



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 T7395/T9695 ORIGEN OF ALEXANDRIA



*Guest Lecturer:*

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

Semester 2, 2020

## Unit Objective

This unit advances the study of the patristic phenomenon within a complex framework, theological, spiritual, literary and historical. It enables students to appreciate, by way of a detailed study of the available resources, the personality and legacy of Origen of Alexandria.

## Learning Outcomes

1. Appreciate the personality and understand the historical context of the patristic writer
2. Display a profound knowledge of the selected writings of this author, together with the relevant developments in scholarship
3. Evaluate the place of this historical figure within the broader patristic phenomenon
4. Critically analyse selected writings within the framework of relevant scholarship
5. Assess the relevance of this patristic writer to contemporary Christian 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 Thursday lectures via Zoom, 5:00pm start time (Sydney time, AEST) until around 6:30pm/7:00pm, beginning July 30.

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. Biography
2. Bibliography
3. Historical, theological and cultural context
4. Main contributions
5. Traditional reception
6. *Status quaestionis* in contemporary scholarship

## Weekly Topics

Weekly Lecture Series by Guest Professor  
(via Zoom video conferencing)

1. Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History Bk 6 (on Origen); Philokalia 15.
2. On First Principles (Preface, introductions and conclusions to each chapter)
3. On First Principles (Bk 1)
4. On First Principles (Bk 2)
5. On First Principles (Bk 3)
6. On First Principles (Bk 4)
7. Commentary on John (Bk 1)
8. Commentary on John (Bk 2)
9. Commentary on John (Bk 32)
10. Homilies/Commentary on Genesis, Exodus - selections
11. Homilies/Commentary on Matthew/Luke – selections
12. Extracts from other selected works

## Essential Text and Preparatory Reading

The essential text is Origen: On First Principles, Reader's Edition (Oxford University Press, 2020) by John Behr. Students are expected to begin reading the essential text in time for the first lecture, and the relevant documents provided within Moodle before attending the corresponding Zoom lecture.

## Enrolment Period and Assessment Tasks

This unit is offered in Semester 2, 2020, which runs from 27 July until 6 November 2020. The two assessment tasks (e.g. critical book review, 1500 words, 30%; essay, 3500 words, 70%) will be due at appropriate intervals throughout the duration of the semester.

## Tuition Fees

Degree Students:  
\$1,080 (undergraduate); \$1,440 (postgraduate)

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 17 July 2020.**

## For Further Information

Please contact:

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