

# Summer Sessions and Term Papers Guidelines

## Special Program for the Diaconate Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology (updated 2/25/10)

The Summer Sessions and Term Papers of the Special Program for the Diaconate are administered directly by the faculty of Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology and provide the theological content and context for the diaconal ministry. The Diaconate Program is usually completed within a period of three years, though students may take up to six years to complete all the requirements.

### Summer Sessions

Students are required to complete three (3) two-week summer sessions at Holy Cross in Brookline, MA (see below for the summer curriculum and schedule). Each summer, two weeks of instruction are offered. Over a period of three summers, a student will therefore be able to complete the entire cycle of courses regardless of when a student began the program. Students who cannot attend both weeks of a given session, may enroll in either week of the session. The summer sessions are held during the first two weeks of August.

Packets containing assigned readings for classes that are offered in a particular session will be available by the 15<sup>th</sup> of May prior to the August session. Students are expected to complete all readings before they arrive at Holy Cross for a summer session. During any given session, additional readings may be assigned by an individual instructor. Any academic work accompanying courses of the summer sessions is to be completed during the week in which the course is offered.

### Summer Session I

#### Week 1

**Church History A**  
Early and Byzantine Christianity

**Liturgics A**  
The Orthodox Liturgical Cycle

**Scripture A**  
An Overview of the Bible

#### Week 2

**Church History B**  
Major Divisions within  
Christianity

**Orthodox Parish Life**  
Pastoral and Sacramental  
Dimensions of the local  
Parish

**Scripture B**  
Orthodox Approaches to  
the Bible

## Summer Session II

### Week 1

#### **Liturgics B**

The Sacraments

#### **Pastoral Theology A**

Introduction to Pastoral Care

#### **The Diaconate**

History and Ministry of the Diaconate

### Week 2

#### **Church History C**

The Contemporary  
Orthodox Church

#### **Pastoral Theology B**

Hospital Visitation and  
Care

#### **Patristics**

Orthodox Spirituality

## Summer Session III

### Week 1

#### **Liturgics C**

Vespers, Matins and Liturgy

#### **Dogmatics A**

Orthodox Theology and Basic Doctrines

#### **Scripture C**

Spiritual Implications of the Gospels

### Week 2

#### **Canon Law**

Orthodox Canon Law and the  
Spiritual Dimensions of the  
Canons

#### **Dogmatics B**

Orthodox Ecclesiology

#### **Communicating the Gospel**

Communicating the Good News  
to God's People

## Term Papers

Students are required to write six (6) term papers. Each paper is a detailed report and reflection upon one foundational book in Orthodox theology or praxis. Papers are due on December 15 for the fall term and May 15 for the spring term. The basic guidelines for the papers are as follows:

1. Papers for texts read during the fall semester are due by **December 15** of the same year, and papers for texts read during the spring semester are due by **May 15** of the same year.
2. The paper should be between 7-10 pages, typed and double-spaced with 12-point font size.
3. The paper should make use of parenthetical references when citing the text, that is, quotations taken directly from the book should be followed by a set of parenthesis within which is the page number referencing the quote.

4. The first one or two paragraphs of the paper are to be devoted to basic information concerning the text: that is, the author and date of the text, its publisher, the intended audience, the text's literary genre, and any other information that you think helps locate the book in its proper context.
5. The paper is neither a research paper nor a reflection paper, though you certainly will have to do some reflection.
6. Think of your paper as an in-depth book review. You may want to organize the paper in a manner that reflects how the book is arranged (according to chapters) or along major themes presented in the book. You need not retell everything that is contained in the book. However, the paper should demonstrate that you have read, digested, and reflected upon the text. Good writing skills are important as well. Personal reflection on the text is welcome.
7. Quote sparingly from the text to make a point or support your argument. Avoid lengthy quotes from the text.
8. Be creative.
9. Papers can be sent via post or email:

mailing address:

Special Program for the Diaconate  
Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology  
50 Goddard Avenue  
Brookline, MA 02445

email:

jskedros@hchc.edu

#### **Texts for Students in their First Year:**

Fall: Alexander Schmemmann, *For the Life of the World: Sacraments and Orthodoxy*. 2<sup>nd</sup> expanded edition. (St. Vladimir's Seminary Press, 1997)

Spring: Stanley Harakas, *Living the Faith: The Praxis of Eastern Orthodox Ethics* (Light and Life, 1993)

#### **Texts for Students in their Second Year:**

Fall: Kallistos Ware, *The Orthodox Way*. (St. Vladimir's Seminary Press, 1995)

Spring: Anthony Bloom, *Beginning to Pray*. (Paulist Press, 1982)

#### **Texts for Students in their Third Year:**

Fall: Theodore Stylianopoulos, *The New Testament: An Orthodox Perspective. Volume One: Scripture, Tradition, Hermeneutics* (Brookline, Mass: Holy Cross Orthodox Press, 1997) [Introduction and Chapters 1 through 5 only]

Spring: *The Sayings of the Desert Fathers*. Translated by Benedicta Ward. Revised edition. Cistercian Studies 59. (Kalamazoo: Cistercian Publications, 1987)