
DP 3096 THE CHRISTOLOGICAL ANTHROPOLOGY OF MAXIMUS THE CONFESSOR

Thu 10.30-12.15

First semester 2017-18
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Handouts will be posted at www.romestudy.org/maximus.html

Maximus the Confessor provides a synthesis of the Patristic tradition regarding the human person in relation to God. He develops an anthropology that is developed in concert with his Christology and shows that the deification of the human person is already accomplished in Christ as its ground and exemplar.

THE TEXTS TO BE STUDIED CAN BE FOUND IN ENGLISH IN:

- Maximus the Confessor, *Selected Writings*, trans. George C. Berthold (Mahwah, NJ: Paulist Press, 1985).
- Andrew Louth, *Maximus the Confessor* (London: Routledge, 1996).
- Maximus the Confessor, *On Difficulties in the Church Fathers*, ed. Nicholas Constas, 2 vols. (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2014). This also contains the Greek text.

EXPECTATIONS

Students are expected to carefully read the texts of Maximus under study before the class that discusses them (see below) and reflect on (1) their relationship to one another, (2) their implications for the human person, (3) the relationship expressed between Christological accuracy and anthropological accuracy, (4) and their relationship with the tradition. During class, students are encouraged to raise questions and contribute their own insights. An attentive reading to the secondary literature, especially those works given below, is an essential complement to excellent performance in the course.

CLASS MEETINGS

- Oct 5: Post-Chalcedonian Christology
 - Context
 - “Preface”, “Foreword”, and “Introduction” in Berthold, xi-13
- ~~Oct 12 (class cancelled)~~
- Oct 19: Seventh century Christological controversies
 - *Trial of Maximus*, in Berthold, 15-31
 - Context
 - “Life and Times”, in Louth, 3-18
- Oct 26: First readings in Maximus’s anthropology
 - *Letter 2: On Love*, in Louth, 81-93
 - *Four Hundred Chapters on Love*, in Berthold, 33-98
 - Context
 - “The Sources of Maximus’s Theology”, in Louth, 19-32
 - “Maximus’s Spiritual Theology”, in Louth, 33-47
- Nov 2: Initial Christological explorations
 - *Opuscule 7 and Opuscule 3*, in Louth, 180-198
 - Context
 - “The Doctrine of the Person of Christ”, in Louth, 48-62
 - “Cosmic Theology”, in Louth, 63-77

- Nov 9: Developing Maximus's anthropology
 - *Commentary on the Our Father and Chapters on Knowledge*, in Berthold, 99-180
 - Context
 - Lars Thunberg, *Microcosm and Mediator*
- Nov 16: Ecclesial anthropology
 - *The Church's Mystagogy*, in Berthold, 181-225
 - Context
 - Hans Urs von Balthasar, *Cosmic Liturgy*
- ~~Nov 23~~ (class cancelled)
- Nov 30: Systematic reflections (1)
 - *Ambigua to Thomas*, 1-5, in Constatas, vol. 1, 1-59 (*Ambiguum* or *Difficulty* 5 is also in Louth, 171-179)
- Dec 7: Systematic reflections (2)
 - *Ambigua to John*, 1-10, in Constatas, vol. 1, 62-343; (*Ambiguum* or *Difficulty* 10 is also in Louth, 94-154)
- Dec 14: Systematic reflections (3)
 - *Ambigua to John* 11-40, in Constatas, vol. 1, 344-451 and vol. 2, 1-101
- Jan 11: Systematic reflections (4)
 - *Ambigua to John* 41-71, in Constatas, vol. 2, 122-351; (*Ambiguum* or *Difficulty* 41 is also in Louth, 155-162)
- Jan 18: Conclusions
Exams: Jan 25 and Feb 1

ESSENTIAL SECONDARY READING

- Bathrellos, Demetrios, *The Byzantine Christ: Person, Nature, and Will in the Christology of Saint Maximus the Confessor* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2004).
- Cooper, Adam G., *The Body in St. Maximus the Confessor: Wholly Flesh, Wholly Deified* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2005).
- Larchet, J.-C., *La divinisation de l'homme selon saint Maxime le Confesseur* (Paris: Les Editions du Cerf, 1996).
- Larchet, Jean-Claude, *Saint Maxime le Confesseur* (Paris: Cerf, 2003).
- McFarland, Ian A., "Fleshing Out Christ: Maximus the Confessor's Christology in Anthropological Perspective," *St. Vladimir's Theological Quarterly* 49 (2005), 417-36.
- McFarland, Ian A., "'Naturally and By Grace': Maximus the Confessor on the Operation of the Will", *Scottish Journal of Theology* 58 (2005), 410-433.
- McFarland, Ian A., "'Willing is Not Choosing': Some Anthropological Implications of Dyothelite Christology", *International Journal of Systematic Theology* 9 (2007), 3-23.
- Perl, Eric David, *Methexis: Creation, incarnation, deification in Saint Maximus Confessor* (Yale University, 1991).
- Renczes, Philipp-Gabriel, *Agir de Dieu et liberté de l'homme: Recherches sur l'anthropologie théologique de saint Maxime le Confesseur* (Paris: Cerf, 2003).
- Thunberg, Lars, *Microcosm and Mediator: The Theological Anthropology of Maximus the Confessor* (Chicago: Open Court Press, 1995), originally published in 1965.
- Tollefsen, Torstein, *The Christocentric Cosmology of St. Maximus the Confessor* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2008).
- von Balthasar, Hans Urs, *Cosmic Liturgy: The Universe According to Maximus the Confessor*, trans. Brian E. Daley (San Francisco: Ignatius Press, 2001).