An introduction to the Eastern Christian teaching on *Theosis* (Deification or Divinization), the fundamental anthropological and soteriological doctrine expressed by the early patristic phrase: “God became a human being so that human beings might become God.” Eastern Christianity never expressed much interest in the debates that raged in the West between Catholics and Reformers regarding questions of justification, because the latter was seen as simply a preliminary step toward the much more crucial issue: how human beings can enter into such union with God that renders them “partakers of the Divine nature” (2Peter 1:4).

The course will familiarize students with the teaching of the Fathers, esp. St. Irenaeus of Lyons and St. Athanasius of Alexandria, regarding the salvific economy and specifically *Theosis*, through readings, lecture and discussion. The question of the congruency of *Theosis* with biblical teaching will be examined in particular. Practical applications of these teachings will be sought out for living a Christian life today.

Preparatory readings before the course from the assigned textbook, additional readings during the course, class presentations, participation in discussions, research paper, final oral exam. Students must also attend and submit written reflections on the three plenary sessions of MASI Study Days and the Study Days workshop on Theosis.

Class presentation with written handout: 10% Participation in discussions: 10% Reflections on MASI Study Days (4-6 pp.) 10% Research paper (12-15 pp.) 40% Final Oral Exam: 30%

Daniel E. Wilson, *Deification and the Rule of Faith: The Communication of the Gospel in Hellenistic Culture*. Bloomington, IN: Crossbooks, 2010. It is available through Amazon.com. This text will be re-read chapter by chapter during the course. Additional required readings will be announced at the beginning of the course.