

PW105-3: Introduction to Worship

Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary Fall 2015

Room: Chapel/Fellowship Hall Mondays: 2:00pm-4:50pm

Instructor: Rev. Christine J. Hong, Ph.D.

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Office Hours: by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

At its best, worship in both public and private spheres glorifies God through its authentic intention, its cognizance of diversity, and its accessibility. This introductory course focuses on unpacking the practice of Christian worship in the Protestant tradition and understands it as a valuable part of the spiritual formation of individuals and congregations. The course focuses on the life-giving and liberative attributes of diversity and wholeness as avenues for more vibrant worshipping communities. Through lectures, seminar style discussions, student presentations, opportunities for leading worship, and field study, students will examine and participate in Christian worship using theological, historical, and cultural lenses. This course does not focus exclusively on the reformed tradition but instead depends heavily on the active participation of its students to encourage an ecumenical environment.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Successful completion of this course will enable students to:

- . Articulate the importance of theological, historical, and cultural frameworks for worship in congregational life as part of the Protestant tradition with knowledge and understanding. (SLO 2-4)
- . Examine liturgical and other components or forms of worship and the overall practice of worship in contexts of diverse congregations and demographics, including the student's own particular traditions and styles. (SLO 5)
- . Utilize theological creativity and imagination in understanding, planning, and implementing worship for different worshipping communities. (SLO10)
- . Practice skills in analysis, writing, and teaching through designing, leading, and participating in worship, writing assignments, class presentations. (SLO 10,16)

REQUIRED TEXTS:

1. Costen, Melva. African American Christian Worship, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Nashville: Abingdon, 2007.
2. Duck, Ruth. Worship for the Whole People of God: Vital Worship for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox, 2013.
3. Long, Kimberly. The Worshiping Body: The Art of Leading Worship. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox, 2009.

TEXTS ON RESERVE:

1. Black, Kathy. Culturally Conscious Worship. St. Louis: Chalice, 2000.
2. Bradshaw, Paul. Early Christian Worship, A Basic Introduction to Ideas and Practice. Collegeville: Liturgical Press, 2010.
3. Yee, Russell. Worship on the Way Exploring Asian North American Christian Experience. Valley Forge: Judson Press, 2012.

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED FOR PRESBYTERIAN STUDENTS PREPARING FOR ORDINATION EXAMS:

Presbyterian worship resources:

1. Directory for Worship in Book of Order
2. The Book of Confessions
3. The Book of Common Worship
4. *Calvin: Institutes of the Christian Religion, Volume I.* ed. John T. McNeill. Louisville, KY: 2011.
5. *Calvin: Institutes of the Christian Religion, Volume II.* ed. John T. McNeill. Louisville, KY: 2011.

STRUCTURE OF THE COURSE:

This course includes lectures, seminar style discussions, group work and projects, and field study.

GRADING SCALE:

A 90-100%                    x7-x9 = + (there will not be an A+)

B 80-89%                    x0-x2 = -

C 70-79%

D 60-69%

F 59% -

## ASSIGNMENTS:

All written work is to be submitted in Times New Roman 12-point font and double-spaced. Document margins should be 1.25" for left and right margins and 1" for top and bottom margins. All bibliographical references and in paper footnotes should be in Chicago Style. For instructions and details on Chicago Style visit this webpage for a brief and handy guide. [http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools\\_citationguide.html](http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html)

- . Two reading reflections [10%] – Submit two separate reading reflections on any two full weeks of readings. Reflections should be 2-3 pages and include direct engagement with the readings for that week with proper citations. Reflections are due before the final class session.
- . Worship composition, analysis, and presentation [20%] – Select a theme for a 20-30 minute special worship service and compose a liturgical or other format of worship for your particular worshipping community. Include a 2-3 page theological, historical, and cultural analysis of your composition. Select a day to present and lead the class in a short 5 min excerpt of your composition. Students are encouraged to use creativity in the form of music, art, film, photography, sculpture etc. You may want to ask your classmates to participate as part of your 5 min excerpt. The composition and paper are due on the day of your short presentation. Additional instructions will be given in class.
- . Field report [15%] – Attend a worship service, on a Sunday or otherwise, of a local Protestant congregation as a participant observer. Select a congregation from a different denominational and/or racial/ethnic tradition than your own. Write a 2-3 page report on your observations of the service and a theological, historical and cultural analysis. Cite readings as appropriate. You may need to do some historical and/or theological research either at the worship site or before/after for your paper. Please prepare for this ahead of your visit.
- . Small Group Chapel Service: planning and implementing one Chapel service at Louisville Seminary or Book Report [20%] – Each student will choose one option:
  - o 1) Join a small group of their class peers to plan and implement a Chapel worship service at Louisville Seminary. Each group is required to meet at least once with the Chapel Coordinators and the Chapel ministers for consultation as the first step in their planning. Sign ups for dates and additional instructions will be given in class.
  - o 2) Read a book of your choice pertaining to congregational worship and write a 4-5-page book report. In addition, create a one-page handout for your classmates as a reference guide. Approve the text

with the professor ahead of time.

- . Final Exam [25%] – A final examination for the course will be given, date TBA. There are no make-up examinations.
- . Class Participation [10%]. – Students are encouraged to participate actively in the class.

#### ATTENDANCE POLICY:

Attendance is mandatory and it counted towards the 10% participation grade. Any absence that is not documented with a physician's note will incur a 10% reduction in the final grade.

#### LATE PENALTIES:

Written assignments are due at the beginning of class in hard copy. A 10 percent grade deduction incurs per assignment for each day it is late. No extensions on assignments, please do not ask. The Field Report and Planning and Implementing Chapel Service/Book Report assignments have firm deadlines. The Field Report is due no later than 10/15 at the beginning of class. This means you must complete your field study prior to this date. The Planning and Implementing Chapel Service assignment is done in conjunction with the Professor and Chapel Coordinators. Once you have selected a date you may not change the date in respect to the other students in your group and class. Final Examinations must be taken on the assigned date. There are instances where personal crises and medical emergency may arise. It is the student's responsibility to inform the professor of the situation and work with the professor to negotiate due dates, etc. Any medical emergencies must be documented.

#### Use of Inclusive Language

In accordance with seminary policy, students are to use inclusive language in class discussions and in written and oral communication by using language representative of the whole human community in respect to gender, sexual orientation, ethnicity, age, and physical and intellectual capacities. For more information see:

<http://lpts.libguides.com/content.php?pid=469569&sid=4083885> Direct quotations from theological texts and translations of the Bible do not have to be altered to conform to this policy. In your own writing, however, when referring to God, you are encouraged to use a variety of images and metaphors, reflecting the richness of the Bible's images for God.

#### Academic Honesty

All work turned in to the instructors is expected to be the work of the student whose name appears on the assignment. Any borrowing of the ideas or the words of others must be acknowledged by quotation marks (where appropriate) and by citation of author and source. Use of another's language or ideas from online

resources is included in this policy, and must be attributed to author and source of the work being cited. Failure to do so constitutes plagiarism, and may result in failure of the course. Two occurrences of plagiarism may result in dismissal from the Seminary. Students unfamiliar with issues related to academic honesty can find help from the staff in the Academic Support Center. For more information, see the Policy for Academic Honesty in the Student Handbook.

#### Special Accommodations

Students requiring accommodations for a documented physical or learning disability should be in contact with the Director of the Academic Support Center ([kmapes@lpts.edu](mailto:kmapes@lpts.edu)) during the first two weeks of a semester (or before the semester begins) and should speak with the instructor as soon as possible to arrange appropriate adjustments. Students with environmental or other sensitivities that may affect their learning are also encouraged to speak with the instructor.

#### Citation Policy

Citations in your papers should follow Seminary standards, which are based on these guides:

American Psychological Association. *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association*. 6th ed. Washington, DC: American Psychological Association, 2010.

Turabian, Kate L., Wayne C. Booth, Gregory G. Colomb, and Joseph M. Williams. *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations: Chicago Style for Students and Researchers*. 8th ed. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2013.

*The Chicago Manual of Style*. 16th ed. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2010.

Copies of these guides are available at the library and in the Academic Support Center.

#### Attendance Policy

Attendance is mandatory and it counted towards the 10% participation grade. According to the Seminary catalog, students are expected to attend class meetings regularly. In case of illness or emergency, students are asked to notify the instructor of their planned absence from class, either prior to the session or within 24 hours of the class session. Six or more absences (1/4 of the course) may result in a low or failing grade in the course.

## COURSE SCHEDULE:

9/14 Where do you ground yourself? Introductions and syllabus review

### PART I: Foundations

9/21 Worship tells the story of community: Definitions, Biblical understanding, theology, social location, power, privilege, and oppression.

- . Readings: Costen, Chapter 1; Duck, Chapter 1; Yee, Chapter 1 (Library print reserves)
- . Sign ups for leading worship and student presentations

9/28 A Brief History of Christian Worship

- . Readings: Bradshaw, Chapters 1-5 - pp. 1-36 (Library print reserves)

10/5 Worship in its many parts: understanding worship as communal embodiment

- . Readings: Costen Chapters 2, Duck; Chapter 2; Long, Chapter 2  
Student Presentations

10/12 Worship in its many parts: elements of worship

- . Readings: Duck Chapter 5-7
- . Student Presentations
- . Field Report Due at the Beginning of Class

### PART 2: Cultural Diversity and God's Kingdom

10/19 Worship in its Diversity: All the people of God

- . Readings: Costen, Chapter 3; Duck, Chapter 3, Yee, Chapter 4 (Library print reserves)
- . Student Presentations

10/26 – RESEARCH AND STUDY WEEK

11/2 – Worship in its Diversity: Multicultural worship

- . Readings: Black, Introduction, Chapter 1, Chapter 5 (Library print reserves)
- . Student Presentations

11/9 – Planning and Leading Worship: Deconstruction and Construction

- . Readings: Duck, Chapter 4
- . Student Presentations

11/16 - Planning and Leading Worship: Animation

- . Readings: Duck, Chapter 8; Long Chapters 3-4
- . Student Presentations

11/23 – NO CLASS – Final Exam Study Day

11/30 - The Sacraments: Remembering and Re-Membering

- . Readings: Duck, Chapter 9; Costen, Chapter 5; Long Chapter 6(100-106); Yee, Chapter 7 (Library print reserves).
- . Student Presentations

12/7 – Life Cycles in the Worshipping Community: Celebrations, Grieving, Healing, and Reconciliation

- . Readings: Duck, Chapter 12-13
- . Student Presentations

Final Exam (time and location TBD)