

MIN 4350g/6304: CHRISTIAN WORSHIP

Austin Graduate School of Theology

Fall 2018

Tuesdays 1:00–3:40 pm

Instructor: Dr. K. Stanglin

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I want you to do well in this course, so please let me know if you are having difficulty with the class material.

Course Description (from catalogue):

The corporate worship of God in the Christian tradition in historical and theological perspective, including practical considerations involved in the planning and organization of congregational worship.

Expanded Course Description:

This course will explore the nature and theology of worship by 1) surveying the history of liturgy, 2) grounding the practice of worship in the doctrine of God and the church, 3) discussing and assessing current practices, and 4) examining the Lord's Supper as a test case in biblical and historical theology of worship. Emphasis will be given to the purposes of corporate worship and the need for discernment.

Core Values:

“Liturgy is like a strong tree whose beauty is derived from the continuous renewal of its leaves, but whose strength comes from the old trunk, with solid roots in the ground.” -Pope Paul VI

“...ut legem credendi lex statuat supplicandi.” -Prosper of Aquitaine, *De gratia Dei et libero voluntatis arbitrio* VIII; PL 51:209C

Course Objectives:

In light of the seminary's mission and objectives, the student who successfully completes this course should be able to:

1. Describe the main liturgical developments from the early church to the present.
2. Explain the nature of worship, along with its biblical and theological foundations.
3. Articulate the purposes of corporate worship.
4. Evaluate various elements and practices in corporate worship and navigate the “worship wars.”
5. Think theologically about worship.

Course Textbooks:

Hicks, John Mark. *Come to the Table: Revisioning the Lord's Supper*. Orange, CA: New Leaf Books, 2002.

Smith, James K. A. *Desiring the Kingdom: Worship, Worldview, and Cultural Formation*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2009.

White, James F. *A Brief History of Christian Worship*. Nashville: Abingdon, 1993.

Attendance Policy:

Students are expected to attend classes regularly. In the event of illness, family emergency, or an extenuating circumstance, it is the responsibility of the student to **notify the instructor as soon as possible** of the reason for the absence. A doctor's note is required for excusing personal illness. N.B.: Excuses will not be accepted more than one week after returning to class.

One week of unexcused absences (1) is allowed in this class. **Each additional absence above 1 automatically reduces your final grade by 9 percentage points.** Anyone accumulating 3 unexcused absences will be dropped from the course with a "WF" (withdrawn, failing).

You will be considered tardy if you are not present when the roll is checked or if you leave during class. **3 tardies = 1 unexcused absence.** If you are tardy, it is your responsibility to make sure you were not counted absent. But if you come in more than 10 minutes late, or leave before the end of class without telling me why, you will be counted absent, and will not be allowed to take the test or quiz. Take care of all business before and after class and during the break.

Academic Honesty:

AGST places a high priority on honesty and a biblical commitment to truth. Incidents of **cheating, plagiarism**, or any other activities deemed dishonest will result in penalties. These penalties may range from receiving a zero (0%) on the assignment to failing the course or dismissal from the school. (According to Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, to "plagiarize" is to steal and use as one's own the ideas, words, etc., of another. Collaborating on written assignments that should be done individually would fall under this category of dishonesty. See also the definitions and descriptions in the catalog or student handbook.)

Classroom Expectations and Decorum:

I expect your best effort and cooperation. I also expect all students to behave in a Christian manner in and out of the classroom. Turn off all cell phones. Unless medically necessary, do not eat food in the classroom. You may use laptops for taking notes only. Class will be dismissed when I finish.

Course Requirements:

1. **Reading and class participation. 20 pts.** You are expected to complete all assigned readings prior to the class meetings. The lectures will assume you have read the assignments, and part of the

grade is dependent on your participation in discussing the readings. Evaluation criteria: Demonstrate your preparedness. Sign a statement declaring that you read all assigned readings.

2. Reading questions and reflections (RQR). 90 pts. (10 pts. each). Beginning in Week 2, each student should turn in a set of reflections and questions about the outside readings due for that day. These prior reflections will help initiate the discussion of the readings in class. Answer questions such as: What do you not understand? What do you agree/disagree with? What would be a good principle to put into practice? Each RQR must be at least 200 words in length. You must turn in 9 RQRs to get full credit; you may choose any one week to take a break (but not from the readings). Evaluation criterion: Quality of questions and reflections, demonstrating you read the material. **Late RQRs will not be accepted.**

Extra credit: For a tenth RQR, up to 5 bonus points may be added to your final exam.

3. Prayer. 10 pts. Compose a prayer that would be intended for a public setting (e.g., corporate worship assembly), based on a designated passage of Scripture. Be ready to turn it in and share it in class by **Week 4**.

4. Song evaluation. 100 pts. Two songs will be assigned to you. Subject them to the criteria suggested by Donald Williams. In the process, explain the meaning of the words and evaluate the “fit-ness” of the songs for use in corporate worship. Make a 10-minute presentation to the class that summarizes your thoughts. **Due on Week 10.**

5. Observations of worship. 75 pts. (25 pts. each). You must visit and report on three different worship assemblies. They must be worship assemblies of Christian traditions other than your own. You must attend 1) Roman Catholic mass (preferably in Latin) or Eastern Orthodox liturgy, 2) mainline Protestant service (e.g., Episcopalian), and 3) service in the charismatic tradition (e.g., Assembly of God). For each worship assembly, fill out a “Worship Observation Form” (at my “resources” page) that includes your thoughtful observations and substantive reflections. Each paper should be at least 300 words in length. These reflection papers are to be your own *individual* work, and should not require any outside research. Evaluation criterion: Thoughtful reflections and insights. **Each paper is due within 2 weeks of attendance at the service. All are due by the final regular day of class.**

6. Three exams. 225 pts. (75 pts. each). An essay exam will be given over each of the three units in the course. (Make-up exams will be given only for students who have an excused absence.) Study: lecture notes and readings.

Optional Extra Credit: Attend the Austin Grad - First Things Lecture (Monday, Oct. 8, 7 pm) and write a reflection paper that summarizes the lecture and interacts with the ideas, especially as they relate to history. The paper should be at least 1,000 words. Points earned will be commensurate with the accuracy of the summary and depth of the reflections. Due Oct. 16. Late extra credit will not be accepted for extra credit. (up to **15** pts. on final exam)

The following requirements are for graduate students only.

7. Video evaluation. 30 pts. View the video, “Paul Washer- Unbiblical Church Music,” at https://youtu.be/ug_I9O1sHGI . Write a summary and evaluative review of the video that interacts with the ideas presented. What are its main points? What are its strongest and weakest arguments? Why? What do you agree or disagree with? Why? The paper must be at least 1,000 words. **Due Week 11.**

8. Worship project and presentation. 100 pts. You must choose and complete one of three different projects.

a) Write an original research paper on one of the following topics: sacrifice; *lex orandi, lex credendi*; the purpose of communal worship; the worship wars; baptism in the early church; theology of the Lord’s Supper.

The paper should be 6-8 pages (Times New Roman, double-spaced, not including bibliography). Use Turabian style footnotes and proper, academic English style. Read the handouts in my syllabus on writing papers. Assessment criteria will include such things as: clearly stated purpose, logical organization, faultless style, evidence of research, and interaction with sources.

No fewer than 13 sources are to be used. These sources should include relevant surveys, special monographs, and at least three peer-reviewed journal articles. If the topic is historically oriented, at least two sources should be primary documents. Do not cite sources in the bibliography unless they are used in the paper.

b) Complete a practical worship project. It may be the planning and implementing of worship services, or teaching a series of lessons on worship at a local congregation. The project should explore a variety of worship themes. Along with the actual plans, include a preface that explains the project and its setting and provides a biblical, historical, and theological rationale for what you are doing. You may work on this project with one or two other students (understanding that each will get the same grade for the finished project).

c) Write a book review essay. In consultation with the instructor, choose a book from the course bibliography that is at least 200 pages (or combine two shorter books). Read it and write an original review. See the online handout (at my “resources” page) describing Carisse Berryhill’s IDeA method for book reviews. Critically engage the book’s ideas with outside research and the knowledge you have gained in the course. The review should be 6-8 pages (Times New Roman, double-spaced, not including bibliography).

Additional guidelines for the projects:

- i. Not optional. A course grade of “F” will be assigned to anyone not turning in a project.
- ii. Your project type and topic must be turned in to me by the end of Week 3.
- iii. A hard copy of the completed project is due at the beginning of class on **Week 14**. Late projects will be penalized 10%, and an additional penalty of 10%, every other day, will be assessed to late projects. Projects will not be accepted after Week 15.

iv. You must give the class a **10-minute presentation** that summarizes your project. Be prepared to ask the class thought-provoking questions, as well as respond to their questions about your project. The presentations will take place on the **final day of class**. Evaluation of the presentation is based on your grasp and communication of the material and a polished delivery.

Grading Scale: 520 (BACS) / 650 (MATS) points total

90-100% = A 80-89 = B (Good) 70-79 = C (Average) 60-69 = D 0-59 = F

Tentative Schedule:

Wk. 1, 8/28 Introduction to course, Syllabus. What is worship?

Wk. 2, 9/4 The Foundation of Worship. **RQR 1**

Read: Nicholas Wolterstorff, "Trumpets, Ashes, and Tears," *The Reformed Journal* (February 1986): 17-22 (full text through ATLA).

I. History of Liturgy.

Wk. 3, 9/11 Synagogue worship. New Testament. Early church. **RQR 2**

Read: White, Preface, 1.

Didache 6-10. [on reserve]

Justin, *First Apology* 65-67. [on reserve]

Wk. 4, 9/18 Tradition and ritual in worship. Developments in Baptism and Eucharist. **RQR 3**

Read: Hippolytus, *The Apostolic Tradition* 4-6, 9, 21:1-38. [on reserve]

Egeria's Travels 45-48. [on reserve]

Ferguson, "Lord's Supper and Love Feast," *Christian Studies* 21 (2005-06): 27-38. [on reserve]

White, 2-3.

Jeffrey Peterson, "Redeeming the Time: The Christian Year and Life in the Risen Christ," *Christian Studies* 26 (2013-14): 33-45, at <http://austingrad.edu/Christian%20Studies/CS%2026/Redeeming%20the%20time.pdf>

Wk. 5, 9/25 Medieval, Reformation, and Modern periods. **Exam 1.**

Read: White, 4-6.

“Lord, Who Am I?” [on reserve]

II. Theology of Worship and Current Practices

Wk. 6, 10/2 Worship as divine encounter. **RQR 4**

Read: Smith, Introduction.

Wk. 7, 10/9 READING BREAK!

Wk. 8, 10/16 Two dimensions of worship. **RQR 5**

Read: Smith, 1-2.

Wk. 9, 10/23 Music. **RQR 6**

Read: Smith, 3.

Donald Williams, “Durable Hymns,” *Touchstone* (July-August 2009): 19-21. [on reserve]

Alexander Campbell, “Psalms, Hymns, and Spiritual Songs, 1852.” [on reserve]

Wk. 10, 10/30 Ritual of baptism. Architecture and aesthetic. **RQR 7**

Read: Smith, 4-5.

Arie C. Leder, “The Place of Christian Worship: Gathered around the Throne of the Almighty,” *Calvin Theological Journal* 40/2 (2005): 227-47 (full text through ATLA).

“Worshipping the Triune God” (2010), at

<http://www.calvin.edu/cicw/resources/pdf/Worshipping%20the%20Triune%20God.pdf>

Wk. 11, 11/6 Worship and culture. Consumerism. **Exam 2**

Read: Smith, 6.

Marva J. Dawn, *Reaching Out without Dumbing Down*, pp. 279-96. [on reserve]

Article on “Hipster Christianity.” [on reserve]

III. Lord's Supper

Wk. 12, 11/13 OT covenant meals. Fellowship meals. **RQR 8**

Read: Hicks, Intro. and part 1.

Wk. 13, 11/20 THANKSGIVING

Wk. 14, 11/27 Passover. **RQR 9**

Read: Hicks, part 2.

Thomas W. Mann, "Passover: The Time of Our Lives," *Interpretation* 50/3 (1996): 240-50 (full text through ATLA). [on reserve]

Wk. 15, 12/4 Luke/Acts. Lord's Supper and Lord's Day. Revisioning the Lord's Supper. **RQR 10. Project presentations.**

Read: Hicks, parts 3-4 and conclusion.

Keith Stanglin, "Christ's Presence and the Thing Signified in the Lord's Supper," *Christian Studies* 30 (2018): 7-24, at <http://austingrad.edu/resources/christian-studies-publication/>

Finals Week, 12/11: **Exam 3.**

**CHRISTIAN WORSHIP
A SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY
COMPILED BY DR. K. STANGLIN**

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- Allmen, Jean-Jacques von. *Worship: Its Theology and Practice*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1965.
- Balentine, Samuel E. *The Torah's Vision of Worship*. Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress Press, 1999.
- Block, Daniel I. *For the Glory of God: Recovering a Biblical Theology of Worship*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2014.
- Bradshaw, Paul, ed. *The New Westminster Dictionary of Liturgy and Worship*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2002.
- Byars, Ronald P. *The Sacraments in Biblical Perspective*. Interpretation. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2011.
- . *What Language Shall I Borrow? The Bible and Christian Worship*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2007.
- Chan, Simon. *Liturgical Theology: The Church as Worshiping Community*. Downers Grove: IVP Academic, 2006.
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- Kavanagh, Aidan. *On Liturgical Theology*. 1984; Collegeville: Liturgical Press, 1992.
- Mouw, Richard J. and Mark A. Noll, eds. *Wonderful Words of Life: Hymns in American Protestant History and Theology*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2004.
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- White, James F. *Christian Worship in North America: A Retrospective, 1955–1995*. Collegeville: Liturgical Press, 1997.
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II. History of Worship

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III. Lord's Supper

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IV. Websites

Calvin Institute of Christian Worship- <http://www.calvin.edu/worship/>

Reformed Worship: Resources for Planning and Leading Worship- www.reformedworship.org

The Revised Common Lectionary- <http://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/>