

MN 501D – Leading Christian Worship

Course Description

University of Dubuque Theological Seminary Spring 2022

Instructor: Rev. Dr. Richard J. Shaffer Jr.

Phone: (563) 845-9028

Email: rshaffer@dbq.edu

3 credits; Letter Grade Only

Prerequisites: None

Course Description

This course serves as an introductory study of the history, theology, and practice of Christian worship. Attention will be given to biblical, theological, historical, and practical foundations of worship, including the sacraments. Within these larger categories of worship, the course will also introduce topics of space, language, and time. Students will be guided in the practice of liturgical leadership and will reflect on their roles as worship leaders.

Course Objectives

- Gain a critical and integrative understanding of the history, theology, structure, and contemporary practice of Christian worship, including an introduction to the relationship between Word and act in the leading of public worship.
- Gain a critical appreciation of one's own tradition along with attention to the larger church and contemporary trends in worship and theology.
- Equip candidates for ministry with both practical and analytical tools to provide informed worship leadership in today's congregations.
- Introduce issues of ethics and leadership which grow out of the ministry of Word and Sacrament.

M.Div. Curricular Goals

- Be formed by, live in, and minister out of scripture and the historical and theological tradition of the church.
- Lead worship and administer the sacraments with theological integrity and to the glory of God.
- Educate and equip individuals and congregations to live and minister joyfully and faithfully as part of their own denomination and the ecumenical church.
- Integrate theology and practice in all areas of life and ministry.

Required Texts

- Long, Thomas G. *Beyond the Worship Wars: Building Vital and Faithful Worship*. Alban Institute, 2001. ISBN-13: 978-1566992404
- Parry, Robin. *Worshipping Trinity: Coming Back to the Heart of Worship*. Second Edition, Lutterworth Press, 2013. ISBN-13: 978-0718893170
- Stookey, Laurence Hull. *Eucharist: Christ's Feast with the Church*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1993. ISBN-13: 978-0687120178
- White, James F. *A Brief History of Christian Worship*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1993. ISBN-13: 978-0687034147
- White, James F. *Introduction to Christian Worship. 3rd Edition, Revised and Expanded*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2001. ISBN-13: 978-0687091096 (4th Edition will be available in February 2022)
- Assorted articles and resources regarding online worship.

And **one** of the following:

- Blount, Brian K. and Lenora Tubbs Tisdale, ed. *Making Room at the Table: An Invitation to Multicultural Worship*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2001. ISBN-13: 978-0664222024
- Costen, Melva Wilson. *African American Christian Worship*. 2nd Edition. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2007. ISBN-13: 978-0687646227.
- Gonzalez, Justo L., ed. *Alabadle: Hispanic Christian Worship*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1996. ISBN-13: 978-0687010325.
- Yee, Russell. *Worship on the Way: Exploring Asian North American Christian Experience*. Valley Forge, PA: Judson Press, 2012. ISBN-13: 978-0817017071.

Denominational Reading

All students are encouraged to identify and secure resources (hymnals and service books) that have been authorized for use in worship by their particular denominational body.

United Methodist students interested in a look at the sacraments from a Wesleyan point of view should consider:

This Holy Mystery, available online at:

<https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/this-holy-mystery-a-united-methodist-understanding-of-holy-communion>

By Water and The Spirit, available online at:

<https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/by-water-and-the-spirit-full-text>

Presbyterian students should have:

The Book of Common Worship (2018 edition).

The latest edition of the "Directory for Worship" (in the current *Book of Order*)

https://www.pcusa.org/site_media/media/uploads/oga/pdf/2019-23-boo-elec_010621.pdf