

**School of Theology and Ministry
Seattle University
901 12th Avenue, PO Box 222000
Seattle, WA 98122-1090**

Spring, 2011

STMM 510 Theology and Practice of Worship

3 credits

Mondays 5:45-8:35 p.m.

HUNT 110

Instructor: Dr. Jill Burnett Comings

Office hours: Mondays 3:-4:30 p.m.

Room: Adjunct Office

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Course Description: This course examines Christian worship and sacramental life in light of its historical and theological development. Although ecumenical in scope, special attention is given to the worship life of Protestant, Free Church, and other ecclesial traditions, particularly their corporate celebrations, with an emphasis on baptism and communion. Course content and practice introduce students to ecclesial, pastoral, and ethical contexts of liturgy, encouraging the development of a critical worship sense.

Course Objectives: Through examination of the historical developments and theological spectrums of Christian worship, reflection on the student's own worship tradition(s), growing familiarity with other traditions, and consideration of some contemporary liturgical issues, it is hoped that this course will contribute to more informed, culturally-conscious and respectful worship leadership. MAPS learning outcomes desired: 1) ability to reflect theologically on the central themes of the Christian Tradition and 4) knowledge of the tradition in relation to sacramental theology, liturgical method, worship elements and structure, and the ability to engage them in an ecumenical diversity of praxis.

TEXTS AND MATERIALS:

Required Texts:

Black, Kathy. *Culturally-Conscious Worship*. St. Louis: Chalice Press, 2000. ISBN 0-8272-0481-7

Brink, Emily and John Witvliet, eds. *The Worship Sourcebook*. Grand Rapids, MI: The Calvin Institute of Christian Worship, Faith Alive Christian Resources, and Baker Books, 2004. ISBN 0-801-09172-1

Labberton, Mark. *The Dangerous Act of Worship: Living God's Call to Justice*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2007. ISBN 0-8308-3316-1

Ramshaw, Gail. *Christian Worship: 100,000 Sundays of Symbols and Rituals*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2009. ISBN 0-8006-6233-4

White, James F. *Protestant Worship: Traditions in Transition*. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 1989. ISBN 0-664-25037-8

Please note: There will also be reading assignments from resources on reserve in the library and on the internet.

Denominational Worship Resource – It is **strongly recommended that you own a copy of (or have electronic access to) your current denomination's major worship resource(s), if such exist. If you need assistance identifying what those are, please contact the instructor.

Schedule:

- March 28 Multiple Introductions, Mutual Expectations
- April 4 Why Study Worship?/Historical Foundations I: Origins to the Death of Gregory the Great
Readings:
• Ramshaw, chs. 1-5; 11

WORSHIP REFLECTION PAPERS DUE AT START OF CLASS

- April 11 NO CLASS – see assignment #3
- April 18 Historical Foundations II: Medieval Period, 16th-Century Reformations, the Age of Certainty
Readings:
• Ramshaw, chs. 6 & 7
• White, ch. 1 & 2
• Frank C. Senn, *Christian Liturgy: Catholic and Evangelical* (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1997), ch. 14 (**on reserve**)
- April 25 Historical Foundations III: Ages of Certainty, Reason, Romanticism, Modernity, Postmodernity
Readings:
• Ramshaw, ch. 8
• Senn, chs. 15 & 16 (**on reserve**)
• Phyllis Tickle, *The Great Emergence: How Christianity is Changing and Why* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2008), Parts 1 and 3 (**on reserve**) – read the whole thing, if you have time!
- May 2 Denominational Zoom I: Roman Catholic, Lutheran, Reformed, Anabaptist
Readings:
• White, chs. 3-5
• James F. White, *Roman Catholic Worship: Trent to Today* (Collegeville, MN: Pueblo Books/The Liturgical Press, 2003), chs. 6-8 (**on reserve**)
- May 9 Denominational Zoom II: Anglican, Separatist & Puritan, Unitarian, Quaker, Methodist, Frontier, Pentecostal
Readings:
• White, chs. 6-11

WORSHIP SERVICE REPORTS DUE TOMORROW, MAY 10

May 16

Imagining and Leading Worship, the Role of Music in Worship

Guest presenter: Scott Burnett, Director of Worship and Arts,
University Presbyterian Church

Readings:

- Brink & Witvliet, Prologue, Part One (read introductions, skim examples), and pp. 371-388
- Robb Redman, *The Great Worship Awakening: Singing a New Song in the Postmodern Church* (San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2002), ch 10 (on reserve)

REFORMATION RESEARCH PAPERS DUE SUNDAY, MAY 22

May 23

Ecumenical Worship, Multicultural Worship

Readings:

- Black (all)
- World Council of Churches, *Baptism, Eucharist, Ministry* – text available at http://www.oikoumene.org/fileadmin/files/wcc-main/documents/p2/FO1982_111_en.pdf
(there is also a copy on reserve)

May 30

MEMORIAL DAY – NO CLASS

June 6

Just, Dangerous Worship; Course Wrap-Up; Course Evaluations

Reading:

- Labberton (all)

FINAL PROJECTS DUE WEDNESDAY, JUNE 8

Evaluation:

- 1. Wakeful regular attendance and well-prepared presence and participation in classes are assumed – 10 points.**

Frequent absences or an obvious lack of engagement will adversely affect the final grade. If at all possible, please notify the instructor of an absence before class time. Because the class meets only once a week, in this case “frequent absences” is any more than one. (MAPS 1 and 4)

- 2. Worship Reflection Paper due by start of class on April 4**

Late papers will not be accepted. This assignment will not be graded, but failure to submit it will result in a deduction of 10 (ten points) from the student’s final grade. This assignment is designed to help with the course objective of increased reflection on your own worship tradition. Write a 3-5 page (750-1,250 words), double-spaced reflection paper on your current worship tradition. Please include the name of the denomination/tradition, a brief outline of a “normal” Sunday worship service in your particular congregation, and your thoughtful reflections (be as specific as possible) on how worship in your community forms you with respect to who God is, who you are and what worship is. Please format and document (if applicable) your papers according to the Chicago Manual. (MAPS 1)

3. Worship Service Report due by 11:59 p.m. on Tuesday, May 10. 20 points. Two (2) points will be deducted for every day (or portion thereof) that the completed assignment is late.

In lieu of our class meeting on April 11, at some time before the written part of the assignment is due (May 10) each student must attend a worship service in a tradition other than her/his own current tradition. *It need not be a Christian tradition.* The written report (5-8 double-spaced pages – 1,250-2,000 words) reflecting on the experience and comparing it to the student's own current worship tradition is due May 10. Please include the following in the report:

1. The name of the church/synagogue/mosque/temple/meeting house you attended and its national or international affiliation, if any.
2. The date, time and type of service you attended.
3. A brief description of the building and the physical worship environment.
4. A description of the people assembled, the size of the assembly, the leaders and their functions.
5. A description of the symbols and rituals used in the worship event.
6. A discussion of any aspects of the event that seemed to contradict any stated vision or mission of the community or that you found negative about this worship experience.
7. A discussion of any aspects of the event that you found positive and why.
8. A discussion of specific similarities to and differences from your own current worship tradition.
9. Attach the bulletin or leaflet from the service, if there was one.

Please format and document your papers according to the Chicago Manual.
(MAPS 4)

4. Reformation Historical Theology research paper due by 11:59 p.m. on Sunday, May 22. 30 points. Three (3) points will be deducted for every day (or portion thereof) that the completed assignment is late.

To fully understand current Christian worship practices (and the differences among them) one should have some familiarity with what transpired in the 16th century, particularly concerning the Mass. This assignment invites the student to increase his/her familiarity with this important topic. Choose a 16th-century Reformer/Council from among the following and write a 6-10 page, double-spaced (1,500-2,500 words) paper 1) identifying his/its definition of "sacrament," 2) summarizing his/its theology of the presence (or absence) of Christ in the eucharist, 3) discussing his/its views on how frequently congregations should celebrate holy communion and 4) if applicable, what liturgical provision he made when it became clear that communion was not going to be a weekly occurrence.

Martin Luther
Ulrich Zwingli
John Calvin
Thomas Cranmer
Balthasar Hübmeier
Council of Trent

A list of suggested resources will be provided. Please format and document your papers according to the Chicago Manual. Include a bibliography of works cited *and* consulted.
(MAPS 1)

5. Final Project: Worship Bulletin and Theological Rationale due by 11:59 p.m. on Wednesday, June 8. 40 points. Four (4) points will be deducted for every day (or portion thereof) that the completed assignment is late.

Put it all into “practice.” First, produce a service bulletin for the principal worship service on Sunday, June 12, 2011 at a congregation in your current worship tradition. If that tradition follows the liturgical year, please be mindful of this date in the calendar. Second, write a 5-8 page, double-spaced (1,250-2,000 words) theological rationale for your choices of what to include and where, as well as what you intentionally chose not to include. Some reflection on historical developments in your tradition will be required. Additional instructions will be provided later in the semester. Please format and document your papers according to the Chicago Manual. Include a bibliography of works cited *and* consulted.
(MAPS 1 and 4)

Written work will be graded on content and mechanics. Assignment-specific grading rubrics will be provided.

Final Grades will be assigned as follows:

95-100 points: A	78-80 points: C+	61-64 points: D-
91-94 points: A-	75-77 points: C	60 & below: F
88-90 points: B+	71-74 points: C-	
85-87 points: B	68-70 points: D+	
81-84 points: B-	65-67 points: D	

Policies:

1. Academic Honesty: The School of Theology and Ministry strictly adheres to the Academic Policy concerning Academic Honesty as published in the *Seattle University Student Handbook*. You may also revisit the University’s Academic Honesty Policy at <https://www.seattleu.edu/registrar/Policies.aspx>. Breaches of academic honesty (including, but not limited to, plagiarism) will be reported, and the student will receive the appropriate sanctions.

2. Extensions: Students are expected to complete and submit all assigned work for a course by the end of the semester. Under some circumstances, this may not be possible. If you find yourself in this unenviable position, you may request an extension per the regulations of the school. As stated in the Seattle University Academic Policies, “The Incomplete (I) grade is a temporary grade indicating that work in the course was acceptable, although a critical portion of it was not completed because of illness or other serious circumstances beyond the student’s control. **The I grade may not be used for the convenience of the faculty member or student.** If a student has quit attending without withdrawing from the course or contacting the instructor in writing, the appropriate final grade is an F.” Please see the rest of this policy at <https://www.seattleu.edu/registrar/Policies.aspx>.

Please note: In most cases, work submitted late – even that covered by an officially-sanctioned I grade – will not be eligible for an A grade. See individual assignments for specific details.

3. Disability: Students who have or think they may have a disability (visible or invisible) that interferes with their performance in this class are encouraged to discuss your needs and arrange support services and other accommodations through the Disabilities Services office in the Learning Center, Loyola 100, 206-296-5740.

For further reading:

- Bradshaw, Paul F. *The Search for the Origins of Christian Worship: Sources and Methods for the Study of Early Liturgy*. 2nd edition. New York: Oxford University Press, 2002
- _____, ed. *The New Westminster Dictionary of Liturgy and Worship*. Louisville, KY & London: Westminster John Knox Press, 2002.
- Costen, Melva Wilson. *African-American Christian Worship*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1993.
- Ellis, Christopher. *Gathering: A Theology and Spirituality Worship in Free Church Tradition*. London: SCM Press, 2004.
- Jones, Cheslyn, et al, eds. *The Study of Liturgy*. Rev. Ed. London: SPCK/New York: Oxford University Press, 1992.
- Lathrop, Gordon W. *Holy Things: A Liturgical Theology*. Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress, 1993.
- _____. *Holy People: A Liturgical Ecclesiology*. Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress, 1999.
- _____. *Holy Ground: A Liturgical Cosmology*. Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress, 2003.
- McCall, Richard D. *Do This: Liturgy as Performance*. Notre Dame: University of Notre Dame Press, 2007.
- Old, Hughes Oliphant. *Leading in Prayer: A Workbook for Ministers*. Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1995.
- Senn, Frank C. *Christian Liturgy: Catholic and Evangelical*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1997.
- _____. *The People's Work: A Social History of the Liturgy*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2006.
- Schmemmann, Alexander. *Introduction to Liturgical Theology*. Reprint. Crestwood, NY: St. Vladimir's Press, 2003.

We will no doubt add more resources during the course of the semester.