

## COURSE OUTLINE

### (1) GENERAL

<b>SCHOOL</b>	SCHOOL OF PHILOSOPHY		
<b>ACADEMIC UNIT</b>	DEPARTMENT OF PHILOLOGY		
<b>LEVEL OF STUDIES</b>	UNDERGRADUATE		
<b>COURSE CODE</b>	BYΦΦ249	<b>SEMESTER</b>	ALL
<b>COURSE TITLE</b>	Symeon the New Theologian: Life and writings of a “haeretic” in the times of the Macedonian Dynasty		
<b>INDEPENDENT TEACHING ACTIVITIES</b> <i>if credits are awarded for separate components of the course, e.g. lectures, laboratory exercises, etc. If the credits are awarded for the whole of the course, give the weekly teaching hours and the total credits</i>		<b>WEEKLY TEACHING HOURS</b>	<b>CREDITS</b>
Lectures		3	5
<i>Add rows if necessary. The organisation of teaching and the teaching methods used are described in detail at (d).</i>			
<b>COURSE TYPE</b> <i>general background, special background, specialised general knowledge, skills development</i>	Special field		
<b>PREREQUISITE COURSES:</b>	NONE		
<b>LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION and EXAMINATIONS:</b>	GREEK (also English in the exams for Erasmus students)		
<b>IS THE COURSE OFFERED TO ERASMUS STUDENTS</b>	YES		
<b>COURSE WEBSITE (URL)</b>	<a href="https://elearn.uoc.gr">https://elearn.uoc.gr</a>		

### (2) LEARNING OUTCOMES

<p><b>Learning outcomes</b></p> <p><i>The course learning outcomes, specific knowledge, skills and competences of an appropriate level, which the students will acquire with the successful completion of the course are described.</i></p> <p><i>Consult Appendix A</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Description of the level of learning outcomes for each qualifications cycle, according to the Qualifications Framework of the European Higher Education Area</i></li> <li>• <i>Descriptors for Levels 6, 7 &amp; 8 of the European Qualifications Framework for Lifelong Learning and Appendix B</i></li> <li>• <i>Guidelines for writing Learning Outcomes</i></li> </ul>
<p>The central goal of this course will be the familiarity of students with the writings (poetical and prose) of Symeon the New Theologian, by putting emphasis on their unique literary features. At the same time, we will place the author within the cultural cadre of his times, while we will connect him with current tensions that were developed then inside the empire of Constantinople.</p> <p>This course will focus on biographical and autobiographical information on Symeon the New Theologian, on various literary and theoretical aspects of his Hymns in verse, as well all the analysis of several techniques as developed in his prose-works.</p> <p>Symeon the New Theologian has composed a voluminous corpus of works, while at the same time he inserted several innovations both in its form and content. He adopted in a great scale the accentual metric system, he proved to be particular bold and provocative in describing the erotic dimension of</p>

the relation between man and god, he “hid himself” in relation to the level of his erudition and literary experience, he designed a literary technique that constantly reveals its multilateral dimensions: the relation between his prose and poetical writings, the allegoric aspect of his register, the power of his images, the hidden “voice” of his sources, the introduction of his “new” theology. We will attempt to touch the above subjects in an introductory way, as far as the period of a semester allows.

**General Competences**

*Taking into consideration the general competences that the degree-holder must acquire (as these appear in the Diploma Supplement and appear below), at which of the following does the course aim?*

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <i>Search for, analysis and synthesis of data and information, with the use of the necessary technology</i> | <i>Project planning and management</i>  |
| <i>Adapting to new situations</i>   | <i>Respect for difference and multiculturalism</i>  |
| <i>Decision-making</i>  | <i>Respect for the natural environment</i>  |
| <i>Working independently</i>  | <i>Showing social, professional and ethical responsibility and sensitivity to gender issues</i> |
| <i>Team work</i>  | <i>Criticism and self-criticism</i>   |
| <i>Working in an international environment</i>  | <i>Production of free, creative and inductive thinking</i>                                      |
| <i>Working in an interdisciplinary environment</i>  | <i>.....</i>  |
| <i>Production of new research ideas</i>   | <i>Others...</i>  |
|   | <i>.....</i>  |

- Search, analyzing, composition of data and information by using all the required technological support
- Independent work
- Production of new research ideas
- Practice on criticism and self-criticism
- Promotion of free, creative and inferential way of thinking

**(3) SYLLABUS**

1. Introduction in cultural circumstances of the period
2. Introductory discussion on the collected works of Symeon. Biographical and autobiographical sources. The most dominant subjects in his oeuvre
3. The poetics and originality of Symeon
4. His experience in education. The matter of knowledge
5. Allegorical “realism” in his works. Issues of intertextuality
6. His poetics through particular literary techniques
7. Presentation and interpretation of certain passages
8. Useful distinctions on Symeon’s work: metrical and other issues
9. The epistolographical work of Symeon. The short poetic “masterpieces”
10. Closing remarks: overall evaluation of the author and his oeuvre

**(4) TEACHING and LEARNING METHODS - EVALUATION**

<b>DELIVERY</b> <i>Face-to-face, Distance learning, etc.</i>	In Class
<b>USE OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY</b> <i>Use of ICT in teaching, laboratory education, communication with</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Teaching material (files, slides, presentations, editions, studies, monographs and articles), plus contact via the <i>elearn</i> platform</li> <li>• Contact via email</li> </ul>

<i>students</i>											
<p><b>TEACHING METHODS</b></p> <p><i>The manner and methods of teaching are described in detail.</i></p> <p><i>Lectures, seminars, laboratory practice, fieldwork, study and analysis of bibliography, tutorials, placements, clinical practice, art workshop, interactive teaching, educational visits, project, essay writing, artistic creativity, etc.</i></p> <p><i>The student's study hours for each learning activity are given as well as the hours of non-directed study according to the principles of the ECTS</i></p>	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th><b>Activity</b></th> <th><b>Semester workload</b></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Lectures, bibliography study and analysis</td> <td>39</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Independent study and preparation for exams</td> <td>83</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Final written exams</td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Course total</b></td> <td><b>125</b></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Semester workload</b>	Lectures, bibliography study and analysis	39	Independent study and preparation for exams	83	Final written exams	3	<b>Course total</b>	<b>125</b>
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<b>Course total</b>	<b>125</b>										
<p><b>STUDENT PERFORMANCE EVALUATION</b></p> <p><i>Description of the evaluation procedure</i></p> <p><i>Language of evaluation, methods of evaluation, summative or conclusive, multiple choice questionnaires, short-answer questions, open-ended questions, problem solving, written work, essay/report, oral examination, public presentation, laboratory work, clinical examination of patient, art interpretation, other</i></p> <p><i>Specifically-defined evaluation criteria are given, and if and where they are accessible to students.</i></p>	<p>Three hours of written exams on the following subjects: a) introductory subjects relevant to the author himself and his oeuvre, b) poetics and literary features in Symeon's Hymns and prose writings, c) Symeon's place within the overall frame of the byzantine literary tradition</p>										

##### (5) ATTACHED BIBLIOGRAPHY

Recommended readings:

- H. Alfeyev (hieromonk), *St. Symeon the New Theologian and Orthodox tradition*, Oxford 2000
- Γιοχάννες Κόντερ, Γιατί ο Συμεών ο Νέος Θεολόγος έγραφε τους ύμνους του;, *Νέα Εστία* 160, τευχ. 1794 (Νοέμβριος 2006), 806-819
- B. Krivocheine, *Μέσα στο φως του Χριστού: Άγιος Συμεών ο Νέος Θεολόγος 949-1022: Βίος-Πνευματικότητα-Διδασκαλία*, Θεσσαλονίκη 1983
- D. Krueger, Homoerotic Spectacle and the Monastic Body in Symeon the New Theologian, in V. Burrus and C. Keller (eds.), *Toward a Theology of Eros: Transfiguring Passion at the Limits of Discipline*, New York 2006, 99-118
- Αθ. Μαρκόπουλος (ed.), *Τέσσερα κείμενα για την ποίηση του Συμεών του Νέου Θεολόγου*, Αθήνα 2008
- Ath. Markopoulos, Pour un corpus des lettres de Syméon le Nouveau Théologien, in M. Stavrou, A. Binggeli, V. Déroche (eds.), *Mélanges Bernard Flusin*, Paris 2019, 511-524

- J. A. McGuckin, The luminous vision in eleventh-century Byzantium: interpreting the biblical and theological paradigms of St. Symeon the New Theologian, in M. Mullett - A. Kirby (eds.), *Work and Worship at the Theotokos Evergetis 1050-1200*, Belfast 1997, 90-123
- J. A. McGuckin, Symeon the New Theologian's Hymns of divine *eros*: a neglected masterpiece of the Christian mystical tradition, *Spiritus* 5 (2005), 182-202
- M. S. Patedakis, Quotation and Allusion in Symeon the New Theologian, in Teresa Shawcross - Ida Toth (eds.), *Reading in Byzantium and Beyond*, Cambridge 2018, 271-295
- H. J. M. Turner (ed. transl.), *The Epistles of St. Symeon, the New Theologian*, on the basis of the Greek text established by Joseph Paramelle, Oxford-New York 2009