

“Liturgy: An Introduction to Episcopal Worship” Syllabus

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What does it mean to lead worship in the 21st century? What does Episcopal worship look like in our day, and how do communities create effective forms of worship to fit the context of contemporary life?

Course Description

This course will offer students the opportunity to explore the origins and development of the liturgy with emphasis upon the Eucharist and Baptism as the foundational sacraments of the church. Significant emphasis will be placed upon methodologies and strategies for designing Episcopal liturgies in both traditional and innovative formats. In addition, students will learn the basics of how to officiate in worship and the interrelationship of lay, diaconal, and priestly responsibilities within Episcopal worship as framed by the principles of the 1979 Book of Common Prayer.

Student Learning Objectives

This course will explore the underpinnings of Christian worship as it finds expression in the Episcopal Church. Students who participate in this class:

1. Will develop a basic knowledge of the history of Christian worship with an emphasis on the two primary sacraments of the church.
2. Will be able to express a clear theological perspective on what it means to lead worship from the 1979 Book of Common Prayer and other authorized liturgical expressions.
3. Will learn skills needed in designing liturgies.
4. Will be able to identify the structural building blocks of Eucharistic worship.
5. Will develop concrete performance based skills in leading worship and administering sacramental rites.
6. Will be able to articulate an understanding of the ecclesiology of the Episcopal Church with a clear differentiation between the roles of lay person, bishop, deacon, and priest

Evaluation

Evaluation Will Be Based on

Weekly Reflections on the Readings (25%) (evaluates objectives 1-6)

One Oral Presentation on an Optional Book (15%), (evaluates objective 2)

Friday Night Worship Design and Leadership (evaluates objectives 4 & 5) (15%)

Peer Critiqued Enactments of a Eucharist and a Baptism (pass/fail 5%), (obj. 5,6)

One Timed Take Home Exam On Readings and Lectures (20%), (evaluates objectives 1-4)

A Comprehensive Final Project (25%) (evaluates objectives 1-6)

(Yes I know this adds up to 105%)

Late work is not accepted.

Reading Reflections

These assignments are designed to encourage you to reflect upon the reading you are doing. In approximately 500 words 1) *Outline two central ideas that you took away from this material* and 2) *Pose one practical or theological question this reading posed for you that you would like to spend more time pondering, and reflect on the question.* Full credit will be given if these elements are present in your reflection. Partial credit will be given if some of these elements are present. If no reflection is submitted, the student receives a zero for that week (which has a far more perilous consequence for your grade point than just an F). Something is always better than nothing in my class!

Final Project:

Design a service for the Feast of Christ's Baptism using the appointed propers, with the understanding that there will be a baptism at this service. Produce the full text bulletin. Turn in both the bulletin and *the service description*, attending to significant aspects of design discussed during the semester. Write an accompanying *sermon* as a clear articulation of the feast day, expressed from your particular vantage point as one called to lay ministry, the diaconate, or priesthood. In conjunction, *develop an **engaging** one hour Sunday morning educational program/event designed to teach members of the congregation about the interrelationship between Eucharist and Baptism.* Produce a *clear and detailed description of this event.* Again, design this program with an eye to your order of ministry. Feel free to be as left brained or as right brained as your own gifts lead you to be, remembering that this must be a thoughtful, engaging presentation. Your program/event will be evaluated based upon its potential effectiveness, not just its accuracy of information. Oral presentations of one aspect of your project will take place on December 8.

This project is due in final written form no later than Monday, December 10 at 11:59 p.m.

Written materials to be turned in must include:

Copy of the Bulletin for the service

Copy of the thick description of the service

Copy of the Sermon

Description, Rationale, and Outline or Script of the Educational Experience you are presenting

All assignments except the final project should be sent electronically. The final project in its entirety should be brought to class and turned in as a packet. Any last post presentation revisions can be turned in electronically by Monday the 10th at 11:59.

Required Texts

Foley, Edward. *From Age to Age: How Christians Have Celebrated the Eucharist* (Revised and Expanded Edition). Liturgical Press.

Kreider, Alan. *The Change of Conversion and the Origins of Christendom*. Trinity Press International.

Mitchell, Leonel and Ruth Meyers. *Praying Shapes Believing: A Theological Commentary on the Book of Common Prayer, Revised Edition*. Church Publishing. (released Aug. 2016)

Weil, Louis. *A Theology of Worship*. Cowley Publications.

Walton, Janet. *Feminist Liturgy: A Matter of Justice*. Liturgical Press.

McFee, Marcia. *Think Like a Filmmaker: Sensory-Rich Worship Design for Unforgettable Messages*. Trokay Press.

Saliers, Don E. *Worship Come to Its Senses*. Abingdon Press.

Choose One of the Following Texts on the 1st Day of Class as an Additional Book

Bergant, Dianne. *The Earth is the Lord's: The Bible, Ecology, and Worship*. Liturgical Press.

Spellers, Stephanie. *Radical Welcome: Embracing God, The Other, and the Spirit of Transformation*. Church Publishing.

Hellwig, Monika. *The Eucharist and the Hunger of the World* 2nd ed. Sheed & Ward.

Meyers, Ruth. *Missional Worship, Worshipful Mission: Gathering As God's People, Going Out in God's Name*. Eerdmans Publishing.

Basic Reference Resources

In addition, all Episcopal students are expected to have and bring with them as needed a 1979 *Book of Common Prayer, Enriching Our Worship I*, and at least one authorized Episcopal hymnal.

Week 1

August 17

Review Syllabus

What is ritual? How does it function? What does it do? What is transformative liturgy?

Group Discussion on Handout “Mapping the Field of Ritual”

*Written Assignment to be emailed to the professor by 11:59 p.m. **Tuesday August 23**: In one double spaced 12 pt. page, describe the best worship you have ever been a part of. In one more page, describe the worst. Be sure your descriptions describe not evaluate and identify the primary characteristics of the best and of the worst. (Avoid words like bad, good, it made me feel..., stupid, boring, spiritual. Choose words that are descriptive. Ex: “Little attention was paid to_____.” “Participants did ____ and appeared to be _____.” Offer details not just generalized comments). **End with a summary sentence explaining what this exercise tells you about leading worship**. (You will not receive a grade on this assignment, but it is required, and failure to turn it in on time might come back to haunt you if you find that your grade is “on the bubble.”). The purpose of this exercise is to begin to think about worship rather than just emotionally reacting to it. Be descriptive, analytical and not reactive.*

Following Class: Read “Christian Worship to the Eve of the Reformation” by John Baldwin. Read From Age to Age Chapters 1 & 2. Turn in reading reflection by email on these readings by 7 p.m. Aug. 24 Begin Additional Book

Week 2

August 24

The early history of baptism.

Group Discussion: The Apostolic Traditions of Hippolytus

Baptism Demonstration

*Following Class Read The Change of Conversion in 4th Century Christendom.
Read the Apostolic Traditions of Hippolytus
Turn in Reading Reflection on September 7
Prepare for your Practice Leading a Baptism*

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Week 3

September 7

Baptism Practice

**The change of conversion in 4th century Christendom and issues of postmodernism
Where does your own congregation find itself on this continuum?**

Assignments following class on September 9 to be completed by Sept. 21:

Read From Age to Age Chapter 3 and 4

Turn in the reading reflection on this text by Sept. 21

Finish additional book and Begin Developing Group Presentation on Additional Book

Week 4

September 21

Architectural Issues and Worship

**Early Medieval worship and the movement from symbolic thought to allegorical thought
What are the central symbols of Christian worship? How might we highlight them? How
can they get muddled?**

Late Medieval Worship and the Reformation

**Reformation Eucharistic Theology. What were the losses that came with the
Reformation? What were the gains?**

Assignment following class: Read From Age to Age Chapters 5-7

Read Worship Come to Its Senses

Turn in the reading reflection on these assignments by Sept. 28

Group Assignment: Develop Presentation on Additional Book

Week 5

September 28

Book Presentations

Issues in Liturgical Design

Assignment following class: Read Think Like a Filmmaker

Turn in reading reflection on this assignment on Oct. 12

Week 6

October 12

Music in Worship

In Class Project: In Small Groups, design a liturgy for All Saints Day

The many authorized books of the Episcopal Church

Assignment following class: Read A Theology of Worship

Turn in the reading reflection on this assignment on Oct. 26

Week 7

October 26

The Importance of the Word and the Diaconal Voice

The Structure of the Eucharist

Eucharist Demonstration

Assignment following class:

Read the first third of Praying Shapes Believing

Turn in the reading reflection for this assignment by Nov. 9

Prepare for Practice Eucharistic

Additional Written Assignment: Outline the structure of these rites and critique their strengths and weaknesses. (Rites to be passed out in class that day) Turn in by Friday, November 9, 7 p.m.

Week 8

November 9

Practicing Public Prayer: The Eucharist Practice Session

Liturgy and Ethics

Assignment following class: Read another third of Praying Shapes Believing

Turn in the reading reflection for this assignment by Nov. 16

Week 9

November 16

Fresh Expressions of the Christian Message (New Horizons)

Embodiment and Multi-sensory Worship: How might you go about making worship more participatory and multi-sensory in your community?

The Movement from a Medieval to a Baptismal Ecclesiology and the Role of each Order

Survey of Pastoral Rites

Assignment following class: Finish Praying Shapes Believing

Read Feminist Liturgy: A Matter of Justice

Turn in the reading reflection for this assignment by Dec. 7

Develop Project

Prepare for and take exam



Timed Open Book Written Exam Due by 11:59 p.m. on November 29



Week 10

December 7

The Liturgical Year

Presentations on Projects

Assignment: Bring your project to class in paper version with all components present. Final edits can be sent following your oral presentation if you feel they would strengthen what you have produced.



Final Edits to Final Projects to be turned in by Monday, Dec. 10 at 11:59 p.m.

Written materials to be turned in must include:

Copy of the bulletin for the service

Detailed description of the service

Copy of the sermon

Description, rationale, and outline or script of the educational experience you are presenting