

# *Academic Catalogue*

## *2009-2010*

The  
THOMAS  
C. ODEN  
Patristic  
Studies  
INSTITUTE



***Academic Catalogue***  
***2009-2010***

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# **1. Introduction**

## **1.1 Statement of Purpose**

The Thomas C. Oden Patristic Studies Institute (TOPS) is an international study centre for university-level students.

The goal of the institute is the advancement and promotion of primarily Greek, Syriac and other eastern Patristic studies in the service of the academy and the Church.

The institute investigates:

- 1. The significance of the Judeo-Christian legacy to the churches in the Middle East and their association to Africa, Asia, and the Western world today.**
- 2. The reality of the condition of Christians and Jews in the Middle East throughout the centuries.**
- 3. Middle Eastern spirituality and asceticism.**
- 4. Modern Israel with its historical dimensions and provisions for Judeo-Christian values.**

## **1.2 Background**

TOPS Institute is the joint inspiration of Dr. Thomas C. Oden and Rev. Dr. Petra Heldt, following a consultation held in Jerusalem in February 2007.

The institute is a response to renewed interest in Patristic studies. It is a realization of the need for an innovative, academic programme in the ideal setting of Jerusalem, in a context which takes into account the reality of the Jewish people, both past and present.

The reality of Christians in the Middle East has been obscured by stereotypes in the Western world. Comprehensive study of the history of the churches in the East demystifies their presence and enhances knowledge about the origins of Christianity.

Contemporary scholarship re-examines the spiritual and ascetic writings of the Patristic Period. TOPS Institute researches the sources in context, both ancient and modern.

Students of Patristic studies research the environment of the Early Church. TOPS Institute provides a programme in a locale that compliments studies which, conducted elsewhere, would take place in a solely academic environment.

Christian heritage recurrently has been exposed to misinterpretation and exploitation for promoting anti-Christianity and anti-Judaism. A comprehensive knowledge of the Patristic writings provides questions and answers to this phenomenon.

### **1.3 Founders**

#### **Thomas C. Oden, PhD**

Henry Anson Buttz Professor of Theology (emeritus) of Drew University (USA), Dr. Oden's vision is to prepare young African Christians for leadership work in their countries by introducing them to the work of African Church fathers, ideally in the historical environment of Jerusalem. Dr. Oden is the General Editor of the 25-volume Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture published by InterVarsity Press and translated into seven languages.

### **Petra Heldt, PhD**

A scholar and professor of Early Church history, Dr. Heldt teaches at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and at the Jerusalem University College/American Institute of Holy Land Studies. In addition to her teaching appointments she regularly provides lectures, seminars and tours to visiting groups and individuals from all over the world. Dr. Heldt also serves as the General Secretary of the Ecumenical Theological Research Fraternity in Israel (ETRFI), an ecumenical institute involved in Christian-Jewish relations since 1966.

### **1.4 Governance & Administration**

#### *Dean of Studies*

Petra Heldt, PhD (Rev.)  
ph@topsinstitute.org.il

#### *Administrator*

Natalie King  
nk@topsinstitute.org.il

#### *Coordinators*

Germany: Marie Gräfin von Mirbach-Harff  
ma\_miha@yahoo.com

International: Charmaine Hedding  
ch@topsinstitute.org.il

USA: Lela Gilbert  
lg@topsinstitute.org.il

*Student Liaison Officer*

Andreas Wagner (Rev.)  
aw@topsinstitute.org.il

*Student Residences Director*

Elio Passeto, NDS  
ep@topsinstitute.org.il

*Webmaster*

Michael King  
support@livnelavan.com

## **1.5 Advisory Board**

TOPS Institute's advisory board consists of the following persons:

Rev. Canon Dr. h.c. William Broughton  
University of the Holy Land, Israel

Prof. Dr. Christel Keller-Wentorf  
Augustana Hochschule, Germany

Prof. Dr. Beate Kowalski  
Technische Universität Dortmund, Germany

Prof. Dr. Thomas C. Oden  
Drew University, USA

H.B. Patriarch Theophilos III  
Greek Orthodox Church of Jerusalem

Dr. Paul Wright  
Jerusalem University College  
(Institute of Holy Land Studies), Israel

Prof. Dr. J. Robert Wright, D.D.  
General Theological Seminary, USA

## **1.6 Accreditation & Affiliations**

Accreditation for studies has been formally recognized by the Jerusalem University College/Institute of Holy Land

Studies, the Institute for Ascetic Studies of the Augustana-Hochschule in Neuendettelsau and the Technische Universität Dortmund in Germany. Negotiations with other institutions of higher learning are in process.

## **2. Student Services**

### **2.1 Libraries**

Jerusalem has a rich variety of libraries including the Hebrew University of Jerusalem Library, the Jewish National and University Library, and the Ratisbonne Library under the auspices of the Brothers of Sion.

### **2.2 Accommodations**

Student housing is available in single or double rooms in the monastery of the Brothers of Sion in Jerusalem, in the Jerusalem city centre at 26, Shmuel Hanagid Street. The residence is located in a quiet, upscale neighbourhood, with convenient access to all amenities. Breakfast is provided in a communal dining hall. For student use there is a comfortable kitchen with a fridge and stove as well

as laundry facilities. The lodging can be viewed at [www.brothersofzion.org.il](http://www.brothersofzion.org.il).

For students who prefer alternate accommodations the institute's administrative staff will be pleased to help.

### **2.3 Advising & Liaison**

Each student is assigned an academic advisor from among TOPS Institute faculty, in consideration of his/her area of academic interest, for the duration of his/her studies in Jerusalem. In addition to offering academic guidance, advisors may advise students concerning career choices and how to prepare for them. The student-advisor relationship is established in order to enable students to maximize their benefit from the TOPS Institute programme and aid in preparing for their future.

Concerning questions related to everyday life in Israel, sightseeing, and other inquiries, a student liaison officer can be contacted via the administrative offices. In addition, a "Helpful Hints Handbook" is provided for every student upon arrival.

### 3. Faculty

#### 3.1 Barkay, Prof. Dr. Gabriel

Prof. Barkay received his PhD summa cum laude from the Tel Aviv University in the field of archaeology. He has been digging extensively all over in Israel as well as in Iran. The world famous discovery of the earliest biblical verses was made by Prof. Barkay:



The Priestly Benediction (Num 6: 23-26) written on the silver scroll hidden in a burial cave next to the Scottish Church in Jerusalem. Since 1979, successive publications by Prof. Barkay inform about the discovery, including his contribution about reclaiming the earliest biblical texts and their contexts by means of advanced technologies in ASOR 66:4 (2003). In 1996 he was honoured with a Laureate of the Jerusalem Prize for Archaeology.

### 3.2 Bregman, Prof. Marc



Marc Bregman, PhD from the Hebrew University in Jerusalem in 1991 in Judaic Studies. Since 1978, he has been teaching at the Jerusalem campus of the Hebrew Union College. He has also taught Biblical Interpretation and Ancient Jewish

Thought at the Hebrew University and the Schechter Institute for Judaic Studies in Jerusalem and at the Ben-Gurion University in Beersheba, Israel. Currently he is the Bernard Distinguished Professor of Jewish Studies at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, USA.

Amongst his recent publications are: *The Four Who Entered Paradise* (Jason Aronson, 1995); *The Tanhuma-Yelammedenu Literature: Studies in the Evolution of the Versions* (Gorgias Press, 2003).

### 3.3 Heldt, Dr. Petra (Rev.)

Dr. Petra Heldt studied theology in Germany, and Early

Christianity and Oriental Patristics in Israel. She received her PhD in Jerusalem in 2001. Her most recent publications are on Patristic exegesis and the history of the Early Patristic period - Aphrahat.



Known as a scholar of patristics, Dr. Heldt has served as the General Secretary of the Ecumenical Theological Research Fraternity in Israel since 1987.

### **3.4 Broughton, Rev. Canon Dr. h.c. William**

The Reverend Canon William Broughton is a staff member of St. Paul's Episcopal Cathedral, San Diego and St. George's Cathedral, Jerusalem. He received his MA in Theology and Biblical Literature at Wheaton Graduate School. After his MDiv. from Seabury-Western Theological Seminary, Canon Broughton continued his Postgraduate Studies



in Theology at Union Theological Seminary, New York and at the Graduate Theological Seminary at Berkeley. He received a two-year research grant in Archaeology from Nelson Glueck, President of Hebrew Union College from 1963-5. He is currently affiliated with the Leon Levy Excavation of Ashkelon under the direction of Lawrence Stager, Dorot Chair of Archaeology of Israel at Harvard University.

Canon Broughton is a faculty member of the University of the Holy Land, Jerusalem from where he received the Th.D. honoris causae.

### **3.5 Buth, Dr. Randall J.**



Dr. Randall Buth received an MA from the Institute of Holy Land Studies, Jerusalem in 1976 and a PhD in Semitic Languages from UCLA in 1987.

He has worked in and with many languages. Languages as a medium of instruction have included English, Hebrew, Arabic,

French and Luwo. Greek is also used in the the ancient Greek classes.

From 1977 to 1996 Dr. Buth worked in linguistics and Bible translation in Africa, including projects dealing with several Sudanese languages. He is widely published in academic journals. Since 1996 he has been developing special programs in Jerusalem for teaching ancient Greek and Hebrew with a goal toward increasing the efficiency of instruction and the internalization and acquisition of the languages.

Dr. Randall Buth is the director and founder of the Biblical Language Center ([www.biblicalulpan.org](http://www.biblicalulpan.org)). It is a unique language institute where the ancient languages are taught using the language as the medium of instruction in an immersion classroom.

### **3.6 Lowe, Malcolm F.**

Malcolm F. Lowe's education has included the following degrees from Oxford University: BA in Physics in 1962; MA and subsequently BPhil in Philosophy in 1965. He is known



for important published research on the New Testament as well as on the philosophy of Aristotle.

In addition to speaking eight languages (Dutch, English, French, German, Hebrew, Italian, Spanish, Welsh), he reads Arabic, Catalan, Greek (Ancient and Modern), Latin and Portuguese.

During 1965-1970 he was a tenured lecturer in Philosophy in the Department of History and Philosophy of Science at Chelsea College, London University. Since 1970 Malcolm F. Lowe has resided in Jerusalem. He worked at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem as a lecturer and editor in 1970-1974 and 1976-1980. During 1980-1992 he was a fellow of the Shalom Hartman Institute for Advanced Judaic Studies. In 1985-1986 he was invited by Prof. David Flusser to teach New Testament at the Hebrew University (in Hebrew). He taught New Testament at the Ratisbonne Christian Centre for Jewish Studies from 1988-1996, esp. "Attitudes to Jews and Judaism in the New Testament" and currently teaches

Graeco-Roman philosophy at the University of the Holy Land. He is the editor of various books on Christian-Jewish dialogue and has been featured in numerous media projects.

### **3.7 Oden, Prof. Dr. Thomas C.**

Thomas Oden was the Henry Anson Buttz Professor of Theology and Ethics in the Theological School and Graduate School of Drew University from 1980-2004.



Prof. Oden is the General Editor of the Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture (ACCS) which comprises 25 volumes to date.

### **3.8 Passeto, Br. Elio**

Elio Passeto is of Italian descent, born in Brazil. He is a Brother of the religious order of St. Peter of Sion Ratisbonne, serving as Abbot of the Jerusalem branch since 2001. From 1998-2001 he was the co-director of



the Ratisbonne Pontifical Institute, Christian Center of Jewish Studies - Jerusalem. His education has included studies at the Studium Biblicum Franciscanum Jerusalem, Hebrew University (MA, Jewish Studies) and the Institut Catholique de Paris (PhD cand., Patristic Studies). He teaches Early Christianity and Judaic Studies. Br. Passeto is a visiting professor on the subject of Rabbinic Judaism annually at universities in Madrid, Spain and Sao Paolo, Brazil. He is the co-editor of *Cahiers Ratisbonne*.

Br. Passeto is fluent in six languages: Italian, Spanish, Portuguese, French, English and Hebrew.

He is resident in Israel since the 1980s.

### **3.9 Stoffregen Pedersen, Dr. Kirsten**

Kirsten Stoffregen Pedersen (Emahoy Walatta Abraham) has lived in Jerusalem since July 1965. Fluent in over ten languages including Latin and Greek, her studies have

included Hebrew literature within the framework of Semitic philology, at the University of Copenhagen.



She served as the novice mistress of a Bridgettine nunnery in Vadstena, Sweden from 1955 to 1962. In July of 1965 she came to the Holy Land in order to live in Jerusalem. In 1969, she obtained a BA in Biblical and Hebrew Literature from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. She joined the Ethiopian community as a nun in 1970. In 1981, she obtained an MA in African studies from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and a PhD in 1991. She is an accomplished iconographer in Ethiopian style. Dr. Stoffregen Pedersen is the author of many books and articles including *The History of the Ethiopian Community in the Holy Land from the Time of Emperor Tewodros II until 1974*.

### **3.10 Voss, Prof. Ross J.**

Ross Joseph Voss is an archaeologist who specializes in the Middle Bronze Age. Prof. Voss is best known for his



work at the Ashkelon excavations as Grid Supervisor (1986-2000) and Lab Director (2000-2007). He served as director of the Nazareth Village excavations (1996-2002) and Field Supervisor at Beit Shean (1989-1991); Tel Dan (1976-1986); Hamat Gader (1980); Tel Arad (1977-1978); and Gaza (1976).

His latest publication entitled *Ashkelon II: Maritime Trade* was written in collaboration with Barbara Johnson, published by Harvard University in 2008. The article, "Ashkelon IV: The Middle Bronze Age Gates and Rampart Fortifications" in collaboration with Prof. Lawrence Stager is forthcoming.

In 1994 Prof. Voss received his M.T.S. degree in Hebrew Bible at the Harvard Divinity School having majored in anthropology at the State University of Iowa (BA, 1975). Prof. Voss was awarded the Hebrew Union College Fellner Fellowship in two consecutive years.

## **4. Application & Admissions**

### **4.1 Application Procedure**

To apply for one of the TOPS Institute programmes, the following documents must be sent to: POB 32030, Jerusalem 91319, Israel. Applications must be received at least six months preceding the programme start date. Acknowledgment of receipt will be sent by email and final replies will be sent within thirty days by mail and email. Forms can be downloaded and printed from [www.topsinstitute.org.il/Downloads](http://www.topsinstitute.org.il/Downloads). Applications must include:

- A completed and signed Application Form.
  
- Either notarized copies of all educational transcripts and diplomas or official transcripts from each institution from which a degree or diploma was received to be sent directly to TOPS Institute.
  
- For non-native English speakers, proof of English language proficiency (see Appendix IV).

- The appropriate application fee (see 5.3 "Tuition and Fees").
  
- A photocopy of the student's passport.
  
- Two letters of recommendation must be mailed directly from the recommending parties to TOPS Institute in Jerusalem. The letters should refer to the applicant's academic capabilities, professional standing, morals and conduct as well as any personal characteristics that may benefit his/her study abroad.

#### **4.2 Admissions Procedure**

Once a letter of acceptance has been received, students must send to TOPS Institute:

- Two passport-size colour pictures.
  
- The appropriate tuition deposit (see 5.3. "Tuition and Fees"). The deposit may be paid by cheque or by bank transfer (see Appendix I).

- ❑ The Health Insurance Form, signed and dated. All students are provided with comprehensive health insurance during their studies at TOPS Institute, details of which are outlined in Appendix II. Students are recommended to have their own travel insurance in addition to the health insurance provided, in case of luggage loss or medical needs during travel to and from Israel.

## **5. Tuition and Fees**

### **5.1 Payment Policies**

All prices are in USD unless otherwise stated. Applicants from other countries should use the interbank rate of exchange when calculating the fees or contact the institute's administrative offices for advice. A notice of bank transfers made should be sent by email to TOPS Institute, with a clear indication of the source and reason for the transfer. Communication on this issue should be addressed to: [nk@topsinstitute.org.il](mailto:nk@topsinstitute.org.il).

Application fees are not refundable.

The tuition deposit is due at least six weeks prior to the commencement of the programme. This sum is not refundable. The balance of the programme cost must be paid in full upon arrival. Students who decide to withdraw or who are dismissed due to certain circumstances (see 6.4. "Withdrawals and Dismissals") are entitled to a 50% tuition refund within the first quarter of the programme and 25% following the first quarter. Refunds are not issued after the second half of a programme. See Appendix III to view payment and refund deadlines for the period 2009-2010.

## **5.2 Payment Inclusions/Exclusions**

### **Inclusions**

1. TOPS student accommodations are in single rooms (married couples are requested to rent apartments; practical assistance is provided).
2. Breakfast is included in the price of accommodation.
3. Laundry facilities are provided at no extra charge.
4. A free wireless internet connection is available within the premises of the student residence.
5. Tuition fees include all excursions.

## Exclusions

1. Students can acquire a rental cellphone or purchase calling cards for use at payphones; the student residence telephone is for incoming calls only.
2. Airfare, meals (other than breakfast), personal items and transportation within the city area is not provided.
3. Books and materials are not part of the cost of tuition. See below for an estimated figure of this expense.
4. It is recommended that students bring their own laptop computer. A computer services consultant is available for troubleshooting and advice. For those who do not have their own computer, rentals are available. Printing, faxing and other related services are available at minimal cost.

### 5.3 Fee Schedule

Fee Category	Semester Programme	Graduate CertHE	Research Projects	Study Tours
Applic. Fee	\$100	\$100	\$100	n/a

<b>Fee Category</b>	<b>Semester Programme</b>	<b>Graduate CertHE</b>	<b>Research Projects</b>	<b>Study Tours</b>
Tuition Deposit	\$2 048	\$3 600	\$3 000	n/a
Tuition (including deposit)	\$6 828	\$12 000	\$10 000	n/a
Lodging	\$2 400	\$7 300	\$7 300	n/a
Library fees	\$100	\$100	\$100	n/a
Health insurance	\$240	\$730	\$730	n/a
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$9 668</b>	<b>\$20 230</b>	<b>\$18 230</b>	<b>\$3 000*</b>

\* Price does not include flights or insurance.

In addition to the above fees students should prepare a projected budget for expected expenses. The following figures are based on a minimum allowance, for a 3-month, 12-credit semester:

\$1 250	Food allowance
\$1 400	Personal expenses
\$400	Books & materials
<b>\$3 050</b>	<b>Total estimated personal expenses</b>

## **6. Academic Policies**

### **6.1 Credit System**

Academic credit at TOPS Institute is calculated using the credit system. Each full course is valued at three credits, made up of thirty-five hours of teaching, divided into two and a half hour sessions per week for fourteen weeks. A full-time semester typically includes four courses which makes a total of twelve credits per semester. There are at least two field trips per course, conducted mainly on the weekends.

## 6.2 Grade Point System

Student performance is based on a letter grading system with corresponding grade point equivalents:

Grade	G.P. Equivalent	Grade	G.P. Equivalent
A	4.0 grade points	C	2.0 grade points
A-	3.7 grade points	C-	1.7 grade points
B+	3.3 grade points	D+	1.3 grade points
B	3.0 grade points	D	1.0 grade points
B-	2.7 grade points	D-	0.7 grade points
C+	2.3 grade points	F	0 grade points

## 6.3 Withdrawals & Dismissals

A student who wishes to withdraw from his/her programme is requested to give written notice of such to TOPS Institute's administrative offices. A student may be dismissed for failing to maintain satisfactory academic progress, or for reasons of inappropriate conduct. The refund policy stated in 5.1 is relevant in all of the above cases.

## **7. Academic Programmes**

### **7.1 Semester Programme in Patristics**

Courses are appropriate for both undergraduate and graduate students. In a maximum two-year term, four general subjects are ascertained, one in each semester by four specific courses. Individual students not affiliated with one of the TOPS Institute accrediting institutions of higher learning need to present their university/college with a proposal for a transfer of credits. A successful completion of four semesters will award the student with the equivalent of a DipHE (Diploma of Higher Education) in Patristic Studies, comprised of a total of 48 credits.

Each course includes two excursions to relevant sites in Israel.

The four general subjects are the following. See 8.1. "Semester Programme Courses" for descriptions of courses. See 4. "Application and Admissions" for information on how to apply.

- A. Early Church History and Belief
- B. Patristic Spirituality
- C. Patristic Exegesis
- D. Christians in the Middle East and Africa

### **Academic Schedule 2009-2010**

Fall Semester	31 August-4 December 2009
Christmas Break	5 December 2008-3 January 2009
Spring Semester	4 January- 12 April 2010

Each semester is comprised of fourteen weeks. See Appendix III for the academic calendar and payment and refund deadlines.

## **7.2 Post-Graduate Research Projects**

### **Overview**

TOPS Institute offers an opportunity to conduct innovative research in Jerusalem, for the purposes of career advancement and personal development.

### **Focus**

The main focus of these research projects is to investigate Judeo-Christian heritage and its environment in Late Antiquity, as well as to develop the significance of that heritage for the research of the churches in the Middle East and their association to Europe today.

### **Eligibility Criteria**

Proposals are accepted from a graduate of a doctoral program in a field of Antiquities, including Archaeology, History, Scripture, Early Church, Judaism, Classics and Oriental Studies.

Applicants must submit a three to four page proposal (1000 words maximum) for an article, monograph, report, translation, or edition.

Applicants must be fluent in English.

### **Advantages**

The scholars-in-residence:

1. Have the opportunity to present their research together with peers associated with the programme from amongst distinguished colleagues in Israel.

2. Participate in a bi-monthly research colloquium for academic exchange and enhancement of their respective works.
3. Receive private Hebrew tutorials for six hours a week providing a good basic knowledge of Modern Hebrew.
4. Have monthly one-day study excursions providing first-hand experience of the country and its peoples presenting various aspects of the country, including archaeology, ancient and modern Christianity, and modern Israel.

### **Student Responsibilities**

1. Complete research (min. 5000, max. 7000 words) to be submitted to TOPS Institute within one month following the end of the fellowship period.
2. Present research in a mini-conference in Jerusalem.
3. Participate in the Hebrew language classes provided.
4. Participate in a research colloquium (twice a month, ca. 3 hours each).
5. Participate in study excursions once a month.

Names of scholars-in-residence will be made public on the TOPS Institute website.

## **Financial Conditions**

The following are included in the cost of the research programme (see 5.3 "Fee Schedule"). Note that this sum does not cover flights, travel insurance, meals other than breakfast or pocket money.

1. Accommodations. Single-room accommodations for 365 days with breakfast at the Ratisbonne Hostel, 26 Shmuel Hanagid Street, Jerusalem. Pictures of the premises are available at: [www.brothersofsion.org.il](http://www.brothersofsion.org.il) (see the link to "hostel"). A wireless internet connection is available at the hostel.
2. Hebrew language course
3. Mentor
4. Library access
5. Excursions
6. Health insurance. More details are outlined in Appendix II. Forms are available at [www.topsinstitute.org.il](http://www.topsinstitute.org.il).

## **Application Procedure**

The following documents should be included in each application. Application forms can be downloaded via the TOPS website or requested by mail.

1. A completed and signed application form.
2. Curriculum Vitae.
3. List of publications (if applicable).
4. Research proposal (1000 words maximum).
5. Two academic references sent directly to our offices by the recommending parties.
6. A notarized copy of your PhD certificate(s).
7. A copy of your passport (showing your photo, name, number and date of validity).

### **Review Process and Evaluation of Proposals**

All proposals will be evaluated by the academic committee of the TOPS Institute Post-Graduate Programme. Applications will be judged according to the academic quality of the proposal, commitment to the exploration of the Judeo-Christian heritage and achievability of the project for the time period in question.

Completed applications for 2009-2010 including proposals and references must be received at the offices of TOPS Institute by December 31, 2008. Notification regarding the decisions of the Committee will be sent to all candidates by January 31, 2009. See Appendix III for payment and

refund deadlines.

## **7.3 Special Programmes**

### **7.3.1 Intensive Language Workshops**

#### **Option 1: Intensive Language Workshop**

Intensive language courses (either biblical Greek or Hebrew) are conducted by the Biblical Language Center ([www.biblicalulpan.org](http://www.biblicalulpan.org)). This is a special 4-week, 6-credit course offered for students of TOPS Institute. Students who choose this option are provided with accommodations in Jerusalem at the centrally-located Ratisbonne Institute/ Brothers of Sion Wing ([www.brothersofsion.org.il](http://www.brothersofsion.org.il)). Classes are conducted at the Biblical Language Center in Kibbutz Tzuba, 10 km west of Jerusalem, easily accessible by public transportation. Prior to arrival students are expected to know the alphabet and to understand at least 50 of the words from either *Living Biblical Hebrew, Introduction Part One*, or *Living Koine Greek, Part One*. (6 credits)

Tuition for the spouse of a student is 50%.

## **Option 2: Intensive Language Study + Patristics**

**A.** Intensive language courses (either biblical Greek or Hebrew) as outlined in Option 1. In addition, students have the option of choosing one of the four 3-credit courses offered in the semester. See "semester programmes" at the website for up-to-date details including courses available, the academic calendar and payment and refund deadlines. (9 credits).

**B.** The month-long intensive language course may be reinforced by a 3-credit follow-up course in the language over a period of ten weeks - to the end of the TOPS Institute semester. Students may take one other course in addition, as in 2A. (9 or 12 credits, depending on the number of courses chosen).

Accommodations and TOPS Institute courses are located at the Ratisbonne Institute's Brothers of Sion Wing.

## Fee Schedule

<b>Fixed Fees</b>	<b>Option 1</b>	<b>Option 2A</b>	<b>Option 2B</b>
<b>Application fee*</b>	\$300		
<b>Tuition**</b>	\$1 400	\$2 907	\$4 107
<b>Lodging***</b>	\$840	\$2 260	\$2 260
<b>Library fees</b>	n/a	\$100	\$100
<b>Health insurance</b>	\$60	\$226	\$226
<i>Sub-total 1</i>	<b>\$2 600</b>	<b>\$5 793</b>	<b>\$6 993</b>
<b>Additional Estimated Expenses</b>			
<b>Food allowance</b>	\$392	\$1 582	\$1 582
<b>Personal expenses</b>	\$420	\$1 695	\$1 695
<b>Transportation</b>	\$100	\$200	\$200
<b>Books &amp; materials</b>	\$200	\$300	\$300
<i>Sub-Total 2</i>	<b>\$1 112</b>	<b>\$3 777</b>	<b>\$3 777</b>
<b>FINAL TOTAL</b>	<b>\$3 712</b>	<b>\$9 570</b>	<b>\$10 770</b>

\*Includes introductory material to be completed prior to arrival.

\*Includes field trips.

\*\*Includes breakfast.

### **7.3.2 GradCertHE in Theology**

#### **Overview**

The Graduate Certificate of Higher Education in Theology is a one-year certificate programme is designed to educate students of theology in preparation for ordination. The programme provides a solid academic foundation in the unique setting of Jerusalem.

#### **Eligibility Criteria**

Students with the equivalent of two years post-secondary studies are eligible to apply. See 4. "Application and Admissions" for instructions on the application procedure.

#### **Fall Semester Courses**

1. People and Land: Aspects of the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament (3 credits)
2. The Formation of the Early Church (3 credits)

3. African Studies (3 credits)
4. Ethics in the Judeo-Christian Tradition (1.5 credits)
5. Biblical Archaeology (1.5 credits)

### **Spring Semester Courses**

1. New Testament (3 credits)
2. Patristic Exegesis (1.5 credits)
3. Jewish Thought (1.5 credits)
4. History of Liturgy (3 credits)
5. Reformation History and Theology (3 credits)

For course descriptions see 8.2. "GradCertHE Courses" and see Appendix III for the complete academic calendar and the payment & refund deadlines calendar.

### **Greek and Hebrew *Ulpan***

There are two intensive language workshops of four weeks each, one for the study of New Testament Greek, one for the study of biblical Hebrew. The workshops are conducted by Dr. Randall Buth, director of the Biblical Language Center ([www.biblicalulpan.org](http://www.biblicalulpan.org)). Each language is studied in *ulpan* style for four hours a day, five days a week. Upon successful completion of the examination, six

credits are earned per course.

The Hebrew language *ulpan* takes place before the first semester, the Greek before the second semester.

### **Church Internship**

Each ordinand has the option of an internship at Christ Church in Jerusalem under the supervision of the Rector of Christ Church, Rev. David Pileggi.

### **GradCertHE Academic Schedule 2009-2010**

Hebrew Ulpan	3 August-28 August 2009
Fall Semester	31 August-4 December 2009
Christmas Break	5 December 2009-3 January 2010
Greek Ulpan	4 January-29 January 2010
Spring Semester	8 February-14 May 2010
Church Internship	16 May-23 July 2010

### **GradCertHE Programme Summary in Weeks**

- Two semesters academic studies (total of 28 weeks).
- New Testament Greek and biblical Hebrew *ulpan* (4 weeks each).

Church internship (total of 10 weeks).

Completed applications for 2009-2010 including references must be received at the offices of TOPS Institute by November 31, 2008. Replies will be sent to all candidates by December 31, 2009. See Appendix III for payment and refund deadlines.

### **7.3.3 Study Tours**

TOPS Institute in cooperation with SK Tours in Nature present a special series of academic and visual study tours focusing on classical texts and topics, entitled: "A Living Experience of the Heritage of the East."

The following are two examples of tailor-made seminars in this series.

#### **1. "Cities in Antiquity: Beit Shean, Caesarea & Ashkelon."**

##### **Day 1**

Arrival in Caesarea

Afternoon: Introduction to the Seminar

## Day 2

Morning	Study of the excavations of the old city of Caesarea
Afternoon	Study of city planning in Late Antiquity
Evening	Lecture: "The Jewish and Christian Milieu in Caesarea at the Time of Origen"

## Day 3

Morning	Visit to the Temple excavations
Afternoon	Study of texts on Caesarea in Late Antiquity
Evening	Lecture: "Caesarea as the Capital City at the Time of Eusebius"

## Day 4

Morning	Transfer to Beit Shean & study of the site of excavations in the old city of Beit Shean
Afternoon	Study of selected inscriptions found at the site
Evening	Lecture: "The City of Beit Shean in the Byzantine Period"

**Day 5**

<b>Morning</b>	<b>Study of the Cardo and the theaters</b>
<b>Afternoon</b>	<b>Studies of Apocryphal Acts of the Apostles &amp; rabbinic texts</b>
<b>Evening</b>	<b>Studies of texts of Cyril of Scythopolis</b>

**Day 6**

<b>All day</b>	<b>Hiking through Nahal Amud</b>
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**Day 7**

<b>Morning</b>	<b>Transfer to the Galilee</b>
<b>All day</b>	<b>Visits to Nazareth, Sefhoris, Tiberias</b>

**Day 8**

<b>Morning</b>	<b>Transfer to Ashkelon &amp; study of the excavations of the old city of Ashkelon</b>
<b>Afternoon</b>	<b>Study of the city gates</b>
<b>Evening</b>	<b>Lecture: "Development of the City from the Time of the Philistines to the Arab Conquest"</b>

**Day 9**

<b>Morning</b>	<b>Study of selected pottery found in Ashkelon</b>
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**Afternoon** Study of Jewish and Christian texts on the city of Ashkelon in Late Antiquity

**Evening** Lecture: "The Harbour of Ashkelon: Commerce in Late Antiquity"

**Day 10**

Return

**2. "Orthodox Churches in Israel: Syrians, Armenians & Byzantines."** Particularly in the context of the annual ecumenical Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in Jerusalem TOPS Institute offers an introductory seminar to study three of the churches in Jerusalem comprised of nine sessions and two study tours to churches and synagogues in Israel plus participation in the Week of Prayer.

**Day 1**

Early afternoon arrival in Jerusalem

Reception

Introduction to the seminar

**Day 2**

**The Armenian Orthodox Church**

**Morning** Session 1: The Armenian Orthodox

	<b>Church in Jerusalem</b>
	<b>Session 2: Armenian Art</b>
<b>Afternoon</b>	<b>Ecumenical Prayer (Armenian Orthodox Evening Liturgy)</b>
<b>Evening</b>	<b>Session 3: Armenian History in the Last Two Centuries</b>

### **Day 3**

#### **The Greek Orthodox Church**

<b>Morning</b>	<b>Session 4: The Greek Orthodox Patriarchate in Jerusalem</b>
	<b>Session 5: Study of Selected Prayers of the Poet Romanos</b>
<b>Afternoon</b>	<b>Ecumenical Prayer in the Coenaculum</b>
<b>Evening</b>	<b>Session 6: The Status Quo of the Holy Places</b>

### **Day 4**

#### **The Syrian Orthodox Church**

<b>Morning</b>	<b>Session 7: History of the Syrian Orthodox Church</b>
	<b>Session 8: Study of Selected Texts of Ephrem the Syrian</b>

Afternoon	Ecumenical Prayer: Syrian Orthodox Evening Liturgy
Evening	Session 9: The Syrian Orthodox Church in the ME Today

## **Day 5**

### **Study Tour (1)**

Including visits to the Monasteries of St. Gerasimos (Greek Orthodox), St. Sebastia (Rumanian Orthodox), St. Andrew (Coptic Orthodox) and to the ancient synagogues of Beit Alpha and Hamat Gader.

## **Day 6**

### **Study Tour (2)**

Including visits to the Byzantine churches and synagogues at the Sea of Galilee in Safed and Nazareth; Return to Jerusalem.

## **Day 7**

Morning & Afternoon	Free time for study in Jerusalem
Evening	Evaluation of the seminar

## **Day 8**

Return Home

## **8. Course Listing**

### **8.1 Semester Programme Courses**

#### **EARLY CHURCH HISTORY AND BELIEF (EC)**

##### **EC 102**

**Nisibis and Edessa: Meeting Points of Jewish and Christian Tradition in the East.** 3 credits.

The seminar will examine Robert Murray's review of the Christianity of Aphrahat and Ephrem as a break away movement among the Jewish community in Adiabene, which had historic links with Jewish groups in Eretz Israel.

##### **EC 103**

**Testimony to the Early Church in African Inscriptions and Writings.** 3 credits.

The study will focus on documents from the time of the Kingdom of Meroe (c. 700 BCE to c. 300 CE), including

the Ezana inscription (c. 360 CE), and on the transmission of the testimonies from the three Nubian states along the Nile, namely Nobatia, Makuria, and Alodia up to the sixth century CE.

#### **EC 104**

**Qumran, Apocalypses and Early Church Beliefs about the Last Days.** 3 credits.

Based on recent scholarship the seminar will investigate the affinities between apocalyptic materials in the Jewish literary corpus of Qumran literature, the Christian library of Nag Hammadi and the development of the early church beliefs about the last days.

### **PATRISTIC SPIRITUALITY**

#### **PS 201**

**Isaac the Syrian: Master and Guide of Monastic Spirituality.** 3 credits.

Over the centuries, the writings of Isaac the Syrian (7th century CE), technically 'Nestorian,' became the cornerstone for monastic spirituality worldwide. The seminar will examine the major topics of the Ascetic Homilies.

**PS 202**

**John Damascene and Theodore Abu Qurra: The Battle for Christian Icons in the Early Islamic Context.** 3 credits.

The course will introduce the writings on icons of both John of Damascene and Theodore Abu Qurra, will evaluate the relationship between the two contemporaries, and will investigate the thinkers' respective settings within the political and theological context of the time.

**PS 203**

**Macarius the Egyptian: On Death and the Future Life.**

3 credits.

The Spiritual Homilies of Macarius have been of great importance to the understanding of the subject of death and the future life throughout history, including the writings of the Reformation. The course will discover the transmission of those homilies and will analyze the reading of the subject matter in those writings.

**PS 204**

**Divine Providence and Human Free Will: Harmony or Conflict?** 3 credits.

Examining the notions of free will and grace in early

Syrian and African writings the course will juxtapose the suppositions with those in the writings of Latin Western thinkers, in particular Augustine and Pelagius.

## **PATRISTIC EXEGESIS**

### **PE 301**

**The Epistles of Peter in the Understanding of Late Antiquity. 3 credits.**

The Syriac patristic readings of the Epistles of Peter present a number of observations relevant for the historical circumstances of the faith communities of that time and of their belief system. As these interpretations often are concealed from Western scholarly approaches they will be discovered and examined during the course.

### **PE 302**

**How the Successive Conquests of Jerusalem (Roman, Christian, Persian, Muslim) Impacted on Christian Biblical Interpretation. 3 credits.**

Jerusalem is a central object in Christian exegesis. Patristic readings of biblical text references to Jerusalem show how shifting geo-political circumstances of the city have affected the hopes and faith expressions of the

Christian communities. During the course texts reflecting the four main conquests of Jerusalem (Roman, Christian, Persian, Muslim) will be studied.

### **PE 303**

#### **Traditional Ethiopian Exegesis of the Book of Psalms.**

3 credits.

The huge Amharic corpus of Bible commentary contains the traditional exegesis developed by the Church of Ethiopia since the fourth century CE. Western scholars began to pay attention to the orally transmitted material only in the twentieth century. The course will introduce the Ethiopian exegesis of the book of Psalms.

### **PE 304**

#### **How You Read a Text: Are You a Critic or a Skeptic?**

3 credits.

The course will investigate the thesis of Malcolm Lowe, "The Critical and the Skeptical Methods in New Testament Research" (Gregorianum 81:4 (2000), which states that "The critical method proceeds from an understanding of the ensemble to the consideration of the details, whereas the skeptical method picks up on the details in order to

undo the whole, 'overturning truth together with error'" (721). Developed for the reading of the New Testament the argument will be examined in regard to the exegesis of Patristic texts.

## **CHRISTIANS IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND AFRICA (MA)**

### **MA 401**

**The History of Christians in the East.** 3 credits.

The course offers a survey of the history and major doctrinal emphases of the main dissections and unions in Eastern Christianity, in particular the Church of the East, the Oriental Orthodox Churches, the Orthodox Churches, and the Catholic Eastern Churches.

### **MA 402**

**The Revival of Christian Life in the Holy Land in the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries.** 3 credits.

The course focuses on the modern period of Christianity in the Land of Israel, presents the Christian revival since the end of the 18th century amongst the various Christian communities. The aspects of Christian life and existence in Israel today will be presented, paying attention to the specifics of the numerous church denominations and their

interactions with regional factors.

**MA 403**

**How Africa Shaped the Christian Mind.** 3 credits.

The recent book of Thomas C. Oden, *How Africa Shaped the Christian Mind* (Downers Grove, 2007) claims that "The textual riches of ancient African Christianity" (9) need to be rediscovered. This course will examine Oden's thesis and will study some of those "textual riches."

**MA 404**

**The Archaeology of the Christian Presence in the Middle East.** 3 credits.

The course will introduce some of the recent archaeological discoveries in the Middle East, including findings from the Second Temple Period and later on the Temple Mount, Byzantine burial places and churches from the area of Jerusalem, and other locations. The discoveries will be discussed within the frame of written testimonials from the respective periods.

## **8.2 GradCertHE in Theology Courses**

### **GC010 People and Land: Aspects of the Hebrew Bible/ Old Testament**

Instructor: TBA

3 credits. Fall.

### **GC011 The Formation of the Early Church**

Instructor: Rev. Dr. Petra Heldt

3 credits. Fall.

### **GC012 African Studies**

Instructor: Sr. Dr. Kirsten Stoffregen Pedersen

3 credits. Fall.

### **GC013 Ethics in the Judeo-Christian Tradition**

Instructor: Br. Elio Passeto, MA

1.5 credits. Fall.

### **GC014 Biblical Archaeology**

Instructor: Prof. Ross Voss

3 credits. Fall.

**GC015 New Testament**

Instructor: Mr. Malcolm Lowe

3 credits. Spring.

**GC016 Patristic Exegesis**

Instructor: Rev. Dr. Petra Heldt

1.5 credits. Spring.

**GC017 Jewish Thought**

Instructor: TBA

1.5 credits. Spring.

**GC018 History of Liturgy**

Instructor: Sr. Dr. Kirsten Stoffregen Pedersen & Fr. Dr.  
Thomas Maier

3 credits. Spring.

**GC019 Reformation History and Theology**

Instructor: Rev. Canon Dr. h.c. William Broughton

3 credits. Spring.

## ***APPENDIX I***

### **Bank Transfer Information**

Tuition fees are paid via bank transfer and notice of transfers made sent by email or fax to TOPS Institute offices. Bank details are:

The Thomas C. Oden Patristic Studies Institute  
Mercantile Discount Bank Ltd.  
Agron Street 1, Jerusalem, Branch #646

NIS Account Number: 6088  
BIC code: BARDILITXXX

USD Account Number: 646-968013-00-6088  
EURO Account Number: 646-968208-00-6088

IBAN code for international bank transfers:  
IL050176460000055397257

## ***APPENDIX II***

### **Health Insurance Coverage**

Health insurance coverage is provided by the Menora Insurance Company Ltd., arranged prior to the student's arrival and valid from the day of arrival to the day of departure. No refund of this fee is made to students who withdraw or are dismissed prior to the end of their programme and no reduction of the fee is made in cases of late registration. Family plans are available upon request.

**APPENDIX III****2009-2010 Payment & Refund Deadlines**

<b>Programme</b>	<b>Tuition Deposit Due</b>	<b>Last Day for Dep. Refund</b>	<b>Full Balance Due</b>	<b>50% Tuition Refund</b>	<b>25% Tuition Refund</b>
<b>Fall Semester Programme 2009-2010</b>	<b>31 March 2009</b>	<b>1 May 2009</b>	<b>31 Aug 2009</b>	<b>30 Sept 2009</b>	<b>31 Oct 2009</b>
<b>Spring Semester Programme 2009-2010</b>	<b>31 July 2009</b>	<b>1 Sept 2009</b>	<b>4 Jan 2010</b>	<b>31 Jan 2010</b>	<b>28 Feb 2010</b>
<b>Post- Graduate Programme 2009-2010</b>	<b>31 March 2009</b>	<b>1 May 2009</b>	<b>31 Aug 2009</b>	<b>31 Nov 2009</b>	<b>31 Dec 2009</b>
<b>GradCert HE 2009-2010</b>	<b>31 Jan 2009</b>	<b>31 March 2009</b>	<b>31 Aug 2009</b>	<b>31 Oct 2009</b>	<b>30 Nov 2009</b>

## 2009-2010 Academic Calendar

	Semester Programme	Post-Grad Programme	GradCertHE in Theology
<b>Registration &amp; Orientation</b>	24-28 August	24-28 August	20-24 July
<b>Hebrew Ulpan Begins</b>			3 August
<b>Hebrew Ulpan Final Exam</b>			28 August
<b>First Day of Classes (Fall Semester)</b>	31 August		
<b>Rosh HaShana*</b>	19-20 September		
<b>Yom Kippur*</b>	28 September		
<b>Sukkot*</b>	3-11 October		
<b>Reformation Day</b>	25 October		
<b>All Saints Day</b>	1 November		
<b>Last Day of Classes in Fall Semester</b>	27 November		27 November
<b>Fall Exams</b>	30 November-4 December		30 November-4 December

THE THOMAS C. ODEN PATRISTIC STUDIES INSTITUTE

	Semester Programme	Post-Grad Programme	GradCertHE in Theology
<b>Christmas Break Begins</b>	<b>5 December</b>		
<b>Hanukka</b>	<b>12-19 December</b>		
<b>Latin Christmas</b>	<b>25 December</b>		
<b>Spring Semester Begins</b>	4 January 2010		
<b>Greek Ulpan Begins</b>			4 January 2010
<b>Epiphany &amp; Feast of the Theophany</b>	<b>6 January</b>		
<b>Orthodox Christmas</b>	<b>7 January</b>		
<b>Week of Prayer for Christian Unity</b>	<b>c. 23-30 January (TBA)</b>		
<b>Tu B'Shvat</b>	<b>30 January</b>		
<b>Greek Ulpan Final Exam</b>			29 January

	Semester Programme	Post-Grad Programme	GradCertHE in Theology
<b>GradCert HE Spring Semester Begins</b>			<b>8 February</b>
<b>Purim*</b>	<b>28 February- 1 March</b>		
<b>Palm Sunday</b>	<b>28 March</b>		
<b>Passover Feast*</b>	<b>30-31 March</b>		
<b>Passover (Chol HaMoed)*</b>	<b>1-4 April</b>		
<b>Easter/Pascha*</b>	<b>2-4 April</b>		
<b>Passover Final Feast Days*</b>	<b>5-6 April</b>		
<b>Last Day of Classes (Spring Semester)</b>	<b>29 March</b>		
<b>Final Exams (Spring Semester)</b>	<b>7-12 April</b>		

THE THOMAS C. ODEN PATRISTIC STUDIES INSTITUTE

	Semester Programme	Post-Grad Programme	GradCertHE in Theology
<b>Holocaust Remembrance Day</b>	11 April		
<b>Day of Independence</b>	19 April		
<b>Lag B'Omer</b>	2 May		
<b>Last Day of Classes (Spring Semester)</b>			7 May
<b>Final Exams (Spring Semester)</b>			10-14 May
<b>Church Internship</b>			16 May- 23 July

***\*No classes will be held on these days.***

## ***APPENDIX IV***

### **English-Language Proficiency Guidelines**

Non-native English speakers are required to take the *Test of English as a Foreign Language* (TOEFL®) to provide evidence of their English proficiency before acceptance to TOPS Institute. Registration for the test can be done online at [www.ets.org/toefl](http://www.ets.org/toefl). The minimum TOEFL® score required is 550 (paper version) or 100 (Internet version). The cost of the test is not included in TOPS Institute tuition fees. According to information at the TOEFL® website at the time of printing this catalogue, the cost for a test in Israel was \$175 USD.

#### **Exceptions**

Non-native English speakers who:

1. Hold degrees or diplomas from post-secondary institutions in English-speaking countries.
2. Have successfully completed or successfully pursued at least a two-year course of study in which English was the main language of instruction.
3. Have taken the TOEFL® test within the past two years. Test results must be included in the application package.