

INDS/SPIR 558: ICONS IN PRAYER AND WORSHIP

Ralph C. Wood

July 4 – 8, 8:00 – 11:00 am

1 or 2 graduate credit hours; or 1 audit hour

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This brief but intensive study will center on the splendor of the Uncreated Light that radiates through icons, engaging those who pray and worship with the presence of the incarnate God. Our focus will be on icons of various saints, as well as the chief events of Christ's life: his Nativity, his Presentation in the Temple, his Baptism or Theophany, his Transfiguration, his Entry into Jerusalem, his Crucifixion, his Resurrection and Ascension, as well as Pentecost. Much shall be made of the difference between Christian art before and after the Renaissance. Whereas the latter often produces magnificent images that we look at, the Icon tradition produces images that look at us. We shall see how they invite us into the life of radical transformation in Christ.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Students should take from this course a deepened appreciation for the ways in which the Icons of the Eastern church ground them more deeply in Scripture while enhancing their own life of prayer and worship. We will succeed to the extent that the Icons summon us to become personal and living icons of Christ.

COURSE OUTLINE

Day 1 Introduction to Icons, with emphasis on *Christ Pantocrator* (of Mt. Sinai), *Vladimir Mother of God*, and *Rublev's Abrahamic Trinity*

Day 2 *Annunciation Nativity, Baptism/Epiphany*

Day 3 *Transfiguration, Entry into Jerusalem, Holy Supper, Crucifixion*

Day 4 *Resurrection, Ascension, Descent of the Spirit*

Day 5 *John the Forerunner, Raising of Lazarus, Dormition of the Mother of God, St. Xenia of St. Petersburg*

REQUIRED TEXTS

Jim Forest, *Praying with the Icons* (Orbis, 2008): ISBN: 1570757585. \$38.99

Paul Evdokimov, *The Art of the Icon: A Theology of Beauty* (Oakwood, 1990) ISBN: 0961854545. [Out of Print]

All prices subject to change without notice. The Regent College Bookstore offers a 20% discount on regularly priced books (some exceptions may apply).

SPECIAL NOTE

Please note that there is reading due on the first day of class. Students are strongly advised to read prior to the beginning of the course.

Please Note: The Course Information Sheet is meant to assist in selecting courses. The official syllabus should be consulted for more detailed information. A full syllabus with drop deadlines, policies, and course assignment details is available on Moodle: moodle.regent-college.edu/login

