The course will examine the phenomenon of the veneration of icons. Production and veneration of icons stands at the very heart of the Christianity since the early Christian era and it continues to be so in Orthodox Christianity today. The course will highlight important milestones in the centuries-long history of icons in the Byzantine and Post-Byzantine culture. It will confront the formal theological background of image veneration with the ways icons are venerated by the simple believer. We shall analyze some of the technical and formal aspects of icon production. Special focus of the course will be the famous miracle working icons, familiar to every Orthodox believer. The course will question whether icon veneration is limited to the realm of Orthodox Christianity, or it spread to the Catholic world, as well. Finally, the place of icons in the religious experience of contemporary believers will be examined. The course is
based on weekly obligatory reading in English. The course includes tours in Israel.

Dr. Irshad's course requires a weekly compulsory reading in English. The course includes tours in Israel.

The course includes tours in Israel.

Dr. Irshad’s course requires:

- Attending classes in class, preparing and presenting weekly readings in English.
- Final examination.

Course content and examination:

- 30% — preparation of weekly readings and presentations in class.
- 72% — final examination.

Topics covered:

1. Introduction to the course:


2. Origins of the Icon — Origins in the Ancient World, and the History of Iconography:


3. Theological Analysis of the Icon — The theological framework in the Orthodox Church.


- Decree of the Second Council of Nicea, 787.


- Aidan Hart (Contemporary Orthodox Iconographer)


