

SAINT PAUL THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY  
 COPTIC PATRIARCHATE – CANADIAN COPTIC CENTRE  
 Church of the Virgin Mary and St Athanasius  
 Mississauga – Ontario – Canada

## Introduction to Coptic Studies

October 5-6, 2012 (12 hrs.)

Instructor: Dr. Ramez BOUTROS

Class hours: October 5, 7:00pm-11:00pm; October 6, 9:00am to 5:00pm

Class location: Trinity hall, Church of the Virgin Mary and St Athanasius

e-mail: ramez.boutros@gmail.com

The Introduction to Coptic Studies will provide an overview of the history of the Copts from political, religious, social and economic perspectives. Students will be introduced to examples of literary and documentary sources to illustrate these different aspects of Coptic Civilization. The focus on Coptic Monasticism will underline the role of monasteries as conservers of the Coptic Orthodox Church tradition.

### **Required readings for the first semester**

The power-point presentations of the six lectures

#### Additional readings

ATIYA A. A History of Eastern Christianity, Kraus Reprint, Millwood New York, 1980.

BAGNALL R. Egypt in Late Antiquity, Princeton University Press, 1996, chapter 8, p. 275-309.

BUTLER A. The Arab Conquest of Egypt and the last Thirty Years Of The Roman Dominion, Oxford: Clarendon Press; New York: Henry Frowde, 1902.

DAVIS S. The Early Coptic Papacy, Cairo: AUC Press, 2004.

MEINARDUS O. Monks and Monasteries of the Egyptian Deserts, Cairo: AUC Press, 1989.

MEINARDUS O. Christian Egypt, Ancient and Modern, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, Cairo: AUC Press, 1977.

THE COPTIC ENCYCLOPEDIA, 8 vols., edited by Aziz Surial Atiya, New York: Macmillan, 1991.

CANNUYER C. Coptic Egypt. The Christians of the Nile, Thames & Hudson, New York, 2000.

CHITTY D. The Desert a City, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition, 1999.

MEINARDUS O. Christians in Egypt, Cairo-New York: AUC Press, 2006.

### **Marking Scheme**

Presence and in-class participation	15%
Written Test	25%

Book review	20%
Term paper	40%

### **Written Test (25%)**

Date: Sunday October 21, 2012

The test will cover the topics presented in the six lectures.

The test format will be as follow: MCQ, True and False questions, and definition of specific terms and subjects

### **Book review (20%)**

Due date (November 15, 2012.) Send your book review to [ramez.boutros@gmail.com](mailto:ramez.boutros@gmail.com)

Delayed submission will penalized (2% per day)

Write a book review of two pages (*circa* 500 words). The book review should respect the following structure: a) a brief presentation of the book; b) analysis of the content, style and merit in relation to what the author set out to accomplish; c) your opinion about the results and its relevancy to the actual course.

Format: double space, font 12 Times New Roman

GABRA, Gawdat, *Coptic Monasteries. Egypt's Monastic Art and Architecture*, AUC Press, Cairo, 2002.

### **Term paper on selected subjects (40%)**

Due date (November 31, 2012.) Send your term paper to [ramez.boutros@gmail.com](mailto:ramez.boutros@gmail.com)

Delayed submission will penalized (2% per day)

Students might submit a term paper proposal no later than October 31, 2012 (It is recommended but not an obligation.) The proposal should include the title of the topic, the aim of the paper and a suggested bibliography.

Form: Number pages (10 to 12 pages), double space, font 12 Times New Roman. Footnotes should be placed at the bottom of each page.

Papers should include a short introduction; presentation of sources and what the student wishes to argue; method of research; analysis, discussion and arguments; conclusion. The conclusion may always raise questions or expose future perspectives. At the end of the paper you should include a bibliographical list of books and articles used in the paper.

Your paper should tackle one the following topics:

- 1-Paganism and Christianity in Egypt (Political, religious and cultural backgrounds)
- 2-Sources for the History of the Coptic Church (Greek, Coptic and Arabic sources)
- 3-Egyptian Monasticism, Ancient and Modern (You can choose either Ancient or Modern or both)
- 4-Christian Pilgrimage sites in Egypt (From the 4<sup>th</sup> to the Arab Conquest 641AD; or in the Mediaeval period, or in the Modern times)
- 5-Origin of the Egyptian Monasticism
- 6-History of Roman Persecution to Christianity
- 7-The Library of Alexandria

**The lectures (12hours)**

- Lecture 1 (October 5)      General chronology of the Egyptian history, from 30B.C.-  
up to the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century  
Introduction: who are the Copts?
- Lecture 2 (October 5)      Christianity in Alexandria in late antiquity  
The Egyptians under the Roman Empire in the Late  
Antiquity
- Lecture 3 (October 6)      Early sources on monasticism (Apohtegmata Patrum;  
Historia monachorum; History of Palladius; Life of Saints  
Anthony and Paul the hermit; John Cassian)
- Lecture 4 (October 6)      Foundation of the main monastic centers in the 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup>  
century: Scetis; Kellia; Nitria; Saqqare; Bawit; Atripe;  
Tabennese
- Lecture 5 (October 6)      Early women's monasticism
- Lecture 6 (October 6)      Impact of the Arab conquest on the Coptic Church