



ÉTÉ 2018/SUMMER 2018

DIPLÔME EN THÉOLOGIE ORTHODOXE (2^e CYCLE)/
CERTIFICAT EN THÉOLOGIE ORTHODOXE (1^{er} CYCLE)

CANON LAW AND ORTHODOX ECCLESIOLOGY (THL-6223/2402)

Professor Athanasios GIOCAS

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Monday and Thursday Evenings (7-10 p.m.)

From May 7 to June 21, 2018

The objective of the course is to introduce students to select contemporary challenges in the field of Orthodox canon law. After a general overview of the nature and sources of Orthodox canon law, a series of case studies will be presented and discussed. Case studies will consider the general framework of Orthodox canon law, the structure of the Church and the canonical provisions regarding marriage. In addition, students will be introduced to monastic legislation as well as the broader theological context of law in general. Possible future directions for Orthodox canon law will be thoroughly debated throughout the course.

In more practical terms, the course aims to familiarize students with theoretical and analytical approaches that may be useful in their own critical assessment of controversial issues in Orthodox canon law. The course will provide students with helpful insight concerning the sometimes non-obvious task of applying certain canons to the particular circumstances of today. The various readings for the course have been specifically selected with a view to expose the students to a diverse range of recognized English-language scholarship in Orthodox canon law. Throughout the course, students are encouraged to draw upon their own background and personal experiences with a view to enriching the classroom discussion.

The course progressively culminates towards an informed global discussion in the last three sessions on the subject of contemporary challenges to the Orthodox canonical tradition, and how such challenges can be overcome within the broader framework of modern Orthodox Christian ecclesiology. Special emphasis is placed on the prospect and advisability of codifying or restating Orthodox canon law.