

DISTANCE LEARNING MASTER'S PROGRAM



# DISTANCE LEARNING MASTER'S PROGRAM IN ECUMENICAL STUDIES



UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY







*D*ear Prospective Student,  
The DLPES is a cooperation between the committed and innovative staff of the Institute of Ecumenical Studies, an accomplished, multi-confessional and international faculty, and the dynamic spirit of the Ukrainian Catholic University. Being part of this exciting cooperation will be an academically productive and spiritually enlightening experience for students in both the Church and the world. I wholeheartedly give my blessing to the Distance Learning Program, its students, faculty, and new staff, and I look forward to seeing the fruits of this new, borderless, boundary-less ecumenical education.

Father Borys Gudziak  
Ph.D. Rector,  
Ukrainian Catholic University



*I* am proud to present to you the first-ever distance learning Master's Program in Ecumenical Studies. This program is the result of the preparation and contemplation of several years, and we are now able to offer you a truly unique and worthwhile experience in distance learning.

The inspiration to create such a program in ecumenism came from the nature of the field itself: ecumenism is driven by a desire to gather the dispersed people of God. Distance learning gives us the opportunity to gather those deeply concerned by the disunity of the Body of Christ from around the world, thereby creating an online community who can address critical questions and explore possibilities for healing.

We created this program with the aim of building an international, inter-confessional, academic community, who could establish constructive inter-denominational dialogue. We do not promote confessionalism, nor do we attempt to reduce to the differences between Christian denominations or between Christians and non-Christians. The varying Christian approaches, or denominations, will receive faithful and unembarrassed representation from their adherents among both our faculty and our student body, helping to establish genuine dialogue.

You will enjoy and benefit from our carefully selected reading materials, our accomplished and ecumenically committed professors, the flexibility of the program, the ability to participate while at a distance, and the ecumenical community which we have created and which we continue to create.

We look forward to working with you.

Antoine Arjakovsky  
Director, Institute of  
Ecumenical Studies



### *What is the DISTANCE LEARNING PROGRAM?*

The Distance Learning Master's Degree Program in Ecumenical Studies (DLPES) at the Institute of Ecumenism is the first and only distance program offered in Ecumenical Studies in the world. This innovative program gives students throughout the world the opportunity to study the depth and diversity of contemporary ecumenism under the guidance of a world-class teaching faculty. Our program is ideal for the independent, motivated student who wants to study ecumenism through reading- and writing-intensive courses, and to participate in an international ecumenical network of students and scholars of ecumenism.

Our program offers foundational courses, including introductory courses in Christian theological traditions, ecumenical theology, ecclesiology, and history. In addition to these foundational courses, electives are offered throughout the academic year, providing students with the opportunity to study particular aspects of historical or contemporary ecumenism according to their interests. Students must successfully complete fifteen courses within the program to be eligible for the Master's degree of Ecumenical Studies. Upon successful completion of these fifteen required courses, degree-seeking students may devote one academic semester to completing a Master's thesis under the supervision of a member of the DLPES faculty. In addition to their coursework, students of the program report on visits to churches of various confessions, thus incorporating their course work into observational practice.



## ***COURSES OFFERED:***

### ***FALL SEMESTER***

Survey of the Catholic Tradition  
Dr. Peter De Mey (Belgium)

Survey of the Protestant Tradition  
Dr. Ted Campbell (USA)

History of the Ecumenical Movement  
Dr. Erich Geldbach (Germany)

Liturgy and Sacraments  
Fr. Dr. Thaddee Barnas (Belgium)

Oriental Churches and Ecumenical  
Rapprochement  
Fr. Dr. Ken Yossa (USA)

Ecumenical Hagiology  
Deacon Didier Rance (France)

Bi-Lateral and Multi-lateral  
Ecumenical Dialogues  
Fr. Dr. Thomas Baima (USA) and  
Dr. Heleen Zorgdrager (Netherlands)

### ***SPRING SEMESTER***

Survey of the Eastern Christian  
Tradition TBA

Christian History - An Ecumenical  
Perspective  
Dr. Antoine Arjakovsky (Ukraine)

Ecumenical Social Ethics  
Dr. Konrad Raiser (Germany)

Opposition to Ecumenism  
Fr. Dr. Michael Plekon (USA)

Ecumenical Theology TBA  
Eastern Catholic Churches and  
Ecumenism  
Fr. Dr. Ivan Dacko and Taras Kurylets  
(Ukraine)

Ecumenism and Literature  
Bishop Seraphim Sigris (USA)



### *What does each course consist of?*

It is the priority of the DLPES to offer its students both flexibility and structure during their study experience within the program. The organization of DLPES courses strikes the balance between structure and flexibility as best as possible.

Each DLPES course consists of a course syllabus, bibliography, and thematic introductions provided by the course professor to each of the seven, two-week long sections of a course. At the end of each section, students will submit a short response paper that is read and constructively evaluated by their course professor. Students are also encouraged to share questions, reflections, and analyses with their peers and professors through the online course forum. At the end of each semester, students complete their final papers for all of their courses. Each course therefore includes fourteen consecutive weeks of coursework and five weeks of independent work on the final paper.



## ***Our Faculty***

The Distance Learning Program in Ecumenical Studies is proud to offer its students the opportunity to study under the guidance of some of the most respected experts in ecumenism today from around the world and across Christian traditions. Among our professors:



### **Fr. Dr. Michael Plekon**

Father Michael Plekon is a professor in both the department of Sociology/Anthropology and the Program of Religion & Culture at Baruch College at the City University of New York (CUNY). He has written extensively on Kierkegaard's theology and social criticism, and also studied the thinkers of the Russian emigration in Paris and their efforts to bring the church into conversation with the modern world. He is a priest of the Orthodox Church in America.



### **Dr. Konrad Raiser**

Reverend Dr. Konrad Raiser studied sociology and social psychology at Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts. He was an assistant in Practical Theology at the Protestant Theological Department in Tübingen, and joined the staff of the World Council of Churches in Geneva. He was also a Professor of Systematic Theology/Ecumenics at the Protestant Theological Department of the University of the Ruhr in Bochum. He assumed leadership of the WCC as General Secretary in 1993 and retired from this office in 2003.



### **Dr. Erich Geldbach**

Erich Geldbach received his doctorate in Protestant Theology from Philipps University in Marburg. He has taught church history and ecumenical studies at his alma mater, Harvard Divinity School, as well as at many other schools around the world. He is the author or editor of 17 books and many articles in both German and English on ecumenical issues.



### **Deacon Didier Rance**

Since 1985, he has been Deacon in both the Latin and the Byzantine rites. He studied History at the Sorbonne University (Paris), and holds a Master's degree in Medieval History. His main area of research is Byzantine History. Deacon Rance has spent ten years in the Middle East and Africa doing Humanitarian work. Deacon Rance is the author of about twenty books, mainly on martyrs and persecuted Churches. His current fields of research are martyrdom, forgiveness, St. Ephrem and the Syrian Churches, and ecumenism.





### **Heleen Zorgdrager**

Reverend Dr. Heleen Zorgdrager obtained her Ph.D. (cum laude) in 2003 at the Theological University of Kampen. She works in the Mission Department (Kerk in Actie) of the Protestant Church in the Netherlands as Program Officer for Europe, and is also a Delegated Lecturer at Ukrainian Catholic University (Lviv). Dr. Zorgdrager is an ordained pastor in the Protestant Church in the Netherlands. Dr. Zorgdrager's specialties in Protestant systematic theology, ecumenical theology, theology of mission, and pastoral theology. She has published works on Friedrich Schleiermacher, Karl Barth, women's studies, and ecumenical issues.



### **Father Thaddée Barnas**

Father Thaddée Barnas is a monk of the Benedictine Monastery of Chevetogne in Belgium. He came to Belgium in 1964 to join the Chevetogne Monastery, known for its ecumenical work and its affinity for the Eastern Churches. Father Barnas teaches ecumenics at the Studium Notre-Dame in Namur, Belgium. He is also a chronicler and the editorial secretary of the journal *Irenikon*. He is active in ecumenical commissions on local, national, and European levels.



### **Father Thomas A. Baima**

Father Thomas A. Baima is a priest of the Archdiocese of Chicago (Latin Rite) and provost of the University of Saint Mary of the Lake / Mundelein Seminary, where he is also a full professor of systematic theology. He researches fundamental theology, interreligious dialogue, organizational studies as they apply to North American religion, theology of religion, and contemporary Lutheran ecumenism. Father Baima holds a doctorate in theology from the Pontifical University of Saint Thomas Aquinas in Rome.



### **Dr. Peter De Mey**

Dr. Peter De Mey's teaching and research focuses on Roman Catholic ecclesiology and ecumenism. He is the director of the Faculty's Centre for Ecumenical Research and is currently the President of the European association of ecumenical research, and member of the of the American Academy of Religion. He is a member of the National Commission for Ecumenism, an institution sponsored by the Catholic Church in Belgium.



### **Ted Campbell**

Dr. Ted A. Campbell was an associate professor of Church History with a concentration in Methodist history. Campbell currently serves as visiting professor of the History of Christianity at Claremont School of Theology in Claremont, CA. He previously served as president of Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary in Evanston, IL. He has taught at the Methodist Theological School in Ohio, Duke Divinity School, and was a professor of the History of Christianity at Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, D.C.



### ***How long does it take?***

The Master's program is designed to be completed in two years. Students wishing to study on a part-time basis, however, may take up to six years to finish their degree.

### ***What if I just want to take one course?***

Students can register for individual classes of the program without seeking the Master's degree.

### ***How will this program be useful for my future?***

This program is intended primarily to be an introductory or supplementary education for individuals working in other academic or non-academic disciplines, particularly in ministry. It is especially important for those interested in working in an ecumenical field, or in continuing on to a Ph.D. program. Nevertheless, we do not seek to educate professionals only. The DLPES is strongly recommended for all those who have an interest in matters of Christian unity. The flexible distance-learning format of this program enables anyone, regardless of primary occupation, to learn and participate in this project.

### ***Where can I find out more, and how do I apply?***

Please visit our website for more information and for the application form. We look forward to seeing you at... [www.iesdistance.org.ua](http://www.iesdistance.org.ua)



***We would like to thank everyone who has helped shape the Program into what it is today, through both prayers and financial donations.***

If you are interested in making a contribution, please contact us at...

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Branch:	Lviv regional branch
City:	Lviv
Country:	Ukraine
Bank address:	pl. Mitskevycha, 10
Bank ZIP-code:	79000

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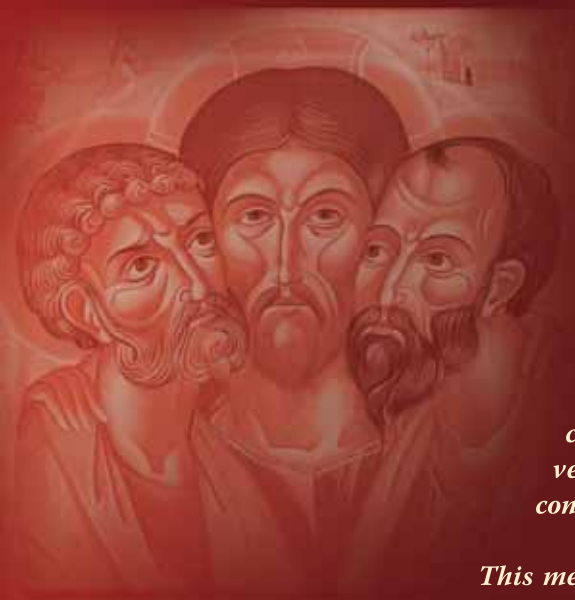
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*Ecumenism is the constant search and finding of what unites Christians and the constant rethinking of what sets them apart. This attitude of fervent prayer, humility, studying each other, and cooperating in concordance is the vector, backbone, and essence of contemporary ecumenical movement.*

*This means the search in one's spirit for truth – and mainly love – for more roads, leading to reconciliation and mutual forgiveness, for the explanation of mistakes which have accumulated throughout history. Ecumenism expects and calls forth directly methanoya - internal spiritual conversion and penance. It becomes fruitful where there is humility and obedience.*

*Protopresbyter Ivan Dacko,  
Dr. Theol., President of the IES*

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