SPECIAL REGULATION FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF E-LEARNING

Postgraduate Program "Religious Studies and Intercultural Research"

Department of Social Theology and Religious Studies

The **Special Regulation for the Implementation of E-Learning** of the Postgraduate Program of the Department of Social Theology and Religious Studies of the NKUA, titled "Religious Studies and Intercultural Research," was approved at the 9th meeting of the Department's General Assembly on 24/2/2025.

1. University Services for E-Learning Support

The National and Kapodistrian University of Athens (NKUA) operates the Center for Network Operation and Management (KLEIDI), which provides a comprehensive package of e-learning and multimedia production support services. These services are available to faculty members to integrate new technologies into their educational and research work and include:

- Electronic Classroom (e-Class)
- Academic Video Lectures
- Live Streaming
- Other Services.

KLEIDI's philosophy focuses on disseminating know-how and establishing infrastructure within each Department, so support can be provided locally by each Department's technical staff. Nationally, additional support units complement university services. An example is the GU eLearning & Media Support Center (KYMA), part of the Academic Internet (GUnet), a non-profit organization for all universities and technical institutions in Greece. KYMA is designed to provide the above services and support synchronous and asynchronous distance learning.

2. Course Development and Implementation Methodology

The "Electronic Classroom" (eclass.uoa.gr) is a comprehensive e-course management system and supports asynchronous distance learning at NKUA without restrictions. Access is through a web browser, with no special technical skills needed. Integrating distance learning methods at NKUA enhances teaching and access to interdisciplinary knowledge by combining new methods with traditional instruction. Participants can choose their own

time for communication and access to course content. There is also digital organization and distribution of course materials and multiple communication tools for instructors and students, facilitating smooth course delivery. The main goals of the e-Class are:

- Integration of new technologies into educational activity
- Electronic organization and presentation of educational materials (notes, assignments, presentations, etc.)
- Constructive educational use of the internet
- Ease of use for instructors and students without technical expertise
- Structured and unified presentation of courses.

Content and copyright of e-Class courses belong to their creators. For synchronous distance learning, NKUA uses the WebEx service in collaboration with CISCO. WebEx supports up to 1,000 participants per session and offers high-quality video conferencing. It is connected to university accounts and accessible at https://uoa.webex.com/.

3. Teaching Delivery Methods and Forms of Teaching and Student Assessment

Academic teaching in the Program is provided 70% via synchronous distance learning and 30% in-person. The Program is fully supported by physical, technical, and electronic infrastructure. Synchronous distance education is chosen to accommodate working postgraduate students, reducing time and cost losses. Student assessment methods are at the instructor's discretion. If written exams are chosen as the final assessment, they may be conducted in-person or electronically, provided reliability, transparency, and validity are fully ensured.

4. General Course Structure Model

Courses using synchronous distance learning will be conducted via WebEx. Students will have university email accounts (@uoa.gr), which will be used to form mailing lists and send invitations for online classes.

5. Student Support System

Students will have access to all guides on using e-Class and WebEx, as well as continuous support from KLEIDI staff. Any technical issues with online education services are expected to be resolved immediately. Due to the recent pandemic and intensive shift to distance learning, students are now broadly familiar with related concepts and technical aspects.

6. Faculty Support with Mandatory Training

Faculty and teaching staff will have guides for e-Class and WebEx, and support from KLEIDI staff to resolve any technical issues. The recent

pandemic has also made instructors widely familiar with the use and operation of distance education systems.

7. Synchronous Distance Learning

The Program will use a blended learning model, combining 30% in-person teaching and 70% synchronous distance learning, at the discretion of the Coordinating Committee. Organization of courses and educational activities using synchronous distance learning is limited to those activities that can be supported remotely. Activities requiring physical presence, such as field research or participation in religious and cultural events, are excluded. The NKUA Digital Governance Unit is responsible for supporting distance education and data protection.

8. Asynchronous Distance Learning

Courses may also use asynchronous distance learning, which cannot exceed 25% of the Program's credits. NKUA maintains an accessible online platform for asynchronous distance learning, including for people with disabilities. Course materials provided include:

- Lecture notes
- Lecture presentations
- Multimedia material
- Bibliographic sources
- Exercises and assignments
- Case studies
- Topics for discussion and reflection

All educational material is for educational use only and is protected by copyright law (Law 2121/1993) where applicable. Special care is taken for accessibility, with alternative forms provided (e.g., audio for texts, subtitles for videos, etc.). Asynchronous distance learning complements synchronous teaching, offering flexibility and opportunities for deeper study.