



The European Academy of Coptic Heritage (TEACH)

Course Title: The Orthodox Tradition – Year 1

Level: Certificate

Duration: October 2025 – June 2026

Course Objective

This course introduces students to the **Orthodox understanding of Tradition** as lived, preserved, and transmitted within the Church since the apostolic era. It explores the writings of the **Church Fathers**, the role of the Holy Spirit in the life of the Church, and the relationship between **Scripture and Tradition** as two inseparable sources of divine revelation.

Through the study of theological history and key controversies, students will understand how Tradition safeguards the true faith, preserves apostolic teaching, and provides an authentic interpretation of Holy Scripture in the life of the Coptic Orthodox Church.

Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to answer the following questions:

1. What is the tradition in the concept of the fathers and how the early church lived it?
2. And what is the difference between the apostolic tradition and the local tradition of each church?
3. And which tradition takes precedence, the apostolic or local?
4. Why does the church reject the principle of “only the Holy Bible”?
5. How is the Orthodox tradition a solution to the problems of the early reformers?
6. When did the theological split between tradition and the Bible begin in the West?
7. Why did Martin Luther choose to create a new church and not join the Orthodox Church?
8. When he disagreed with the Catholic Church?
9. The early reformers battled with the Catholic Church over who has theological authority: the Church is above the Bible or vice versa. What is the correct answer in our Orthodox conception?
10. And many questions that we examine and answer through this course

Course Structure (Modules)

Module 1 – The Meaning and Life of Tradition

Module 2 – Apostolic and Local Traditions

Module 3 – Scripture and Tradition in the Orthodox Church

Module 4 – The Orthodox Tradition and the Reformation

Module 5 – The Ongoing Witness of the Orthodox Tradition

Assessment

Two term exams.

Prerequisites

GCSE certificate, high school, or equivalent qualification.

Delivery Method

The course will be delivered entirely **online** through TEACH's **Learning Management System (LMS)**.

All lectures will be delivered by **Zoom**, and students will have access to recorded lectures, reading materials, and an interactive discussion forum on the course website.

Certificate

Upon successful completion of the course and passing both term exams, participants will receive a **Certificate in The Orthodox Tradition (Year 1)** from **The European Academy of Coptic Heritage (TEACH)**.