

Sacraments and Globalization

PW3053 – Fall 2011

Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary

Monday 4:30:00 PM - 7:20:00 PM

Schlegel Hall 120

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Course Description:

This course seeks to help students to become aware of philosophical, social, political, racial, class, and sexual references that mark the Christian faith but usually go unnoticed in the theological thinking and the liturgical practices of the sacraments. In order to do that, this course intends to offer tools for the students to make connections between the sacraments of Baptism and Eucharist and historical processes of globalization, under the rubrics of hospitality. Questions such as “What does the rite of baptism have to do with issues of health, ecology, inclusion, justice and the poor?” and “How the celebration of the Eucharist is associated with notions of international power, race, land/food, world migration and non-documented immigrants in US?” will be engaged. Students will study some aspects of the relation between globalization in the Christian faith, and try to create practices of hospitality in local churches. The format for class sessions will have discussions, rituals and meals. Students will lead discussions and create rituals related to the readings and themes of the class. This class will meet in different locations.

Intended Major Learning Outcomes:

At the end of the course, students will:

1. Gain familiarity with the concept of globalization and relate it with the borders of theological-liturgical thinking and practices.
2. Have an expanded notion of the meaning of *sacrament* in different historical and theological perspectives.
2. Be able to think the sacraments in relation to global issues such as world migration, ecology, labor, inter-religious dialogue, health systems, the poor, etc.
3. Leave with a critical sense that the sacraments must have inextricable relations to space and the theme of hospitality.
4. Students will be able to redraw, theoretically and practically, the lines of baptismal/eucharistic hospitality through global theologies and local practices of rituals/liturgies.

Course Requirements:

1. Conscientious attendance and participation in discussion/ritual practices are fundamental. Students must come to class prepared with all the readings done and willingness to participate. Please inform the instructor ahead of time if you have to miss class. Missing more than 2 classes puts you in danger of failing the course. (25%)
2. Every student will lead discussion and create a ritual in class regarding the assigned readings at least twice during the semester. Every class will have two rituals: one that deals with baptism (prepared by the assigned student and one that deals with the Eucharist (prepared by the entire class). (25%)
3. Students will prepare a worship service in chapel developing the learning in class on December 2. Preparation will be done in class with the instructor. (25%)
4. Due to the amount of readings during the semester, the student will only write a 6-8 page final paper (double space) to be presented at the last day of class, wrapping up the semester and dealing with the challenges, difficulties and blessings related to the themes of the class. (25%)

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 and in your worship services, avoid language for people that leave out part of the population or perpetuate 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.

*** Please turn off cell phones before class begins.**

*** It is forbidden the use of internet during class.**

Required Books:*

- ✓ *Globalization: A Very Short Introduction* by Manfred B. Steger, **2nd edition** (Oxford University Press: New York), 2009.
- ✓ *Of Hospitality*, by Jacques Derrida, Anne Dufourmantelle, and Rachel Bowlby, (Stanford University Press: Stanford), 2000.
- ✓ *Postcolonialism, A Very Short Introduction*, Robert J.C. Young, (Oxford University Press: New York), 2003.
- ✓ *Time for Outrage: Indignez-vous!*, Stéphane Hessel, (Twelve Press, USA), 2011.
- ✓ *Lost Mountain: A Year in the Vanishing Wilderness Radical Strip Mining and the Devastation of Appalachia*, Erik Reece, (Riverhead Trade: New York), 2007.

* The bookstore will have all the required books available if you want to buy them. All of the books/videos required and/or recommended are on reserve at the library.

** Classes might meet in different places around the city. Every class will involve eating together and creation of rituals.

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

September 12 - General Introduction – What is this class all about?

Reading: *Borders, Globalization and Eucharistic Hospitality*, by Cláudio Carvalhaes

The reading will be distributed ahead of time.

September 19 – Globalization

Readings: *Globalization: A Very Short Introduction* by Manfred B. Steger

Movie: *Crash*

* The class will meet at the instructor's house. A Brazilian meal will be served.

September 26 – The Earth – Issues of land, food and eating together

Reading: *A Fuller Experience of God's Grace: How The Sacraments Invite us to Relationship with, and care for the Earth*, by Rebecca Barnes-Davies

The reading will be distributed ahead of time.

Guest Speaker: Rebecca Barnes-Davies

October 3 – Sacraments and the New Testament

Reading: * "Baptism in the New Testament" in *Early And Medieval Rituals And Theologies of Baptism: From the New Testament to the Council of Trent*, Bryan D. Spinks, (Ashgate Publishing: UK), 2006, pp. 31-60 and 158-192.

* *Eucharist and Hospitality and the Early Christian Meals*, by Cláudio Carvalhaes (this text will be distributed), 33 pages. This reading will be distributed ahead of time.

October 10 – Borders, International movements, Mission and the Sacraments

Readings: * *Borderlands/La Frontera*, Gloria Anzaldua, ; 3rd edition (Aunt Lute Books: Iowa), 2007, pp. 23-45

* “Homeland as Borderland. Territories of Christian Subjectivity,” in *Postcolonial Theologies. Divinity and Empire*, Michael Nausner, (Christian Board of Publication: Georgia), 2004, pp. 118-132.

* *The New World Border, Prophecies for the End of the Century*, Guillermo Gómez-Pena, (City Lights Publishers: San Francisco), 2001, pp. 21-48

Movie: *Of Gods and Men*, Xavier Beauvois (Director), Sony Pictures Classics, 2011.

* Watch it together in class.

- Somebody will be the note taker and send me a report about the class discussion.

Suggested Readings/movies:

Movie - *Alambrista or The Gatekeeper*

Readings: * “Women Crossing the Borders” Daisy Machado, in *A Reader in Latina Feminist Theology. Religion and Justice*, pp. 161-176

* *Alienhood: Citizenship, Exile, And The Logic Of Difference* by Katarzyna Marciniak, pp. xi-xvii

* *Global Commission on International Migration, Migration in an Interconnected World: New Directions for Action, Report of Global Commission on International Migration, United Nations, 2005.*

www.gcim.org

* *Community Without Borders*, by David Bacon pp. 37-67

* *No One Is Illegal: Fighting Violence and State Repression on the U.S.-Mexico Border*, by Justin A. Chacon, Mike Davis, Julian Cardona, pp. 89-122

* *Alienhood: Citizenship, Exile, And The Logic Of Difference* by Katarzyna Marciniak, pp. xi-xvii

October 17 – Hospitality

Readings: *Of Hospitality*, by Jacques Derrida, Anne Dufourmantelle, and Rachel Bowlby, odd pages.

Suggested Readings: *The Weakness of God: A Theology of the Event*, John Caputo pp. 259-278.

October 24 – Fall Break - Research and Study

October 31– Baptism and Eucharist – Reformation

Readings: * “Regarding the Powers: Assessing Calvin’s Legacy for Political Theology,”
The Register of the Company of Pastors, vol 10, no. 1 (2009).

* *The Body Broken*, by Christopher Elwood (Oxford University Press: New York), 1999, pp. 12-29 and 61-74.

Guest Speaker: Christopher Elwood

November 7 –Sectarianism, Violence and Sacraments

Readings: *The Real Peace Process. Worship, Politics and the End of Sectarianism*,
Siobhán Garrigan, (Equinox Publishing: London), 2010.

* Note that this book is extremely expensive (\$ 95.00 at amazon). The library will have it on reserve. If you won’t buy the book, please plan ahead to read it in advance so that all of you can have the reading done in time for class.

November 14 – Postcolonialism, Inter-religious Dialogue and Sacraments

Reading: *Postcolonialism, A Very Short Introduction*, Robert J.C. Young

November 21 – World Health Systems and Sacraments

Reading: *Pathologies of Power: Health, Human Rights, and the New War on the Poor, With a New Preface by the Author*, Paul Farmer and Amartya Sen, (University of California Press: Callifornia), 2004, pp. 23-50; 139-178; 213-256.

Video: *Sicko*, by Michael Moore

November 28 – Capitalism and Ecological Disasters: The Case of the Mountaintop Removal in Kentucky and Sacraments

Reading: *Lost Mountain: A Year in the Vanishing Wilderness Radical Strip Mining and the Devastation of Appalachia*, Erik Reece.

* Website: <http://ilovemountains.org/resources/>

Suggestions: Book – *Coal River, How a few brave Americans took on a powerful company – and the federal government – to save the land they love*, by Michael Shnayerson.

Movie - *Tsunami the Aftermath*, HBO, 2007.

- * We hope we will visit one mountain in Kentucky together with Rev. John Rausch, learn about the situation, celebrate a Eucharistic service and talk about all these issues there. This visit will require almost the entire day. Perhaps from 11 am to 6 pm.

Guest Speaker: Rev. John S. Rausch, Glenmary, Coordinator, Peace and Justice Office.
Director, Catholic Committee of Appalachia

December 5 – Globalization, Hospitality, the Sacraments and Prophetic Resistance

Readings: * Time for Outrage! - Stephane Hessel

- * “Habits of Resistance,” by Si Kahn in *Preserving and Strengthening. Small Town and Rural Communities*, (NASW Press: Washington, DC), 1999, pp.369-380.

- * *Performing Hospitable Eucharistic Borderless Borders*, by Cláudio Carvalhaes. The reading will be distributed ahead of time.