



HALC  
HELLENIC AMERICAN  
LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

HEP6

## Inception to Orthodoxy: A Journey through the Early Church & the Orthodox Church

Professor Despina Iosif

### OVERVIEW

How is a devout Orthodox envisaged today? Do Greeks model their lives accordingly? To what extent is Orthodoxy part of the Greek identity?

This Seminar is a journey to the history, faith, liturgy, and spirituality of the Orthodox Church, the largest of the Eastern Christian Churches. Special emphasis will be given to the early Christian world and early Christian values since keeping tradition is of the utmost importance for the Eastern Orthodox Church. The exploration will be based on lectures, readings of primary sources and secondary bibliography, audio-visual presentations, discussion, and personal experience.

**Join us in:** exploring how Christianity begun, discussing Christianity's formative years, examining the validity of the popular claim that the early Christian world was uniform, and reflecting on how many of the early Christian values are still kept intact.

**Goals and Objectives:** to familiarize with the rich history, heritage and tradition of the Eastern Orthodox Church; to discover the common spiritual foundation and background of Christianity in East and West; to exhibit awareness of participants' own experience of religious tradition and commitment as well as differences in perspective and opinion; to dispel popular myths and challenge misconceptions about early Christianity.

### PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS - SESSIONS & TOPICS

- I. The early Christian world. Jesus and apostle Paul
- II. Christian Scripture
- III. The importance of dying for the faith in the early Christian years and today
- IV. Asceticism and monasticism
- V. Emperor Constantine and his legacy today
- VI. Icons and the separation between Catholic and Orthodox Churches

[executive-program@cyathens.org](mailto:executive-program@cyathens.org)



The Chi-Rho symbol

LIVE ONLINE  
zoom

### DATES

3 February – 16 March 2024

\*Every Saturday at 12 noon ET  
(no class on 24 February 2024)

### REGISTRATION DEADLINE

31 January 2024

### FEE

\$300 USD paid in full by 2 February 2024

The program fee includes access to material on Moodle, a Zoom Registration Link, and a certificate of participation upon program completion. CYA Executive Alumni receive a 10% discount.

### INFORMATION

For more information, email [executive-program@cyathens.org](mailto:executive-program@cyathens.org) or [click here](#) to register for the program.

**Save your seat!**

Program attendance is limited

Program content, dates, schedule, fees, technology platforms, and faculty are subject to change.

CYA | HELLENIC EXECUTIVE PROGRAM

# "A spectacular educational process. A real intellectual satisfaction."

Whitman Knapp | CYA Executive Alumni (HEP1, HEP2, HEP3, HEP4, HEP5)



Early Christian statue, from Corinth, of Jesus Christ as a shepherd. Now on display at the Byzantine Museum of Athens, 3rd cent. CE



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## ABOUT THE PROGRAM

In partnership with HALC (Hellenic American Leadership Council), College Year in Athens has formed the **CYA Hellenic Executive Program (HEP)**. The CYA HEP, dedicated to bringing CYA's rigorous academic profile in an online format, offers online educational seminars to all interested who desire to further their knowledge on all topics associated with Greece, from ancient civilization to modern-day development.

Each Seminar runs for six weeks, meeting once a week, on Saturdays at 12 noon ET for one hour, followed by an exchange of views between participants and the professor. Sessions typically last between sixty to ninety minutes and are held in a synchronous online teaching environment (via Zoom). Participants have access to material on Moodle and a Zoom Link. After each session, a recording of the lecture is available to participants.

The CYA Hellenic Executive Program has no formal education requirements, recognizing that participants come from diverse backgrounds and with varying experience in the subject of each Seminar; however, the Seminars are rigorous and require academic work. A Certificate of Participation is issued upon completion of each Seminar.

## FACULTY



### Professor Despina Iosif

PhD in Ancient History from  
University College London

CYA Religious Studies  
Professor

**Despina Iosif** holds a PhD in Ancient History from University College London (2004). She finds that religion is the most fascinating aspect of human history and likes to explore how religion affects people's everyday lives and continues to vest powerful emotions. Her main research interests are violence and the body in the Graeco-Roman world, Galen, Libanius, Roman prisons, the emergence of Christianity, and paradoxographic writing in antiquity.

Iosif has taught History of Religion courses at CYA since 2007. She has also taught at University College London, Democritus University of Thrace, University of Crete, and the Hellenic Open University. She is the author of many books, including *Early Christian Attitudes to War, Violence and Military Service* (Gorgias Press, 2013), and many articles, including 'Religious Violence' in *Augustine in Context*, T. Toom, (ed.), Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, 2017, 195-202, and the forthcoming: 'The Oral Slogans of the Graeco-Roman Crowds' in *Audience Response in Ancient Greek and Latin Literature*, (Brepols, 2024).

She has worked as a Historical Advisor for the BBC1 documentary *In the Footsteps of St. Paul*. She is also the co-founder and member of the editorial board of the scholarly ejournal on late antiquity *PostAugustum* ([www.postaugustum.com](http://www.postaugustum.com)).

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### Professor Despina Iosif

Live Online	Fee US \$300*	*10% discount for CYA Executive Alumni
Registration Deadline	31 January 2024	
Date	3 February 2024 – 16 March 2024	(no class on 24 February 2024)
Time & Duration	12-noon Eastern Time   90 minutes	
Award Upon Completion	Certificate of Participation	