet Chair in Catholic Thought, Fontbonne University



The course will consider patristic reception of Matthew through an examination of commentaries, homilies and related literature. Due to the breadth of the available literature, the course will necessarily have to adopt a narrow focus. For this year, consideration will be given to how three authors (Origen, John Chrysostom and Augustine) read Matthew 5-6 (Sermon on the Mount), 13 (agricultural parables), 17 (Transfiguration) and 28 ("Great Commission" text). The course will further elucidate several reasons for why Matthew was the most widely-cited of the gospels in Late Antiquity.

Brian Matz is the CSJ Endowed Chair in Catholic Thought at Fontbonne University (St. Louis, MO). He holds a Ph.D. in historical theology from Saint Louis University and a Ph.D. in social ethics from Katholieke Universiteit Leuven. His publications and research interest reflect interests in early Christian social ethics, early Christian hermeneutics and the theological controversies of the Carolingian era. Dr. Matz is delighted to continue to participate in the excellent programs of the Pappas Patristic Institute!

Taming the Thoughts: Ascesis in the Monastic Writings

Dr. Despina Prassas
Providence College

Taming the thoughts! The *logismoi* (thoughts) were the activities that usually made or broke the life the monk, and the ability to maneuver one's way around the noise in one's head was a skill necessary to perfect if one wanted to move closer to God. The demons were usually the culprits when it came to unwanted thoughts, plaguing the prayer life of the monk.

This course will examine the role the *logismoi* played in the lives of the monks, focusing on the different types of thoughts and outlining the tools and tactics employed to negotiate and battle them. Specific topics that will be considered include discernment, *hesychia* (inner



stillness), *penthos* (compunction), *apatheia* (passionlessness), and *agape* (unconditional love). Beginning with the *Life of Antony*, we will work our way through several of the early monastic texts, including the *Apophthegmata Patrum* as well as the writings of Isaiah of Scetis, John Cassian, Evagrius, Maximos the Confessor, Mark the Monk, and Barsanuphius and John. Finally, we will examine the role the demons play in the manipulation of the *logismoi* and the strategies that would help one to remain "watchful" over one's thoughts.

Despina Prassas holds a PhD from Catholic University and teaches in the area of Historical Theology at Providence College. She works primarily in the late antique and the early byzantine period, specifically looking at the monastic and ascetical writings of St. Maximos the Confessor. Another area of interest is the modern ecumenical movement, and she is currently a participant on several ecumenical dialogues.

MORNING COURSES

The Desert Fathers: Stories and Sayings for Contemporary Life

Dr. Sean Moberg
Catholic University of America

This course provides a survey of the key themes in *The Sayings of the Desert Fathers*, also known as the *Apophthegmata Patrum*, one of the most important witnesses to the early Christian monastic tradition. The *Sayings* presents the wisdom of the Egyptian monastic teachers of the fourth and fifth centuries, distilled into brief and memorable stories.

The class is structured along the path of spiritual transformation laid out in the text. We begin from the position Christian believer who has made a decision to set out upon the spiritual path in earnest, and then work through several steps of progress through mental discipline, physical asceticism, prayer, and more. Finally, we arrive at a portrait of the Christian, transformed in the love of God, at the end of this spiritual journey. In this way we see that the wisdom of the early Church extends beyond the brilliant theological insights of the Church Fathers, and includes many practical observations that can guide us in our daily lives.



Sean Moberg is a scholar of Christian asceticism in Late Antiquity, with a particular focus on early Egyptian monasticism. He recently completed his doctoral dissertation *The Apophthegmata Patrum and the Greek Philosophical Tradition* in the Center for the Study of Early Christianity at the Catholic University of America. Prior to coming to Catholic University, he received a Master's in Early Christian Studies at the University of Notre Dame and a Bachelor's in Ancient Civilizations and Biblical Studies at the University of Michigan. This summer will be his fifth year of being involved with the Pappas Patristic Summer Institute and his second year as an instructor.



The Problem of Evil in the Writings of the Fathers

Dr. David Goodin
McGill University

This course examines Patristic responses to the problem of evil from a number of perspectives, including in terms of personal salvation, the overall

redemptive economy, the subjects of ancestral sin and predestination, and with respect to issues that arise in pastoral counseling. This last subject is intended as an open discussion on our last day, since there are no simple answers.

The problem of evil has been claimed by atheists as proof for the nonexistence of God. They charge that if God is good, then why does He allow all the crimes and injustices in the world to happen? If a loving God created the world, then why did He also create natural disasters, deadly diseases, horrific parasites, and the like? Put simply, how can God be simultaneously omniscient, omnipotent, and benevolent? Atheists claim this is a logical absurdity. How can Orthodox Christians counter their arguments?

There is perhaps no greater challenge before the Orthodox Church than finding adequate answers to the problem of evil. To this end, the course surveys the Patristic sources for insights from the Fathers on the subject of theodicy. This is a reading seminar where the texts will be analyzed and discussed together. The answers you find will be your own.

David K. Goodin has a PhD in Religious Studies from McGill University in the philosophy of religion, with a secondary area of concentration in Patristic theology. Currently, he is a lecturer for the McGill School of Environment and McGill Faculty of Religious Studies, as well as an Associate Researcher at the McGill Centre for Research on Religion (CREOR). He is also an instructor for the summer studies program at the Pappas Patristic Institute at Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology in Brookline, Massachusetts.

MORNING COURSES

The Divine Liturgy Celebrated and Interpreted in the Patristic Period

Teva Regule
Boston College

This course will study the celebration of the Divine Liturgy in the Byzantine Rite and its interpretation throughout the history of the church. The commentaries of Cyril of Jerusalem (4th c.), Maximus the Confessor (6th c.), Germanus of Constantinople (8th c.), Nicholas Cabasilas (14th c.) and Alexander Schmemmann (20th c.) will be presented and studied with particular attention to the context in which they were written, their intended audience, primary themes, and theological emphases. (The course will also look briefly at the interpretation of the Mass in the Roman Rite by Amalar of Metz (9th c.) for a comparison with Western Christianity.)

Liturgy is not just texts, but movement, rubrics, music, etc. The spiritual interpretation of the liturgical event is called mystagogy. It aims to elucidate a deeper meaning to the experience of liturgy. The course will explore different types and traditions of mystagogical interpretation and draw a distinction between this form of interpretation and its close relative—allegory. The mystagogical

method of interpretation has a long history in the Orthodox Church. It has influenced the text and structure of the Liturgy, itself, as well as shifts in the understanding of certain ritual actions.

The course aims to help students understand more fully both the place and power of this method of interpretation within the Tradition of the Church as well as its limitations.



Teva Regule received her Master of Divinity (M. Div.) from Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology, graduating with highest distinction. At present, she is a doctoral (Ph. D.) candidate at Boston College in systematic theology, focusing on liturgical theology and history. She has been affiliated with the Pappas Patristics Summer Institute since 2009.

Repentance, Reconciliation, and Confession in the Fathers

Dr. George Tsakiridis
South Dakota State University



This course engages primary sources, predominately from the third and fourth centuries, on confession, repentance, and reconciliation. A topic at the heart of Christian tradition, students will study authors such as Cyprian of Carthage, Cyril of Jerusalem, John Chrysostom, John Cassian, and Isaac the Syrian, as well as others. In this way students receive both a chronological and geographical look at these central issues from the Fathers in both the Latin West and the Greek (and Syriac) East.

The course engages homiletic, theological, and pedagogical texts and gives the student broad exposure to key texts from this period. As is Dr. Tsakiridis' approach to theology, this course balances both spirituality and personal faith with an academic study of the texts. The course engages the issue of reconciliation on both a personal and cosmic level as presented by the Christian tradition.

George Tsakiridis is a Lecturer in Philosophy and Religion at South Dakota State University. Working at the intersection of religion and science with patristic theology, he is author of *Evagrius Ponticus and Cognitive Science: A Look at Moral Evil and the Thoughts* (Pickwick, 2010), and his recent research has engaged guilt and confession. Dr. Tsakiridis has been a participant in the Summer Program since 2007.

AFTERNOON COURSES

Ancient Christian Spiritual Practices: A Guided Tour

Dr. Paul Kolbet
Yale Divinity School

This course is a brief guided tour of some of the spiritual practices (or exercises) developed by early Christians. Such exercises were for them potent technologies, powerful bearers of Christian wisdom, and arguably the primary form of self-care in antiquity.

A wide variety of practices will be discussed, but we will pay particular attention to what was done with scripture, prayer, liturgy, food, and community. Rather than emphasizing what early Christians believed, we will examine how they believed what they did and how those beliefs became for them a way of life in the world. Authors read include passages from Origen of Alexandria, the Desert Fathers,



Paul Kolbet is Lecturer in Early Christianity at Yale Divinity School, Director of the Boston Area Patristics Group, and Co-Chair of the Augustine and Augustinianisms Group of the American Academy of Religion. He is the author of *Augustine and the Cure of Souls: Revising a Classical Ideal* (University of Notre Dame Press, 2010); and (with Brian Daley, S.J.) *The Harp of Prophecy: Early Christian Interpretation of the Psalms* (University of Notre Dame Press, 2015). He has also published articles on topics ranging from early Christian strategies for coping with state-sponsored torture to contemporary Christian realism in journals such as *Ecclesiology*, *Harvard Theological Review*, *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*, *Modern Theology*, *Studia Patristica*, and the *Toronto Journal of Theology*.

Patristic Texts on the Church and Salvation

Dr. Anthony Coleman
St. Gregory University

This course seeks to examine the meaning and context of the axiom *extra ecclesiam nulla salus* ('outside of the Church, there is no salvation'). In view of this aim, this course will concentrate upon a close reading of the Patristic texts which have a bearing upon this maxim.



Authors to be read will include: Ignatius of Antioch, Justin Martyr, Irenaeus, Clement, Origen, John Chrysostom, Cyprian, and Augustine. Issues to be discussed will include: the uniqueness and universality of salvation in Christ, the Church as the locus of salvation, and the relationship between the Church and those outside of her visible bonds; more specifically, to Israel, to the *Gentes*, and to Christians divided from her by doctrine and/or governance.

Anthony Coleman possesses an A.B. in Theology from St. Anselm College (Manchester, NH), an A.M. in Theology and a Ph.D. in Systematic Theology from Boston College. His dissertation examined the topic of divine providence in the works of the 4th century Latin apologist Lactantius, and his area of specialization is Patristic and Medieval Latin Theology. Other areas of interest could be broadly defined as the contributions of the Catholic intellectual tradition to theology, philosophy, art, music and literature. He currently lives, with his wife and two children, in Shawnee, OK, where he is assistant professor of Theology at St. Gregory's University.

AFTERNOON COURSES

20th Century Neo Patristic Theologies: Florovsky and His Followers

Dr. Paul Gavrilyuk
University of St. Thomas



The course explores the historical context and the theological presuppositions of Georges Florovsky's neopatristic synthesis and the theological visions of his followers, including Vladimir Lossky, Alexander Schmemmann, and John Meyendorff. The readings will include paired selections from patristic and twentieth century theologians: Florovsky and Athanasius, Lossky and Pseudo-Dionysius, Meyendorff and Palamas, and so on. The discussions will investigate the distinctive features of and the links between the different neopatristic theologies of the twentieth century.

Paul L. Gavrilyuk holds the Aquinas Chair in Theology and Philosophy at the Theology Department of the University of St. Thomas, St. Paul, Minnesota. He specializes in Greek patristics and modern Russian theology. Translated into ten languages, his scholarly works include *The Suffering of the Impassible God: The Dialectics of Patristic Thought* (Oxford, 2004), *Georges Florovsky and the Russian Religious Renaissance* (Oxford, 2013), and *The Spiritual Senses: Perceiving God in Western Christianity* (co-edited with Sarah Coakley, Cambridge, 2012).

Reading Scripture with the Fathers: in Patristic Theology of Interpretation

Studies

Dr. Bruce Beck
Holy Cross School of Theology

This is a course on patristic interpretation of Scripture. We will examine various genres of patristic writing (including homilies, liturgical hymns, and biblical commentaries) in order to gain a hands-on appreciation for both how the scriptures were interpreted within the early Church, as well as why they were interpreted these ways. We will look at some representative figures in the early Church during the first six centuries as examples of Patristic Hermeneutics. The course will have as a sub-text the question of how these patterns of patristic exegesis compare to more modern uses of scripture, and whether the hermeneutical principles of the Fathers can or should be emulated in the Church today.



Bruce Beck is the Assistant Professor of New Testament at Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology and Director of the Religious Studies program at Hellenic College. He has also served since 2003 as the Director of the Pappas Patristic Institute. Dr. Beck received both his MDiv and ThD at Harvard Divinity School, where his area of specialization was New Testament and Early Christianity, and the history of the interpretation of Scripture.

AFTERNOON COURSES

The Theology and Hermeneutics of Irenaeus of Lyons

Dr. David Jorgensen
Colby College



This course is an introduction to Irenaeus of Lyons, a saint in both the Eastern Orthodox and Roman Catholic traditions and a crucially important Christian thinker who was active at the close of the second century C.E., in the formative years of Christian orthodoxy and orthopraxy. Through close study of some of his writings, we will attend to both his theological vision and his hermeneutics; i.e., his theory and method of interpreting Scripture. As an essential component of the latter, we will need to think carefully about what "Scripture" was for Irenaeus and other Christians in the late second century.

In order to understand the nuances of Irenaeus' arguments, we will briefly survey the theologies of his most important opponents, the Marcionites and the Valentinians, but the course is largely focused on Irenaeus himself. We will strive to enter into Irenaeus' world with as few assumptions as possible, alert to the possibility that on some points he may have different views from other church fathers, so that we may better appreciate his unique contributions to the development of Christian thought.

David Jorgensen holds an MTS from Harvard Divinity School and a PhD in Religion from Princeton University. His first book, *Treasure Hidden in a Field: Early Christian Reception of the Gospel of Matthew*, is based on his dissertation, which won the 2015 Society of Biblical Literature – De Gruyter Prize in Biblical Studies and Reception History. The book is scheduled to be published in Fall 2016 in De Gruyter's *Studies of the Bible and its Reception* series. He is a research associate at Colby College, and teaches courses in religions of the ancient Mediterranean at Colby and the University of Maine, and in biblical studies at the Maine School of Ministry and Meadville Lombard Theological School.

Patristic (Meta)Ethics

Dr. Daniel Robinson
California State University

This course will explore how the Fathers thought about good and evil from both the personal and cosmic perspectives. We will read texts that address the problem of establishing standards for evaluating moral responsibility, divine judgment, and spiritual progress. Our texts will touch upon the purpose of creation and redemption as well as arguments for and against theodicy. Discussions of good and evil certainly preceded Christianity, and so we will include some pre-Christian authors in order to enable a meaningful analysis of the Fathers' relationship with their philosophical predecessors. The role of Christ as the foundation for philosophical ethics will receive particular attention.



Daniel Robinson's research focuses on the trajectory of Greek intellectual history from the Hellenistic period into the Christian era. After completing an MA in Orthodox Studies at the Patriarch Athenagoras Orthodox Institute, he studied Ancient Philosophy at the University of California Berkeley and earned his doctorate in History at the Graduate Theological Union in 2015. His particular interest lies in the Greek Fathers' use of philosophy towards the systemization of a Christocentric ethics. Dr. Robinson currently teaches in philosophy and history departments in the San Francisco Bay Area.