

The European Academy of Coptic Heritage (TEACH)

Course Title: The Civilisational Heritage of the Syriac Orthodox Church of Antioch

Level: Diploma

Course Objective

This course explores the rich civilisational and spiritual heritage of the **Syriac Orthodox Church of Antioch**, one of the most ancient apostolic Churches in Christianity. It aims to present the historical, linguistic, cultural, and theological contributions of the Syriac tradition to world civilization and the Christian faith.

Through a journey across centuries of spiritual depth, intellectual development, and cultural creativity, students will gain insight into the **Aramaic-Syriac heritage**, its enduring influence on theology, liturgy, science, and the arts, and its profound connection to the Coptic and Oriental Orthodox traditions.

Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Understand the historical and theological foundations of the Syriac Orthodox Church of Antioch.
2. Recognise the role of the Aramaic-Syriac language and culture in shaping Christian civilization.
3. Appreciate the Syriac Church's contributions to theology, liturgy, science, literature, and philosophy.
4. Identify the key institutions, monasteries, and scholars that preserved Syriac learning across centuries.
5. Discuss the challenges and resilience of the Syriac Orthodox Church under historical and political pressures.
6. Reflect on the contemporary revival of Syriac scholarship and its relevance to modern Christianity.

Course Structure

1. Introduction: The concept of heritage and civilization
2. The civilisational heritage of the Syriac Orthodox Church
3. The Aramean Syriacs and their historical identity
4. The Aramaic-Syriac language and its evolution
5. The Aramaic-Syriac culture and literature
6. The Syriac script and its influence on Eastern writing systems
7. Syriac monasteries, schools, and libraries as centres of learning
8. Syriac poetry, music, and liturgical chant
9. Syriac liturgical books and their theological significance
10. The Syriac Synaxarion and saints' traditions
11. Psychology, medicine, and natural sciences among the Syriacs
12. Translation and interpretation in Syriac tradition — including biblical translations
13. The Syriac historians and their contributions to Christian historiography
14. The expansion of the Syriac Church among the Arabs
15. Monastic life and its central role in the Church
16. The trials of the Syriac Church under political and historical challenges (Ottoman and modern eras)
17. The twentieth-century Syriac cultural and scientific renaissance
18. The role of women in monastic and diaconal service
19. Orientalists and the modern revival of Syriac heritage
20. Course summary and general review

Assessment

- Two **term exams** evaluating understanding of historical, linguistic, and theological aspects.
- Optional research paper on a chosen topic related to Syriac heritage, language, or spirituality.

Prerequisites

- GCSE certificate, high school, or equivalent qualification.
- Certificate of the History of Syriac Church Course.

Delivery Method

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

- All lectures will be conducted via **Zoom**.
- Participants will have access to **recorded lectures, reading materials**, and an online **discussion forum**.

Duration

October 2025 – June 2026

Certificate

Upon successful completion of the course and passing both term exams, participants will receive a **Certificate of Completion** in *The Civilizational Heritage of the Syriac Orthodox Church of Antioch* Diploma from the **European Academy of Coptic Heritage (TEACH)**.