Christian Worship

WP200W Section 1 Fall Semester Section

Fridays 6:30 pm– 9:30 pm

Faculty: Derrick McQueen

Email: [dmcqueen@lancasterseminary.edu](mailto:dmcqueen@lancasterseminary.edu)

Phone: 917-689-0809

Class: Fridays 6:30 pm– 9:30 pm, Lark 204

Office Hours: By Appointment

**Course Objective:**

Worship has a long and ever growing history in the worship and ritual life of Christian and all expressions of worship. Over the course of this semester, we will explore the foundations of Christian worship and learn how they are now manifesting in our modern worship. The purpose of this approach is to engage in the planning of worship and the writing of liturgy that will reflect the power of the ritual to build community, speak to the lives of people and to move deeper into Christian faith through worship. Students are expected to understand the sacramental elements of worship and to relate historical worship patterns to their own faith traditions. In this class we will explore expansive language for God and as such will use such language in class.

Students should be able to:

1. Explain the origins of and historical shifts in Christian worship.
2. Identify the performative dimensions of Christian worship and to analyze those components theologically.
3. Identify the variety of traditions of Christian hymnody and appropriate implementations of these traditions and forms.
4. Demonstrate the connection between the law of praying and the law of believing in their planning of worship.
5. Engage the rich variety of Christian liturgical contexts with understanding and appreciation.
6. Articulate ways in which Christian liturgy and worship are important in the life of Christians and Christian community.
7. Articulate how the history of Christian worship is evidenced in their or a particular contemporary worship.

**Major Topics**

1. Ritual Theory
2. Liturgical Theology
3. Biblical Worship Elements
4. Diversity in Worship
5. Performance and Worship
6. Elemental Components in Arc of Worship
7. Conversational Worship Planning
8. Liturgy and Worship Planning
9. Doing Worship

**Each class** will begin with a Centering Moment. If you would like to lead such centering moment please feel free to do so in groups or individually using the text “Theological Reflection”.

**Assignments and Expectations**

*Presence and Participation (10%)*

In order to participate in class discussions students must be physically present – students are expected to attend every scheduled class meeting. Out of respect for members of the class, students should arrive on time and be prepared to begin at the designated start time. No distinction will be made between excused and unexcused absences. A limited amount of “grace” may be extended to those students who take responsibility for their absences (foreseen and unforeseen) by making direct contact with the instructor, by contacting a fellow classmate to review missed class, and by making every effort to understand the information covered in class.

This course emphasizes participatory learning. Participants in the course are expected to prepare for each class session by reading the assigned passages and by preparing the assignments on time.

*Knowledge Checks (25%)*

Any assignment based on the *Pocket Dictionary of Liturgy & Worship*, will be used as an assessment for basic knowledge of worship and liturgical terms and process as collected on Moodle.

*Written Assignments (40%)*

All written assignments are included in this grade percentage.

*Final Worship (25%)*

This culminating worship will be assessed based on preparation of worship, execution of worship and on the evaluation of worship.

Each worship team participant is responsible for the groups crafting of one complete order of worship for a Sunday Service of Word and Sacrament. The context of the service is to be determined by the class and to be clearly noted.

The Order of Worship should include all necessary music, texts, and attributions.

Along with the Order of Worship, course participants must submit a COMPLETE Liturgical Minister Script with annotations. Even in contexts where a given prayer or act would not be typically scripted in advance, they must be scripted for this assignment. Annotations should include commentary regarding selection of music, language used in prayers, descriptions of posture and movements. However, annotations are not limited that short list; other comments may be needed and/or appropriate.

Submissions will be evaluated using the following criteria.

1. Theological coherency of the worship experience
2. Demonstrated understanding of Christian worship and the particular context
3. Clarity of the texts
4. Attractiveness of the order of worship

*Extensions*

I have found that a liberal allowances of extensions only pushes a student to do rushed work and work that does not exhibit the proper discernment of the subject matter, therefore, extensions may be requested two weeks in advance but may very well not be granted. With that in mind:

**All assignments must be submitted by the day due.** **Late assignments will be accepted only for one week after the due date and will lose 8 points for each day late.**

Students who desire to request an extension to complete the requirements for this course must follow the seminary requirements for such requests. Only official requests for extensions will be considered and must be approved in advance by the professor.    Such extensions will be reserved for those course participants who have significant extenuating circumstances.

*Academic Integrity*

Students are expected to do their own work and to do it with integrity. Any sources utilized in the assignments must be appropriately marked and attributions must be included. Students who plagiarize their assignments will receive a failing grade for both the given assignment and for the course and will be reported to the Dean for due consideration.

**Texts:**

*“Diverse Worship: African American, Caribbean & Hispanic Perspectives”,*

*Pedrito U. Maynard-Reid*

*“On Liturgical Theology”, Aidan Kavanaugh*

***\*”****Pocket Dictionary of Liturgy & Worship”, Brett Scott Provance*

*“The New Pastor’s Guide to Leading Worship”, Barbara Day Miller*

*“The Art of Theological Reflection”*

***\*****“The Holy Bible”, NRSV*

Other readings, if assigned will be posted on Moodle used to facilitate class topic.

**\***An asterisk denotes these books should be brought to class every week, otherwise bring books containing assigned readings to class.

February 17, 2017

**The Arc of Ritual**

Taking a look at the Order of Worship: The Bulletin

“The Way We Do It Here” *The New Pastor’s Guide to Leading Worship,* pp.17-20. We will read and discuss in class.

**Reading for next week**

*On Liturgical Theology* pp. 3-22

*Diverse Worship pp. 13-40*

**Assignment**

Write a 3-4-page paper on “What Happens In *My* Church”, referencing the *Pocket Dictionary of Liturgy & Worship*

Online Research: Choose from in class hand out three bulletins from three different sources. Print them out and come to class ready to discuss similarities and differences.

February 24, 2017

**Going Back in Time**

Review of paper “What Happens In *My* Church”

Modern Worship to Reformation

**Reading for next week**

*On Liturgical Theology,* pp. 73-95

*Diverse Worship,* pp. 41-52

**Assignment**

March 3, 2017

**Where is God in all of this?**

Thinking through the theology in worship and liturgy.

In worship, what is constant and what is ever-changing?

Discussion on how to prepare next week’s assignment.

**Reading for next week**

*On Liturgical Theology,* pp. 96-150

**Assignment**

Please reference *Pocket Dictionary of Liturgy & Worship* for repeated terms in reading. (Moodle).

March 10, 2017

**Immanent or Transcendent?**

Worship: Are we showing up for God or expecting God to show up for us?

Discussion on writing the research paper.

**Assignment due on March 24**

8-10 page paper based on the final chapter of *On Liturgical Theology,* pp. 151-176, “Liturgy and Normality”. Use three other outside sources.

March 17, 3017

**Worship and the Bible**

What we can learn from the bible to apply to modern worship.

**Reading for next week**

*Diverse Worship,* pp. 203-213

“*New Pastor’s Guide to Leading Worship”*, pp. 9-12.

March 24, 2017

**Mechanics of Worship and Liturgy**

**Music**

Understanding the hymnal and other church music resources

Paperless congregational music

Song leading

(be prepared to sing!)

**Reading for Next Week**

*New Pastor’s Guide to Leading Worship*, pp. 51-56, 78-99

Please investigate this website: [www.lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu](http://www.lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu)

Please reference *Pocket Dictionary of Liturgy & Worship* on all terms regarding music for worship. (We will identify a few terms to research in class--Moodle)

**Assignment**

From the site [www.lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edum](http://www.lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edum)

Please bring examples from this site by accessing this part of the website and write a 3-4 page paper explaining how the categories below fit the assigned text :

* [ART](http://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-processquery.pl?code=ACT&SortOrder=Title&LectionaryLink=CProp18)
* [PRAYER](http://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/prayers.php?id=278)
* [HYMNS](http://www.hymnary.org/browse/lectionary/proper_18_c)
* [COLORS](http://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/liturgical-colors.php)
* [OTHER VERSIONS](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Jeremiah%2018:1-11;Deuteronomy%2030:15-20;Psalm%20139:1-6,%2013-18;Psalm%201;Philemon%201:1-21;Luke%2014:25-33" \t "_blank)
* [DAILY](http://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/daily.php?year=C#id278)
* [VARIANTS](http://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/pdf/Variants-C.pdf)

**Reading for next week**

*Diverse Worship,* pp. 63-68, 99-107, 153-157, 179-186, 197-200

**ASSIGNMENT DUE Research Paper**

March 31, 2017

**Embodied Worship**

The role of “performance” in the ritual of worship

**In-Class we will be picking a text and shaping a worship outline**

**Reading for next week**

*New Pastor’s Guide to Leading Worship”,* pp.13-17, 20-31

**Assignment**

Prepare and submit Monday before class 04/07/2015) five (5) questions from the reading for group discussion.(Moodle)

April 7, 2017

**Mid-Semester Review**

**Mechanics of Worship and Liturgy**

**Prayer/Music**

**Prayer Assignment**

Imagine that you have been asked to pray for an interfaith gathering that is called to bring the community together after a tragic incident of religious hatred. Write a prayer to open the gathering. Don’t try to include all faiths, simply write a prayer that will speak to the moment. Please bring to class.

**Music Assignment**

Bring in examples of your favorite hymns, praise music, gospel songs. Send them

and forward them to them. If you have them on a digital platform or YouTube link forward the link. This assignment is due on Thursday April 6, 2017 by midnight

**Reading for next week**

*New Pastor’s Guide to Leading Worship*, pp.32-41

*Diverse Worship,* pp. 97-98

Please reference *Pocket Dictionary of Liturgy & Worship* on all terms regarding Prayer (Moodle)

April 14, 2017

Easter Break

April 21, 2017

**Putting It All Together**

Building a Worship Service

April 28, 2017

**Worship & Evaluation**