

Foundations of Christian Worship
THEO 5120/BTS 3670, Fall 2017
North Park Theological Seminary
(3 credit hours, *syllabus subject to minor changes)

Instructor:

Prof. David Bjorlin
Phone: 218-590-2953
Email: dbjorlin@northpark.edu

Class Description:

An Introduction to Christian Worship examines the history, theology, and practices of Christian worship from an ecumenical perspective. The main goals of the class are to: (1) introduce the discipline of liturgical studies; (2) develop foundations and skills for worship leadership; and (3) foster theological/pastoral reflection and evaluation of the liturgical life of faith communities.

Learning Objectives:

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

1. demonstrate a theology and practice of Christian worship that is historically, liturgically, and culturally coherent;
2. observe and constructively critique one's own tradition of Christian worship on the basis of the historical, theological, cultural, and practical norms of Christian worship;
3. articulate key issues (historical, theological, ecumenical) pertaining to the sacraments of baptism and eucharist;
4. describe the theological, historical, and practical connections between word and sacrament;
5. illustrate the connection between the worshipping life of a church and its theological beliefs and ethical actions;
6. design a worship service that takes into account historical, theological, social/pastoral, and cultural factors;
7. analyze the main components of liturgical inculturation and engage the diversity of Christian worship.

Academic Prerequisites

Before taking Foundations of Christian Worship, students are expected to have passed the following prerequisite courses:

- Graduate students: Christian Theology (THEO 5110)
- Undergraduate students: Required Biblical and Theological Studies (BTS) courses

Accommodations

North Park Theological Seminary provides services for students with documented disabilities to ensure equal access to programs, services, facilities, and activities. Students with a disability who believe they may need accommodations in this class are encouraged to contact Seminary Academic Services at 773-244-5619 as soon as possible. If desired and necessary, discussion pertaining to documentation and accommodation can take place at

another suitable location or by telephone. Further information about the American Disabilities Act Service is found in the Student Academic Handbook by visiting the following website: <http://www.northpark.edu/ada>.

Academic Honesty

Academic Honesty: In keeping with our Christian heritage and commitment, North Park University is committed to the highest possible ethical and moral standards. Just as we will constantly strive to live up to these high standards, we expect our students to do the same. To that end, cheating of any sort will not be tolerated. Students who are discovered cheating are subject to discipline up to and including failure of a course and expulsion.

Our definition of cheating includes but is not limited to:

1. Plagiarism – the use of another’s work as one’s own without giving credit to the individual. This includes using materials from the internet.
2. Copying another’s answers on an examination.
3. Deliberately allowing another to copy one’s answers or work.
4. Signing an attendance roster for another who is not present.

In the special instance of group work, the instructor will make clear his/her expectations with respect to individual vs. collaborative work. A violation of these expectations may be considered cheating as well.

For further information on this subject you may refer to the Academic Dishonesty section of the University’s online catalog.

Required Texts

1. White, James. *Introduction to Christian Worship*
2. Johnson, Maxwell. *Sacraments and Worship: The Sources of Christian Theology*
3. Black, Kathy. *Worship Across Cultures: A Handbook* (On Reserve – not necessary to purchase)
4. Stookey, Laurence Hull. *Calendar: Christ’s Time for the Church*
5. Cone, James. *The Spirituals and the Blues*
6. *Covenant Book of Worship* (or your denomination’s book of worship)
7. One of the following (or another book chosen in conjunction with professor, based on your choice of culture for the worship inculturation project):
 - a. Justo Gonzalez, *Alabadle!*
 - b. Melva Wilson Costen, *African American Christian Worship*
 - c. Russell Yee, *Worship on the Way: Exploring Asian North American Christian Experience*
8. Other readings as assigned.

Grading

The grading scale for the course will be as follows:

- | | |
|----|----------|
| A | 100-93% |
| A- | 92.9-90% |
| B+ | 89.9-87 |
| B | 86.9-83 |

B-	82.9-80%
C+	79.9-77%
C	76.9-73%
C-	72.9-70%
D+	69.9-67%
D	66.9-63%
D-	62.9-60%

Assessments:

Attendance and Participation (10%)

Regular attendance and participation in class discussion is expected. Any absences over two will reduce your participation grade. Note: part of your participation grade will include: a) completing the one-page description of your worship context/history on August 28; and b) completing all of the required readings. You will be asked to sign a reading log at the end of the semester detailing the approximate percentage of reading done. Assignments turned in late will be penalized 1/3 of a letter grade (e.g., a B will drop to a B-) for each day over the deadline.

Book Review: Worship, Theology, and Ethics in Cone's *Spirituals and the Blues* (15%) – Due: Oct. 23

Write an essay (600-800 words) first presenting the main arguments of James Cone's *Spirituals and the Blues* and then, based on previous class readings and discussion, elaborating how spirituals might influence the theology and ethics of a church who regularly sung them in worship and devotion.

Sacraments/Ordinance Essay (20%) – Due: November 13

Undergraduate Question (750-1000 words): You are working as a worship leader in a local church when the pastor calls you into her office. "Three weeks from now we have both communion and a baptism, so it's looking like it's going to be a long service. Let's throw them both at the end and try to keep them as short as possible so we don't run too far over." Based on your readings and class discussion, give a written response to your pastor including: your understanding of the two sacraments and their connection, how they should be celebrated appropriately in a service, and what adaptations can be made to shorten other parts of the service.

Graduate Question (1000-1250 words): After a service with both the celebration of a baptism and the eucharist, an angry parishioner approaches and declares, "I don't understand why we do all of this Catholic hocus pocus. We need less empty symbols and mindless rituals and more biblical preaching!" Based on readings and class discussion, write a response to this parishioner that includes: a definition of a sacrament (or ordinance, if this is your tradition), why sacraments/ordinances are important to Christian worship and formation, and how it is integrally connected to the service of the Word.

Field Observation Report and Worship Design (55%)

Part 1 (15%): Field Observation Report (1500 words maximum) - **Due: September 25**

Choose a Christian worshipping community with which you are quite familiar.

1. Describe the social, cultural and economic makeup of the community.
2. Identify its ecclesiastical affiliation, noting factors from the community's history that may have influenced its worship practices.
3. Describe the worship space, drawing upon James White's analysis. Include photos if possible.
4. Identify the leaders and their "style" of leadership while presiding, reading, praying, leading singing, preaching, and celebrating sacraments/ordinances.
5. Describe the principal "non-verbal" languages you find present among the leaders and within the assembly.
6. Comment upon what you discern to be the "high" and "low" points of the congregation's participation.
7. Provide a worship bulletin or outline for a typical service.

Part II (20%): Worship Inculturation and Adaptation – **Due: October 30**

Analyze a cultural worship tradition outside of one's own tradition through secondary resource and site visits. In light of your findings on the cultural tradition, adapt the liturgy described in your field report so that it would help incorporate this tradition into the liturgical life of your church.

There are three parts to this assignment:

1. Research secondary sources on the worship of your chosen cultural tradition to ascertain its main characteristics/distinctives. First, choose one of the book choices listed above from the broad categories: Asian, Latino/a, African American, Euro-American. Then, find articles on a more specific cultural/ecclesial context (e.g., Korean worship, Mexican Worship, African-American Catholic worship, etc).
2. Two site visits to worship services from the chosen cultural context.
3. Write a paper (maximum 1500 words) that gives a brief summary of secondary source research on the chosen culture, compares and contrasts this research with what was observed during site visits, and explains several adaptations that could be made to the liturgy (as described in the field observation report) to better represent the worshiping context of your chosen culture. If it is helpful, imagine that the church of your field report and the church tradition you visited/studied are in the same neighborhood. The church you visited is closing, and a large contingent of the population begins attending your church. How would you adapt your liturgy in light of the new population? (1500 word maximum)

Part III (20%): Worship Service Design with Commentary – **Due: December 11**

Seminary Students: Part III will be included in your portfolios.

Design a complete service of worship for the congregation used for the Field Observation Report

1. The service will be designed to reflect the readings (Revised Common Lectionary, Year A) for one Sunday in Ordinary Time (note: you do not have to use all four of the readings! You may focus on one or two as well to contextualize to your context):

- a. Micah 3:5-12; Psalm 43; 1 Thessalonians 2:9-13; Matthew 23:1-12
 - b. Amos 5:18-24; Psalm 70; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Matthew 25:1-13
 - c. Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18; Psalm 95:1-7a; Ephesians 1:15-23; Matthew 25:14-30
2. The service will include:
- a. one original prayer of confession or opening prayer
 - b. one original prayer of thanksgiving or prayer of intercession
 - c. one or more of the readings for the day of the church year selected
 - d. a one paragraph summary of the sermon focus
3. Provide the complete text of the liturgy as the worship leader(s) would have it (first line titles and tunes for all hymns/songs, full wording for all other elements). It is not necessary to type out hymn/song texts, ecumenical creeds, and scripture lessons.
4. In the commentary for the order of service, be sure to discuss:
- a. Why a particular element is placed where it is in the order (e.g., How does it relate to that which precedes and follows? How does it fit into the overall framework of the service?)
 - b. Why the content of the element is appropriate to the service (e.g., why a particular hymn or song was chosen)
 - c. Why changes were made (if any) from the form currently in use by the community

Schedule (**Bolded – Everyone, Underlined – Seminary students only**)

Week 1 – What is Worship? (Aug. 28)

**Read: Horace Miner, “Body Rituals among the Nacirema” Isaiah 6:1-8; Deuteronomy 26:1-10; Luke 24:13-38; and Acts 2:41-47
White, 17-46
CBW, 3-11, 15-29**

Week 2 – No Class (Labor Day – Sept. 4)

Due: one-page description of your worship context/history

Week 3 – Worship as Theology/Ethics (Sept. 11)

**Read: chapter 2 of *Sacraments and Worship*: Athanasius of Alexandria, Sub Tuum Praesidium, Basil of Caesarea, Prosper of Aquitaine, Nicholas Cabasilas, Amalarius of Metz, Martin Luther, The Council of Trent, Pope Pius IX, Odo Casel, Peter Brunner, Alexander Schmemmann, Geoffrey Wainwright, Aidan Kavanaugh, Edward Kilmartin, Gordon Lathrop, Don Saliers, Robert Taft, David W. Fagerberg, Teresa Berger, Melanie Ross, Virgil Elizondo, David N. Power, Nathan Mitchell
Stookey, 15-52
Saliers, “Liturgy and Ethics: Some New Beginnings” (Canvas)
L. Edward Phillips “Ethics and Worship” (Canvas)**

Week 4 – Liturgical Time and the Church Year (Sept. 18)

Read: Exodus 20:8-11; Exodus 23:10-16; Deuteronomy 5:15; Revelation 1:10

Stookey, 53-161

White, 47-80

Read: chapter 7 – The Liturgical Year (p. 371) - of *Sacraments and Worship*: all selections

Wilkinson, *Egeria's Travels*, 151-161 (Canvas)

John Baldovin, "The Liturgical Year: A Calendar for Just Community" (Canvas)

Week 5 - Worship Inculturation (Sept. 25)

Read: Acts 15:1-29

Chupungco, "Liturgy and the Components of Culture" (Canvas)

"Nairobi Document" (Canvas)

Hawn, "Praying Globally" (Canvas)

Phan, "Liturgical Inculturation" (Canvas)

Due: Part 1: Field Observation Report (11:59 p.m.)

Week 6 – Prayer and Word (Oct. 2)

Read: Ephesians 6:12-18; 1 Thessalonians 5:14-18; Luke 18:1-8, Luke 4:16-21; Acts 2:42-47

White, 131-173

Stookey, "Learning a Basic Form for Brief Prayers" (Canvas)

LeGuin, "Telling Is Listening" (Canvas)

CBW, 33-46

Week 7 – Music (Oct. 9)

Read: Zephaniah 3:17-18; Psalm 148:1-10; Exodus 15:1-2; 1 Samuel 2:1-10; Luke 1:46-55; Luke 1:68-79; Philippians 2:5-11

White, 111-129

White, excerpts from *A Brief History of Christian Worship* (Canvas)

Westerfield Tucker, "Have Hymnals Become Dinosaurs?" (Canvas)

Begbie, "A Sixteenth-Century Trio" (Canvas)

Week 8 – No Classes – Reading Week

Week 9 – Spirituals and the Blues/Planning Worship (Oct. 23)

Read: *The Spirituals and the Blues*

Witvliet, "The Nuts and Bolts of Worship Planning"

Due: Book Review

Week 10 – Sacraments and the Body (Oct. 30)

Read: Jeremiah 27:1-11; John 9:1-7; Colossians 1:15-29; Revelation 17:5-7
White, 175-201, Ezekiel 36:24-27; Acts 2:37-41; Acts 8:27-38; Romans 6:1-11;
Galatians 3:26-29

“Symbol, Communication, Presence” in Bernard Cooke, *Sacraments and Sacramentality* (Canvas)

Chapter 1 of *Sacraments and Worship*: Augustine, Leo I, Hugh of St. Victor,
Peter Lombard, Thomas Aquinas, Council of Florence, Martin Luther and the
Lutheran Reformers, Ulrich Zwingli, John Calvin, Council of Trent, The
Puritans, Robert Barclay, Society of Friends, Immanuel Kant, Edward
Schillebeeckx, Mark Searle, J.D. Crichton, Susan Ross, M. Daniel Findikyan,
Louis-Marie Chauvet
White, 203-228

Due: Part 2: Worship Inculturation and Adaptation

Week 11 – Sacraments: Baptism (Nov. 6)

Read: Acts 2:42-46; 1 Corinthians 11:20-29; Matthew 26:26-29; Hebrews 9:11-14
Chapter 3 excerpts from *Sacraments and Worship*: The New Testament, The
Didache, Justin Martyr, Didascalia Apostolorum, Clement of Alexandria,
Tertullian, The Apostolic Tradition, John Chrysostom, Apostolic Constitutions,
Cyril of Jerusalem, Egeria, Ambrose of Milan, Augustine of Hippo, John the
Deacon, The Coptic Rite, The Byzantine Rite, The Gelasian Sacramentary,
Confirmation in the Pontifical of William Durandus, Eusebius Gallicanus, Thomas
Aquinas, Council of Florence, Martin Luther, Menno Simons, Ulrich Zwingli,
John Calvin, First and Second Prayer Books of Edward VI, Council of Trent, John
Wesley, Aidan Kavanaugh, Mark Searle, **Baptism, Eucharist, and Ministry**
Christian Scharen, “Baptismal Practices and the Formation of Christians: A Critical
Liturgical Ethics” (Canvas)

Week 12 – Children In Worship Service/Q&A – (Meet in Isaacson Chapel – Nov. 13)

Read: Isaiah 1:12-20; Isaiah 11:1-9; Matthew 19:13-15

Clifton-Soderstrom and Bjorlin, *Incorporating Children in Worship*, chap. 6
(Canvas)

Week 13 – Sacraments: Eucharist (Nov. 20)

Read: White, 229-262

Chapter 4 excerpts from *Sacraments and Worship*: Hebrew Bible and Jewish
Prayers, New Testament, The Didache, Letter of Pliny to the Emperor Trajan,
Justin Martyr, Didascalia Apostolorum, Tertullian, The Anaphora of the
Apostolic Tradition, The Anaphora of Addai and Mari, The Anaphora of St. John
Chrysostom, Cyril of Jerusalem, Bishop Sarapion of Thmuis, Ambrose of Milan,
Augustine of Hippo, The Roman Canon Missae, Paschasius Radbertus of
Corbie, Berengarius, Fourth Lateran Council, Thomas Aquinas, Martin
Luther, The Augsburg Confession, Ulrich Zwingli, Marburg Colloquy, John

Calvin, Balthasar Hübmaier, The Canons and Decrees of the Council of Trent, The Book of Common Prayer, Benjamin Joadly, John Wesley and Charles Wesley, Alexander Campbell, Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy, Edward Schillebeeckx, Baptism, Eucharist, and Ministry
David Noel Power, "The Eucharistic Table: In Communion with the Hungry"
(Canvas)

Due: Sacrament essay

Week 14 – Liturgical Space/Worship as Pastoral Care (Nov. 27)

Read: White, 81-109

Willimon, "Ritual and Pastoral Care" (Canvas)

Toregerson, "Sighting the Unseen: Theological Reflections on Visual Art and Worship" (Canvas)

Week 15 – Rites of Passage: Weddings (Dec. 4)

Read: Read: Matthew 19:4-6; John 2:1-2; Ephesians 5:31-32 (included in *Sacraments and Worship* reading)

White, 276-285

Bell, *Ritual*, 94-102 (Canvas)

Grimes, *Deeply into the Bone*, 2-13 (Canvas)

***Sacraments and Worship*, 292-312 (Canvas)**

Week 16 – Rites of Passage: Healing and Funerals (Dec. 11)

Read: Numbers 21:4-9; II Kings 5:1-14; Matthew 4:23-25; James 5:13-16; John 7:11-17; John 11:1-44; John 19:38-42; Acts 8:1-2

White, 269-303

***Sacraments and Worship*, 286-291; 336-341**

Due - December 11 – 11:59 p.m.: Part 3: Worship Service Design w/ Commentary