

RELG 317 – Special Topics in Religion 2

Cosmic Liturgy The Mystical Theology of the Eastern Orthodox Church

July 4-28, 2022

MTWR, 11:05am–1:25pm



Course Description

What is the Eastern Orthodox Church’s understanding of God and Christ? Creation and salvation? What is the role of the human as lord and priest of creation? In what sense is the theology of the Orthodox Church “mystical”? Why is it sometimes referred to as a “cosmic liturgy”? This course seeks to answer these questions through a close reading of the Fathers (and Mothers) of the Church ranging from the 4th to the 14th centuries. We conclude with some contemporary considerations, centred upon Russian sophiology, women and gender, and ecology. This class offers a rare opportunity for students to gain familiarity with the “other half” of Christianity – a Christianity at once familiar and yet startling in its distinctiveness.

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