

Outline of Courses and Topics for Seminar

This seminar is a cohort-based research seminar that combines theological reflection on social research with structured opportunities to create and execute research plans on key topics facing society, with concurrent discussion on how this research might benefit the life of the Orthodox church. Participants will think together about current trends in research on religion and social topics in U.S. Christianity broadly and Orthodoxy in particular, and will work in cohorts to address pressing social topics through an Orthodox lens.

The seminar has two in-person intensives, at the very beginning (August 31-September 3) and at the very end (December 8-10). All other classes are on Zoom.

| <i>Date</i> | <i>Location</i> | <i>Topic</i> |
|-----------------|---------------------|--|
| <i>8/31-9/3</i> | <i>Telos Center</i> | <p>Introductions</p> <p>What is American about Orthodoxy in the United States? What is Orthodox about Orthodoxy in the United States? Lecture by Dr. Saler and discussion</p> <p>What is the landscape of US religion? How is it studied and researched? What are the enduring themes and what are the trends? Lecture by Dr. Saler and discussion.</p> <p>Mixed methods research – what is it? How to do it well? How to do it faithfully? Lecture by Dr. Saler and discussion</p> <p>Research methods (continued) and theory of change - what do you want to see change? How would you know if it is happening well?</p> |
| <i>9/12</i> | <i>Zoom</i> | A map of Orthodox research assets: who can help? – Dr. Saler and guests |
| <i>9/19</i> | <i>Zoom</i> | Colloquia – teams introduce study projects; group feedback |
| <i>9/26</i> | <i>Zoom</i> | Orthodox theology and culture: can cultural research be a theological task? Lecture by Dr. Saler and discussion |
| <i>10/3</i> | <i>Zoom</i> | The relationship between scholarship and faith - can research strengthen faith? Can faith strengthen research? |
| <i>10/10</i> | <i>Zoom</i> | Outline of research plan and scope for the rest of the seminar; group feedback |
| <i>10/17</i> | <i>Zoom</i> | Working group session with Dr. Saler consultation |
| <i>10/24</i> | <i>Zoom</i> | Group discussion: what does the Orthodox church have to say to culture? What can culture show the church? Moderated by Dr. Saler |
| <i>10/31</i> | <i>NA</i> | No meeting |
| <i>11/7</i> | <i>Zoom</i> | Group presentations of research 1; feedback |

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| 11/14 | <i>Zoom</i> | Group presentations of research 2; feedback |
| 11/21 | <i>Zoom</i> | Tailored specifically for research by Rob Saler |
| 11/28 | <i>Zoom</i> | Tailored specifically for research by Rob Saler |
| 12/5 | <i>Zoom</i> | How are things going? Open session |
| 12/8- 12/10 | <i>Telos Center</i> | Final presentations of research Closing session: where to from here? |