Presents Visiting Scholar

Professor Paul M. Blowers

Who will offer intensive lectures for

TH695A Spiritual Pedagogy in Saint Maximus the Confessor

17-19 July 2013

For registration, contact
The Registrar
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Auditors are welcome
**Course Workload** 9 credit points; 162 demand hours; 18 contact hours (3-day on-campus intensive, with Professor Paul M. Blowers); distance education (online) component (with Revd. Dr Doru Costache)

**Prerequisites** 18 credit points in TH

**Curriculum Objective** This graduate course unit enables students to appreciate the rich spiritual teaching of St Maximus the Confessor (580-662). It will focus on three centres of gravity in Maximian spirituality: the role of love (αγάπη) in every aspect of the virtuous life; the integration of all aspects of the spiritual life into the mystery of deification; and the Christian life as participation in the new, eschatological mode (τρόπος) of human existence inaugurated by the incarnate Logos, Jesus Christ.

**Outcomes** Students should be able to:
- Demonstrate an advanced knowledge of the major currents of Eastern Christian spirituality and asceticism in the background of Maximus
- Display familiarity with the relevant works of Maximus on the spiritual life, and the interconnectedness of the spiritual themes in his understanding of transformation and deification
- Articulate the reasons for which the body and the human passions hold such a prominent place in Maximus’ spiritual doctrine
- Critically assess the crucial role of love and the imitation of Christ in Maximus’ spiritual doctrine
- Appropriate major themes from Maximus and relate these to the challenges for Christian existence in today’s world

**Subject Content**
2. Maximus’ “spiritual anthropology” (the structural predisposition of human nature to transformation & deification)
3. Christology as key to Maximus’ spiritual pedagogy
4. The positive transformation of the human passions (possibility) in the light of Christ’s Incarnation & Passion
5. Love: the cosmic virtue
6. Aspects of the mystery of deification

**Assessment Methods**
2 research assignments (each 50%; 2750-3000 words each)

**Representative References**