

## **STMM 5100 Theology and Practice of Worship (Summer, 2014)**

Seattle University School of Theology and Ministry

July 14–18, 9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.

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The purpose of the class is to: (1) examine the history, theologies, and practices of Christian worship from an ecumenical perspective; (2) aid the development of foundations and skills for worship leadership in the Church; and (3) encourage theological thinking and evaluation in regard to the liturgical life of the faith community.

### **Learning Outcomes:**

By the conclusion of this course, each student should be able to demonstrate the following abilities:

- (a) articulate a basic theology of worship and a sacramental theology
- (b) discuss the ritual, cultural, theological, spiritual, and formative aspects of Christian worship
- (c) show familiarity with the history and practices related to: Sunday and the Christian year; the liturgical environment; music in worship; and occasional rites (e.g., weddings, care for the sick, funerals)
- (d) articulate important issues (historical, theological, ecumenical) pertaining to baptism and eucharist
- (e) show appreciation for a diversity of worship practices and familiarity with those of one's own denomination
- (f) show evidence of developing skills for designing worship, ritual writing, and the formulation of prayer (written and spontaneous)
- (g) evaluate worship services with attention to theological, liturgical, social, and other factors
- (h) show confidence in leading a short prayer service in public

### **Required Texts** (bring all these resources to campus)

E. Byron Anderson, *Worship and Christian Identity* (Liturgical Press)

Maxwell E. Johnson, *Praying and Believing in Early Christianity* (Liturgical Press)

Kimberly Bracken Long, *The Worshiping Body* (Westminster/John Knox)

Laurence Hull Stookey, *Calendar* (Abingdon Press)

Laurence Hull Stookey, *Let the Whole Church Say Amen: A Guide for Those Who Pray in Public* (Abingdon Press)

James F. White, *Introduction to Christian Worship*, 3<sup>rd</sup> ed., rev. and expanded (Abingdon Press)

World Council of Churches, *Baptism, Eucharist and Ministry*

(<http://www.oikoumene.org/en/resources/documents/wcc-commissions/faith-and-order-commission/i-unity-the-church-and-its-mission/baptism-eucharist-and-ministry-faith-and-order-paper-no-111-the-lima-text.html>)

### **Recommended Texts**

Kathy Black, *Worship Across Cultures*

Paul Bradshaw, ed., *The New Westminster Dictionary of Liturgy and Worship*

Geoffrey Wainwright and Karen B. Westerfield Tucker, eds. *The Oxford History of Christian Worship*

### **Denominational Texts** (bring copies of your denomination's worship and music resources to campus)

## **Requirements**

### **Assignments to be submitted to the instructor by email no later than Wednesday, July 9**

1. Field Observation Report, to be completed after you have read Long, *The Worshiping Body* and White, *Introduction to Christian Worship* (especially chaps. 1 and 3)

Choose a Christian worshipping community with which you are quite familiar.

- a. In 250 words or less, identify the ecclesiastical affiliation(s) of the community and its particular history.
  - b. In 250 words or less, identify the social, cultural, and economic makeup of the community.
  - c. In 500 words or less, describe the location of the place of worship (e.g., main highway, rural area, urban center, etc.) and the physical features (architectural style, internal layout, furnishings, decoration) of the principal worship space. Include photographs or sketches of the space with the main areas and furnishings identified.
  - d. In 500 words or less, identify the principal worship leaders (e.g., clergy, lay leaders, musicians) for this community and discuss their styles of worship leadership (since the instructor alone will read this information and will keep the material confidential, honesty is encouraged). What do their verbal and non-verbal (e.g., gesture, posture) cues say about their leadership?
  - e. Provide worship bulletins/leaflets for 2-3 different days of services (from the same time of service, e.g., Sunday, 11:00 a.m., if a congregation offers multiple services) you have attended in this community. If the community does not use print outlines, either obtain the order of service from the community's leadership or reconstruct the order with as much detail as possible.
2. Read Johnson, *Praying and Believing in Early Christianity*. In a 500 word, double-spaced paper, discuss the interrelationship of the *lex orandi*, *lex credendi*, and *lex agendi* as addressed in Johnson's book. What new insights has this book offered? What examples of the interrelationship of *orandi/credendi/agendi* do you see in the worship of your own community, the community described in your Field Observation Report, and/or your denomination? Be sure to document all borrowed material with footnotes or endnotes.

### **Assignments to complete by the first day of class, Monday, July 14**

1. Read the books by Stookey and be prepared to discuss them and draw upon them while on campus. Complete the exercises in *Let the Whole Church Say Amen*.

2. Before we gather on campus, you will be assigned a scripture text to be used as part of a brief liturgy that you will lead during one class session. The structure of the liturgy that you will prepare is: opening sentences or call to worship (your choice); scripture lesson (the one assigned); silent reflection; collect (an original prayer by you, reflecting the content or images of the scripture lesson; consult *Let the Whole Church Say Amen* for how to write a collect); and benediction (your choice). An electronic copy of the original prayer should be given to the instructor. At the conclusion of the course, all original prayers will be collated, copied, and made available to the entire class.

### **Assignments to be submitted to the instructor by email no later than Thursday, July 31**

1. Worship Service Design with Commentary

Design a complete service of worship for the congregation used for the Field Observation Report

- a. The service will be designed to reflect the readings (Revised Common Lectionary, Year for one Sunday in Ordinary Time:

(1) Gen 25:19-34; Ps 25; Rom 8:1-11; Matt 13:1-9, 18-23

- (2) Gen 28:10-19a; Ps 139:1-12, 23-24; Rom 8:12-25; Matt 13:24-30, 36-43  
 (3) Gen 29:15-28; Ps 105:1-11, 45b; Rom 8:26-39; Matt 13:31-33, 44-52
- b. The service will include:
- (1) one original collect, prayer of confession, or opening prayer
  - (2) one original prayer of thanksgiving or prayer of intercession
  - (3) one or more of the lections for the Sunday of the church year selected
  - (4) a one paragraph summary of the sermon focus
- c. Provide the complete text of the liturgy as the worship leader(s) would have it (first line titles and tunes for all hymns/songs, full wording for all other elements). It is not necessary to type out hymn/song texts, ecumenical creeds, and scripture lessons.
- d. In the commentary for the order of service, be sure to discuss:
- (1) Why a particular element is placed where it is in the order (e.g., How does it relate to that which precedes and follows? How does it fit into the overall framework of the service?)
  - (2) Why the content of the element is appropriate to the service (e.g., why a particular hymn was chosen)
  - (3) Why changes were made (if any) from the form currently in use by the community
2. Read Anderson, *Worship and Christian Identity*. In a 500 page, double-spaced paper, discuss how this order of service and the worship of the community in which it is to be used may contribute to Christian identity formation. Be sure to document all borrowed material with footnotes or endnotes.

### **Grading of the Course**

- Field Observation Report (20% of grade)  
 Paper on *lex orandi/lex credendi/lex agendi* (20% of grade)  
 Classroom participation and leadership of the brief liturgy (10%)  
 Worship Service Design with Commentary (30%)  
 Paper on worship and Christian identity (20%)

Criteria for evaluation assessment:

- \*fulfillment of the Learning Outcomes identified above
- \*assignments prior to on-site sessions are submitted on time and show insightful engagement and integration of the stated readings for each project
- \*active participation in on-site class sessions
- \*Worship Service Design has met the requirements stated and has provided a Commentary that shows attention to the local congregation's context and integration of both the readings and classroom discussions
- \*final worship and identity paper shows integration of the Field Observation Report, Worship Service Design with *Worship and Christian Identity*, other readings, and classroom discussions

### **Tentative Organization of Class Sessions**

- July 14 Christian Worship: Foundations  
 July 15 Corporate Worship: Structures and Contents  
 July 16 Music and Liturgical Arts  
 July 17 Sacraments/Ordinances  
 July 18 Occasional Services