

St. Athanasius Academy

Class Syllabus – Virtues & Passions

Teacher Information

Name: Fr. Paul Girgis

Phone: 509-845-4540

Email: frpaulgirgis@gmail.com

Course Description

This course is designed to offer students a practical understanding of the fight against entanglement in the Passions, while living a life struggling to cultivate the Virtues. It involves the study of the Fathers and several contemporary theologians and holy elders – most notably St. Paisios of Mt. Athos.

Required Text (to be purchased by the parents/guardians)

- No required text

Recommended text (optional, not required)

- St. Paisios of Mount Athos - Spiritual Counsels V: Passions and Virtues
Publication Number 045b; ASIN: B01H95DAGY
Publisher: Holy Hesychasterion “Evangelist John the Theologian” Souroiti, Thessaloniki, Greece
- Fr. Paul may recommend various texts throughout the course.

Course Competencies/Learning Objectives

- Understand how man was created, what he was created for and the spiritual brokenness he finds himself in today.
- Discover the method in which one is spiritually redeemed (healed)
- Realize the danger of Passions and how we become entangled in their disorienting web.
- Beginning to grasp the essential nature of cultivating Virtue and the practical methods in which one does.

Grading/Evaluations

Every effort will be given by the faculty to help students succeed, but laziness and lack of achievement cannot

be ignored. Also, it is unfair to give two students the same grade who did not apply themselves equally. Therefore, grades will be at the discretion of the teacher.

Class participation & engagement (70%)

Attendance (30%)

Attendance

We do not have an official attendance policy, but a lack of attendance could affect participation and final grading by the teacher. The virtual classrooms are available to any students with internet access. We attempt to record all video calls to make them available for students who are absent. The recorded videos, while not as useful as live interaction, are made available for enrolled students to review when absent. We are unable to promise that 100% of all video calls will be recorded and posted online.

Classroom Expectations

1. “Arrive” to class on time
2. Turn on AND leave on
 - a. Microphone
 - b. Speakers
 - c. Camera
3. Be prepared to engage in discussion
4. Respect your classmates and teacher
 - a. NO “chatting” in message box during lecture unrelated to topic. Very distracting to classmates and instructor.
 - b. NO obnoxious movements on camera (spinning in chair, making faces, etc.)

Class Requirements

Attending class each week and engaging in discussion. While there is no homework, at the instructors discretion, an assignment may be given.

Plagiarism, Cheating, and Academic Integrity

Plagiarism is the practice of copying words, sentences, images, or ideas for use in written or oral assessments without giving proper credit to the source. Cheating is defined as the giving or receiving of illegal help on anything that has been determined by the teacher to be an individual effort. Both are considered serious offenses and will significantly affect your course grade.

General Information:

Fr. Paul’s “office door” is always open. Whether you have a question related to the course or are looking for a “pastoral ear”, do not hesitate to reach out.