

## Syllabus for DM-A609 Iconography Workshop June 1-5, 2015

### Instructor Information

Dr. Deborah Sokolove  
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I am not generally available on weekends or evenings and will respond to emails as promptly as possible when I return to the office. Please put **DM-A Icon Workshop** in the subject line of any emails.

### Course Information

#### Course Description:

This course includes a 5-day workshop, led by iconographer Philip Davydov, in which students are introduced to traditional ways of creating an icon. Each session begins with prayer. Students are encouraged to come to class each day with a refreshed, open mind and heart. Much of the class will be conducted in silence. Participants are given step-by-step instructions to start and complete an icon using traditional egg tempera methods. The workshop includes slide presentations and discussions on topics such as practical and theoretical questions of contemporary iconography, and the history and theology of the image in the Christian church. Additional readings and a final, integrative paper will also be assigned by Dr. Sokolove.

### Course Learning Objectives

The objectives of this course are to help you:

- learn practical techniques and skills in the production of an icon, including drawing, preparation of pigments, and painting in egg tempera and practice these studio skills as a spiritual discipline (N1);
- understand the icon tradition as it is practiced and understood in Orthodox Christianity (IA2, IA3);
- consider the possibilities and limitations of using icons within the context of Protestant worship and devotion (2C3, 2C4);
- begin to articulate a theology of icons consistent with your own overall denominational and personal theological commitments (IA2, IIA1, IIB2, IIIC1)

*The numbers following the course objectives refer to the curricular and formational objectives of Wesley Theological Seminary as described in the current catalog.*

### Textbooks and Supplementary Materials

Hart, Russel. *The Icon through Western Eyes*. Springfield IL: Templegate, 1991.

Martin, Linette. *Sacred Doorways: A Beginner's Guide to Icons*. Brewster Mass.: Paraclete Press, 2002.

Quenot, Michel. *The Icon: Window on the Kingdom*. Crestwood, NY: St. Vladimir's Seminary Press, 1991.

Negri, Patrick. "Can a Modern Paint an Icon?" *ARTS* 15, no. 2 (2003): 40-45. Available through WTS library at

<http://eds.b.ebscohost.com/ehost/pdfviewer/pdfviewer?sid=0e277bf8-80ec-47c4-bcd9-a6bd39ad4a38%40sessionmgr112&vid=3&hid=113>

John of Damascus. *In Defense of Icons*. Translated by Mary H. Allies. London:

Thomas Baker, 1898. <http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/johndam-icons.asp>.

## Assignments and Participation

### ***Participation and Attendance:***

Come to class prepared to spend the day in the studio. You will be graded on your participation. More than two absences from a morning or afternoon session and/or a pattern of late arrivals and early exits will result in reduction of one full letter grade.

### ***Reflection on Readings:***

Before the start of the class, write a short (about 300 words) reflection paper as you complete each reading. Do not write a book report. Rather, write about the issues that the readings raise for you. What questions come to mind? How do the readings agree with your own ideas? What do you find challenging in them? These reflection papers may be submitted electronically and are due before the first class meeting on June 1.

### ***Final Paper:***

Following the workshop, write a 2000- to 2500-word paper in which you consider the theology of the icon, taking into consideration the differences and similarities between what you read in the pre-readings and what you experienced in the workshop, as well as how traditional Orthodox theological understandings of icons fit with your own denominational and personal theology. This is a research paper, so while you may refer to the assigned readings, you will need to include additional research. As in any research paper proper citation, including footnotes and bibliography, will be expected. Papers may be submitted electronically and are due no later than July 10.

## Schedule/Course Calendar

The workshop meets 9am to 5pm, Monday through Friday, June 1-June 5, 2015. At each session, Mr. Davydov will present a slide lecture, lead discussions, and give practical instruction in the techniques of drawing and egg tempera.

## Grading Procedure:

Students will be graded on a combination of class participation, weekly reflection online on the readings, an art project, and a blog, as follows:

Workshop participation	60%
Pre-workshop reflection papers	20%
Post-workshop research paper	20%
total	100%

## Grading Scale:

95 – 100 = A
91 – 94 = A-
87 – 90 = B+
84 – 86 = B
80 – 83 = B-
77 – 79 = C+
70 – 76 = C
67 – 69 = C-
66 and below = F

## Students With Disabilities

If you have a physical, psychological, or learning disability and might require accommodations in this course, please contact the Associate Dean for Community Life, Shelby Haggray, early in the

semester regarding Wesley's policies and procedures for documenting and accommodating disabilities, x 8614 or [shaggray@wesleyseminary.edu](mailto:shaggray@wesleyseminary.edu). The seminary allows accommodations only through this policy.

### Technical Support

Students are responsible for meeting course deadlines. If you experience technical problems, please exercise one or all of the following options:

- Blackboard Support at [blackboardsupport@wesleyseminary.edu](mailto:blackboardsupport@wesleyseminary.edu)
- By phone at (202) 885-6091
- Blackboard/E Support Ticket at <http://blackboardsupport.wesleyseminary.edu> or <http://www.wesleyseminary.edu/MyWesley/eSupport.aspx>

Please let me know when you contact Blackboard support as well so I will be aware you are having technical problems.

### Technical Considerations

In order to access our course Blackboard site students need to go to MyWesley webpage and use student log on.

Blackboard site requires use of:

- An Internet connection. – A high speed Internet connection is highly recommended
- An Internet browser. (supported browsers include: Internet Explorer, Firefox, and Safari)
- An appropriate web browser configuration.

Any computer capable of running a recently updated web browser should be sufficient to access our Blackboard site. However, bear in mind that processor speed, amount of RAM and Internet connection speed can greatly affect performance. Those using dial-up connections will experience longer page load times and much slower performance.

For Blackboard Support: (202) 885-6091 or [blackboardsupport@wesleyseminary.edu](mailto:blackboardsupport@wesleyseminary.edu)

### Academic Misconduct

All students have signed the Covenant of Professional Ethics and Behavior. This must be adhered to, particularly in regards to academic honesty and plagiarism.

Plagiarism is regarded as a serious offense and will result in substantial penalties, including the possibility of academic dismissal. The Faculty regards the following as forms of plagiarism or dishonesty:

- copying from another student's paper
- giving or receiving unauthorized assistance to or from another student during an examination
- using unauthorized material during an examination
- borrowing and presenting as one's own (i.e., without proper attribution) the composition or ideas of another.

The mutilation, defacement, or stealing of library materials are examples of academic dishonesty and/or professional misconduct and are also subject to disciplinary action.

### Weather Policy

If the seminary is open we will have class. If the seminary is closed, class is cancelled. If the seminary is closed there will be a recorded message at the main switchboard number: 202-885-8600.

### Inclusive Language Policy

Bearing in mind that language reflects, reinforces, and creates social reality, the Seminary expects class conversation and written work to employ language that respects the equal dignity and worth of all human beings. In particular, linguistic sexism and racism are to be avoided.