

MN 709 60 - Worship in the Reformed Tradition
Course Description
University of Dubuque Theological Seminary
Summer 2025

Instructor: Rev. Dr. Richard J. Shaffer Jr.
Phone: (630) 554-8194
Email: RShaffer@dbq.edu

3 credits - letter grade or credit/no credit with instructor's permission.

Prerequisites: None

This course is highly recommended for Presbyterian students.

Course Description

This course will introduce students to the particular scriptural, historical, and theological principles of worship in the Reformed tradition, with special emphasis on the current worship resources and practices of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

Course Objectives

By participating fully in this class, students will:

- Develop a working understanding of the history, theology, and practices of Reformed worship, including the sacraments.
- Gain proficiency in the use of the "Directory for Worship" of the PC(USA) *Book of Order*, and other denominational resources.
- Grow in the ability to plan and implement worship services that nurture Christian faith and character and that demonstrate the essential dynamics, elements, and ordering of Reformed worship.
- Nurture the capacity to think theologically and critically about how Reformed worship services are ordered.
- Prepare for the PC(USA) ordination examination on Worship and Sacraments.

M.Div. Curricular Goals

This course helps fulfill the following M.Div. curricular goals, enabling students to:

- 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.

Course Requirements

1. The student must keep up to date with posted lectures, assigned readings and class discussions.
2. All students will be expected to participate regularly in class discussions.
3. Responses to assigned questions must be posted on the discussion board in a timely manner. Students will be expected to post in these forums each week.
4. Class discussions will only be open for the assigned week.
5. One five page paper on a topic in Reformed Worship.
6. A detailed analysis of a Lord's Day service, including one sacrament, with a commentary explaining the issues of Reformed theology, polity, and liturgy embodied in the service. (See details on syllabus.)
7. Final - a three page case study analysis.

Required Texts

Bower, Peter C. ed. *The Companion to the Book of Common Worship*. Louisville: Geneva Press, 2003.

McKim, Donald K. *Introducing the Reformed Faith*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2001.

Old, Hughes Oliphant. *Worship Reformed According to Scripture*, revised and expanded edition. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2002.

P.C. (U.S.A.) *The Book of Common Worship*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2018.

P.C. (U.S.A.) *The Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)*, Part I, *The Book of Confessions* [current edition with index].

P.C. (U.S.A.) *The Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)*, Part II, *The Book of Order* [current edition].

Recommended/Supplemental Texts (Not required, but helpful and will provide added insight.)

McKim, Donald K., ed. *The Westminster Handbook to Reformed Theology*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2001.

Glory to God: The Presbyterian Hymnal. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2013.

Slemmons, Timothy Matthew. *A Short Course in Reformed Worship*. Independently published, 2024. ISBN: 9798883355997.

The Worship Sourcebook. Grand Rapids: Calvin Institute of Christian Worship, 2004.