

Introduction to Worship PW 1053 – Fall 2009

Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary
Tuesday & Thursday 3:00 - 4:20 p.m.
Fellowship Hall/Caldwell Chapel

Instructor: Cláudio Carvalhaes

E-mail: ccarvalhaes@lpts.edu

Office Phone: (502) 894.2299

* Please e-mail or call for appointment

The worship of God raises the question, suddenly or slowly, 'How ought we to live?' just as the people of Jerusalem, hearing the first sermon of Peter asked, 'What shall we do?' The 'ought' question itself signals the interrelatedness of the cultic and social/ethical features implied in the root meaning of 'liturgy' - the whole 'work of the people'"
Don Saliers

Course Description:

This course introduces structural patterns, theological themes, ethical issues, historical and cultural aspects and practices that are part of the public Christian worship. We will think together and critically about the relationship between worship, theology, life and God in global and ecumenical perspectives and gain some practical skills in designing and leading worship. Note that this course is not a practicum class on worship nor it is exclusively based on a reformed tradition. For a course on worship practicum and on reformed worship, please refer to the LPTS course catalogue.

Goals of the Course:

Through reading, listening, discussing, practicing, reflecting and writing, you will, if successfully completing this course with a final course grade B or above, be able to:

1. Know something about the plurality of histories and practices of worship in the Christian churches;
2. Think theologically about liturgy;
3. Reflect critically on worship structures, elements and practices;
4. Become more self-reflective on ideological issues that pertains to the history and the making of worship services;
5. Wrestle with fears, hatred and uncomfortable places in worship;
6. Honor and foster tolerance within different liturgical cultures and practices;
7. Begin to articulate the various elements of worship in relation to the life of the Christian churches and the world;
8. Acknowledge the ethical aspects of every liturgical practice;
9. Make connections between the life of churches and the lives of the world;
10. Expand the spectrum of liturgical resources and acquire theoretical/practical tools to address, analyze and create worship services.

Course Requirements and Assessment:

1. Conscientious attendance and participation in discussion. You must come to class prepared with all the readings done. Lack of preparation and lack of attendance of thorough and timely class preparation will adversely affect your course grade. Please inform me ahead of time if you have to miss class. Missing more than 2 classes will prevent you from getting an "A" grade and missing more than 4 classes puts you in serious danger of failing the course. (10%)
2. A CAMS site has been established for this class: *PW 1053 Introduction to Worship*. Every time the class has readings/videos assigned, you will have to post two questions on CAMS for each reading/video of the day prior to the class meeting. Dead line for posting is midnight of the previous day of classes. (20%)
3. You will have to visit one worship service that is different from your own tradition. After the visit, you will write a 2 page report (double space, 12 font) about each worship service answering the following questions: "What happened in this worship service?" and "What did I learn?" Deadline: November 10th. Please hand in two hard copies of the report to me in class. (20%)
4. Write a final paper engaging one or more themes and at least two authors studied in class. Resources and literature not studied in the class are also welcome if in conversation with the literature given in class. If you need help with your paper please make an appointment with me. These conversations must happen until December 3rd, so that you will have time to prepare and write the paper. Length of the paper: 5-6 pp.. Due date and time for the paper is December 18th 5 pm. Please place a hard copy of your paper under my office door. (30%). Be aware that to pass this class you must submit a final paper.
5. Prepare a worship service in a group of 7-10 students to be presented in chapel on Nov. 19th, Dec. 9th and Dec. 10 at regular worship service 11:30 am and Nov. 19 at 7 pm. At the first day of class you will sign up to be part of a group that will follow the lectionary of the given week paying attention to the discussions developed in class. Each group will meet as many times as they want/need and report their decisions to me. I can help you with the process if needed. Note that each group will have to engage with the chapel ministers before the presentation. (20%)

Academic honesty:

All work you submit in this class is expected to be yours. Any quotation of the words of others must be clearly indicated, and all direct indebtedness must be acknowledged by citation of author and source. Students unfamiliar with issues relating to academic honesty can find help from the staff in the Academic Support Center and should make use of the available resources at an early date, since violations of Seminary policy on academic honesty can lead to a failing grade for the course.

Inclusive Language:

In your writing, avoid language for people that leaves out part of the population or perpetuates stereotypes. Avoid gender specific pronouns when gender is unknown. Gender specific pronouns should be avoided when referring to God unless you are quoting from a theological text or a translation of the Bible that uses them.

- * **The class will meet in various places. When the place is not mentioned in the syllabus, we will meet at Fellowship Hall.**
- * **Please turn off cell phones before class begins. Keep in vibration only if you really need it. Laptops are discouraged.**

Required Books:

- *Early Christian Worship, A Basic Introduction to Ideas and Practices*, by Paul Bradshaw, (Collegeville, Minnesota: The Liturgical Press, 1996).
- *Meeting Mystery, Liturgy, Worship and Sacraments*, Nathan D. Mitchell (New York: Orbis Books, 2009),

Recommended for your own library: - *The New Westminster Dictionary of Liturgy and Worship*, ed. By Paul Bradshaw

- * The bookstore will have all the required books available and some copies of the recommended one if you want to buy them. However, if you can't buy them you can find all of these books on reserve at the library. Note that you will need to find your own way to access the readings since they are not going to be posted online.

Course Outline (please note that this syllabus is subject to change)

September 10 - General Introduction: Worship, Life, Our Bodies and the World

Readings: *Liberating Rites. Understanding the Transformative Power of Ritual*, Tom F. Driver (Boulder, Colorado: Westview Press, 1998), preface and pp. 1-51

September 15 – Pre-Modernity, Modernity and Post-Modernity

Readings: *Meeting Mystery*, Nathan D. Mitchell, Chapter One, pp. 3-47
“What is Enlightenment?” Immanuel Kant in *Kant: Political Writings*, Cambridge, Texts in the History of Political Thought, (Cambridge University Press; 1991), pp. 85-92.

September 17 – A Very Short History of Christian Worship

Readings: *Early Christian Worship, A Basic Introduction to Ideas and Practices*, Paul Bradshaw, pp. 1-36.
Meeting Mystery, Nathan D. Mitchell, Chapter Three, pp. 71-108

Suggested: *Christian Worship: 1000,000 Sundays of Symbols and Rituals*, Gail Ramshaw (Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 2009).

September 22 – Worship Order(S), Dis/Orders and B/Orders

Readings: “Tradition: Negotiating Identity With/In Canon,” in *Boundaries of Our Habitations: Tradition and Theological Construction*, Delwin Brown (New York: State University of New York Press, 1994), pp. 83-110.
Meeting Mystery, Nathan D. Mitchell, Chapter Two, pp. 48-70.

Assignment: bring to class a worship service order. I don’t need a copy of it.

September 24 – The Liturgical Calendar

Readings: *Early Christian Worship*, Paul Bradshaw, pp. 70-93

Suggested: *The New Handbook of the Christian Year*, Hickman, Saliers, Stookey and White, (Herndon, VA: Alban Institute, 1992), pp. 13-48
“The History of the Christian Year,” in *The Study of Liturgy*, (Oxford University Press, USA; Rev Sub edition, 1992), pp. 455-472

September 29 – Worship and the Formation of Ethics

Readings: “Liturgy and Ethics, Some New Beginnings, and Afterword: Liturgy and Ethics Revisited,” Don Saliers, in *Liturgy and the Moral Self: Humanity at Full Stretch Before God*. eds. E. Byron Anderson, Bruce T. Morrill, (Collegeville, Minnesota: The Liturgical Press, 1998), pp. 15-35 and 209-224.

Suggested: “Christian Ethics as Informed Prayer,” Stanley Hauerwas and Samuel Wells in *The Blackwell Companion to Christian Ethics*, ed. Stanley Hauerwas and Samuel Wells, (Malden, USA, Oxford, UK, Victoria, AU: Blackwell Publishing, 2005), pp. 3-12.

October 1 – Cultural Diversity in Worship

Readings: *One Bread, One Body, Exploring Cultural Diversity in Worship*, C. Michael Hawn, (Herndon, VA: Alban Institute, 2003), pp. 1-34.
“Louder Please, I can’t Hear You: Voices, Spiritualities and Minorities,” by Cláudio Carvalhaes in *Reformed World*, Geneva, Switzerland, March, 2007, pp. 45-57.

October 6 – Local Ecumenism and Worship

Reading: *Bound Together: A Theology for Ecumenical Community Ministry*, A. David Bos (Cleveland: Pilgrim Press, 2005), pp. 53-74; 100-114

Guest: A. David Bos

October 8 – Baptism

Readings: In *Baptism Today. Understanding, Practice, Ecumenical Implications*, ed. Thomas F. Best (Pueblo Books, WCC Publications: Geneva Switzerland, 2008), READ:

“Rite[s] of Baptism in the Catholic Church,” James F. Puglisi; pp. 29-44;
“Baptism in the Presbyterian and Reformed Tradition,” Martha Moore-Keish, pp. 63-72; “The Baptism of Believers,” Paul Fiddes, pp. 73-80;
“Baptism and the Quaker Tradition,” Jane Scott, pp. 81-88;

Guest: Dr. Rev. Paul Galbreath – Professor of worship at Union-PSCE

October 13 – Hispanic and Latin American Worship

Readings: *Diverse Worship, African-American, Caribbean & Hispanic Perspectives* Pedrito U. Maynard-Reid, (Downers Grove, IL: Intervarsity Press, 2000), pp.161-202.

October 15 – African and African American Worship

Readings: *Integrated African Liturgy*, John Lukwata, (Eldoret, Kenya: AMECEA Gaba Publications Spearhead Numbers 164-166, 2003), pp. 1-27
African American Christian Worship, Melva Wilson Costen, (Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press 2007) pp. 56-76 and 118-141.

Suggested: *Diverse Worship, African-American, Caribbean & Hispanic Perspectives*, Pedrito U. Maynard-Reid, pp. 53-68.

October 20 – Feminist/Womanist Worship

Readings: *Feminist Liturgy. A Matter of Justice*, by Janet R. Walton (Collegeville, MN: The Liturgical Press, 2000). pp. 9-49.

October 22 – Worship and Native Americans, Queer People, People with Disabilities

Readings: *A Native American Theology*, Clara Sue Kidwell, Homer Noley, George E. “Tink” Tinker, (Maryknoll, NY: Orbis, 2001), pp. 1-20.

Beyond Ritual: Sacramental Theology After Habermas. Siobhán Garrigan, (Aldershot, Hampshire; Burlington, VT: Ashgate, 2004), pp. 141-156 and 163-172.

Unexpected Guests at God's Banquet. Welcoming People with Disabilities Into the Church, Brett Webb-Mitchell, (New York, NY: The Crossroad Publishing Company, 1994), pp. 101-129.

Guests: Dawn Black, Deb and David Trevino

October 27-29 – Spring Break– Research and Study

November 3 – Language, Metaphors, Poetry

Readings: *In Her Own Rite: Constructing Feminist Liturgical Tradition*, Marjorie Procter Smith. (Akron, OH: OSL Publications, 2000), pp. 48-102

God-Language, Madeleine Boucher, Phyllis Tribble and Janet Walton

Suggested: *Meeting Mystery*, Nathan D. Mitchell, Chapter Five, pp. 149-188

November 5 – Music and Sounds

Video: *We are Together*, a film by Paul Taylor, 2007.

November 10 – Media, Cybernet and the WorldWideWeb

Readings: *High-Tech Worship? Using Presentational Technologies Wisely*, Quentin J. Schultze (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Publishing, 2004), pp. 12-49

“The Church Online” in *The Christian Century*, June 30, 2009, pp. 22-28

November 12 – Liturgical Spaces

Meet in Chapel

Readings: *God's House Is Our House. Re-Imagining the Environment for Worship*, Richard Vosko, (MN: Liturgical Press, 2006), pp. 21-67

November 17 – Material Christianity: Beliefs, Things, Spiritual Practices and Liturgical Movements: Reading, Praying, Baptizing, Singing, Walking, Touching, Living...

Meet in Chapel

Readings: *Material Christianity*, Colleen McDannell, (New Haven & London: Yale Univ. Press, 1995), pp. 1-16.

November 19 – Town House Class – “What is worship all about?”

Many Questions and Possibly Some Answers

Readings: *Meeting Mystery*, Nathan D. Mitchell, Chapter 4, pp. 109-148

November 24 – Eucharist(s)

Readings: *Early Christian Worship, A Basic Introduction to Ideas and Practices*, Paul Bradshaw, pp. 38-69
“Eucharist,” Janet Walton, in *Dictionary of Feminist Theologies*. Russell, Eds. Letty M. & Clarkson, J. Shannon, eds. (Louisville, Kentucky: Westminster/John Knox Press. 1996), pp. 92-93.

Suggested: Sacraments of Life, Life of the Sacraments, Leonardo Boff, trans. John Drury (Portland: Pastoral Press, 1987).

November 26 – No Class – Thanksgiving

December 1 – Ecology, Food, eating and Eucharistic Table

Readings: “The Pleasures of Eating” in *Bring it to the Table: On Farming and Food*, Wendell Berry (Berkeley, CA: Counterpoint Press, 2009), pp.227-234

Guest: Jeanette Hicks

December 3 – Children and Worship

Readings: *Welcoming Children: A Practical Theology of Childhood*, Joyce Ann Mercer, (St Louis: Missouri: Chalice Press, 2005), pp. 210-264

Guest Speaker: Betsy Ensign-George

December 08 – Rites of Passage: Weddings and Funerals

Meet in Chapel

Readings: “Marrying by the Book,” and “Bird Droppings on the Buddha,” Ronald L. Grimes, in *Marrying and Burying, Rites of Passage in a Man’s Life*. (Boulder, San Francisco, Oxford: Westview Press, 1995), pp. 66-75 and 104-120. If you can read from page 66-154.

Assignment: Look at your denomination liturgical resources and search for wedding and funeral liturgical orders and bring a copy to class.

December 10 – Where Do We Go From Here?

Meet in Chapel

December 18 - Due Date for Final Paper.