

Prior to holding the Regius Chair in Humanity at the University of Aberdeen, Fr John spent twenty-five years teaching at St Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary in New York, where he also served as Dean for a decade. He has taught at other schools in the US, such as Harvard Divinity and Fordham University, and as the Metropolitan Kallistos Chair of Orthodox Theology at the Vrije Universiteit of Amsterdam. After a decade of teaching in most areas of early Christian and Byzantine studies, he began the publication of a series entitled *The Formation of Christian Theology (The Way to Nicaea and The Nicene Faith, 2001 & 2003)*. In preparation for further volumes, he edited and translated the Greek, Latin, Syriac, and Armenian fragments of Diodore of Tarsus and Theodore of Mopsuestia, setting them in their historical and theological context. However, realizing that to go further into the sixth century also meant returning to, and reconsidering, Origen, he prepared a new edition and translation of his work *On First Principles* together with an extensive introduction (2017). Having also completed a full study of Irenaeus a few years earlier (*Irenaeus of Lyons: Identifying Christianity, 2013*), he was drawn yet further back, to the Gospel of John (*John the Theologian and his Paschal Gospel, 2019*), putting his findings from decades of research on the early Christian writers, as the earliest readers of John, into dialogue with contemporary readers of John, both scriptural scholars and also, returning to his earlier studies, the French phenomenologist Michel Henry, as an act of constructive theology.

### Accreditation

St Andrew's Greek Orthodox Theological College is accredited through the Sydney College of Divinity (SCD), a Higher Education Provider owned by an ecumenical consortium of private colleges, which are its Member Institutions.

The Sydney College of Divinity is listed on the National Register of Higher Education Providers as a Higher Education Provider with Self-Accrediting Authority. It is approved by the Commonwealth for FEE-HELP to eligible students.

St Andrew's Greek Orthodox Theological College offers undergraduate and postgraduate units of study towards SCD courses of study.

### Cross-Institutional Study

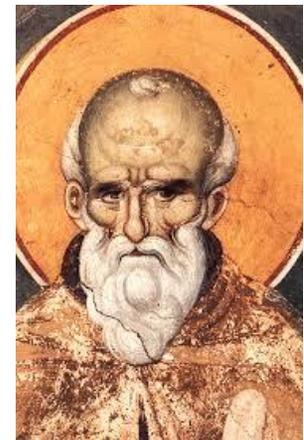
Students studying at university or any recognised tertiary institution may be eligible for cross-institutional enrolment whereby units completed through St Andrew's Greek Orthodox Theological College (Sydney College of Divinity) may be credited towards their own undergraduate or postgraduate awards, subject to the written approval of the relevant academic authority in their own home institution.

# PATRISTIC STUDIES

Guest Lecture Series

T9688

ST MAXIMUS THE CONFESSOR



Guest Lecturer:

The Very Revd Professor John Behr  
School of Divinity, History and Philosophy  
University of Aberdeen, UK

Semester 2, 2021

## Unit Objective

This postgraduate unit (AQF Level 9) advances the study of the patristic phenomenon by focusing on the crucial contributions of St Maximus the Confessor. It enables students to appreciate these contributions within a complex framework, theological, spiritual, literary and historical.

## Learning Outcomes

1. Appraise the personality and the contributions of St Maximus.
2. Display a profound knowledge of a select representation of St Maximus' writings.
3. Evaluate the contributions of St Maximus within the broader patristic tradition.
4. Critically analyse the selected writings of St Maximus within the framework of contemporary Maximian scholarship.
5. Assess the relevance of St Maximus to contemporary Christian theology and experience.

## Prerequisite Unit

T7181 Early Church Fathers or T8581 Church Fathers: An Introduction  
(or equivalent foundational knowledge in patristic studies)

## Enrolment Options

This unit will be delivered by weekly Wednesday lectures via Zoom, 5:00pm start time (Sydney time, AEST) until around 6:30pm/7:00pm, beginning July 28.

Students are strongly encouraged to login and participate in real time (synchronous learning). But a student may also enroll and access the video recordings of the weekly Zoom classes and review these in their own time (asynchronous learning).

## Content

1. Treading the way between the Greek and Syriac biographies of St Maximus
2. The historical, theological and cultural context of St Maximus
3. Main contributions to theology, spirituality and exegesis
4. The traditional reception of St Maximus and the perennial significance of his contributions
5. *Status quaestionis* in contemporary Maximian scholarship

## Reading

Maximus the Confessor, *Ambiguum 41* from *Maximos the Confessor: On Difficulties in the Church Fathers: The Ambigua*, ed. and trans. Nicholas Constas, Dumbarton Oaks Medieval Library, 2 volumes (Cambridge MA: Harvard University Press, 2014)  
Gregory of Nyssa, *On the Making of Man*

## Suggested Background Reading

Paul Blowers, *Maximus the Confessor: Jesus Christ and the Transfiguration of the World* (Oxford: OUP, 2016).  
L. Thunberg, *Microcosm and Mediator: The Theological Anthropology of Maximus the Confessor*, 2nd edn. (Open Court Publishing Co. 1995).  
Torstein Theodor Tollefsen, *The Christocentric Cosmology of St. Maximus the Confessor*, OECS (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2008).  
Melchisedec Törönen, *Union and Distinction in the Thought of St. Maximus the Confessor*, OECS (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2007).

## Enrolment Period and Assessment Tasks

This unit is offered in Semester 2, 2021, which runs from 26 July until 5 November 2021. The three assessment tasks (e.g. critical book review, essay, and forum discussion notes) will be due at appropriate intervals throughout the duration of the semester.

## Tuition Fees

Degree Students:  
\$1,440

Non-Degree Students & Cross-Institutional Students:  
(as above)

Fees may be paid by credit card (VISA or MasterCard, over the phone), cheque / money order (made payable to 'St Andrew's Theological College'), or direct deposit (using bank details on your invoice).  
FEE-HELP is available, subject to eligibility criteria.

Audit Students:  
\$450

Discounts are available for audit students who are Orthodox Clergymen (incl. wives & children), Saint Andrew's Alumni, and Church Volunteers. For details and an enrolment form please visit:

[www.sagotc.edu.au/admission/audit-students](http://www.sagotc.edu.au/admission/audit-students)

**Enrolment closes Friday 9 July 2021.**

## For Further Information

Please contact:

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