VANCOUVER SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY
LS 500 Introduction to Christian Worship
September 12 and 13; October 10 and 11; November 21 and 22, 2014
Instructor: Rev. Dr. Paula Sampson

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Purpose The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the historical, theological and pastoral dimensions of Christian worship. By participating in and completing the class, students will achieve familiarity with the language and content of liturgical theology and will have developed a working knowledge of how Christian worship has developed and changed over the centuries since the beginning of the church. We will also pay particular attention to the cultural contexts in which Christianity evolved and the cultural influences which shape current practices.

Format The class sessions will be Friday late afternoon/evenings and Saturday mornings and afternoons over three weekends.

Competencies Students will be evaluated on the following competency objectives:
1. Ability to describe liturgical structures and rites
2. Ability to identify cultural, social, historical and theological factors that influence or have influenced the development of liturgical structures and rites
3. Ability to use primary and secondary sources in liturgical studies
4. Ability to compare and contrast the cultural, social, historical and theological factors that influence or have influenced the development of liturgical structures and rites in traditions other than your own

Expectations In order to complete the course successfully, students will
1. Attend all of the class sessions
2. Complete the assigned reading
3. Participate in discussions and construct short rites for opening worship times
4. Complete the written assignments satisfactorily

Evaluation Demonstration of the competency objectives will be achieved through one short reflection paper due November 21 and one 10 to 12 page written assignment due on December 15th (or sooner) and participation in short class projects to be described early during the course.

Recording Students may record lectures in class only with the explicit permission in advance from the instructor. Permission must also be granted by the instructor for any use of recorded audio/visual files or any other instructional material, including any sharing of the file through electronic media, other than for personal use by the student.
Required reading
Saliers, Don. *Worship and Spirituality* 2nd ed. NOTE: This short book is available on amazon.ca or directly from the publisher. OSL Publications, Maryville, Tennessee, USA.


Variety of articles posted on the Moodle site.

**COURSE SYLLABUS**

**READ FOR FIRST WEEKEND UNIT:**
White, Chapter One
MacDonald and Morris in *Chant of Life: inculturation and the people of the land*, the Nairobi Statement and “Ritual contexts and the Peace of God” in *Church and Culture*

**September 12 - How are human beings worshipping beings? – How is Christian worship a response to God?**

**September 13 – Nine to noon - What are the purposes and methods of liturgical theology?**
Afternoon – *How does culture inform and influence worship?*

**READ FOR SECOND WEEKEND UNIT:**
Selections from Hippolytus and the Didache
White, Chapters Two, Three, Five and Six
Chapter One in *The Search for the Origins of Christian Worship* by Paul Bradshaw

**October 10 - How did first-century Judaism help to form early Christian worship?**
**October 11 - Nine to noon – What is the liturgical theology of Christian initiation?**
Afternoon - *What nourishes Christians in worship?*

*What are the structures, rhythms and symbols of Christian worship?*
Discuss first assignment, due November 21.

**READ FOR THIRD WEEKEND UNIT:**
Saliers, entire book.
White, Chapters Four, Eight and Nine
Articles by Holllinghurst (in Gibbs), Wilson, Weil and Batchelder
November 21 – What provides continuity in Christian community worship?

November 22 – Nine to noon - How is Christian worship changing to meet a changing world?

Afternoon – What is the connection between Christian worship and Christian action?

Group closing worship

ASSIGNMENT DUE November 21, 2014.

In Worship and Spirituality, Don Saliers makes connections between several dimensions of liturgy and several dimensions of Christian spirituality. Please choose three examples of such connections and, in NO MORE THAN FOUR PAGES, discuss how Saliers has drawn these associations.

ASSIGNMENT DUE December 15th (OR SOONER)! Submission of assignments on time is a part of academic, professional and pastoral competence and a part of every course at VST. All assignments in courses are due on the dates specified in the syllabus for each course. Failure to submit an assignment on time will be noted in the narrative evaluation of an assignment. I will, of course, take individual situations into account.

The 10 page paper (excluding the bibliography) will address these questions:

How does the study of Christian worship’s history inform the present in terms of cultural and contextual influences that you observe in your denomination?

Using your imagination and intuition, backed up with documented research, how would you describe the possible future shapes of worship in your denomination? (If you are not affiliated with a specific denomination, answer in terms of your general experience with church worship).

Please use as research and documentation resources the readings and class notes from the course. Use a variety of sources, including your denominational worship resources, to back up your statements. (At the MDiv level, there is a general expectation that at least ten separate sources will be cited).

Attribution of source material (where it came from) can be shown by using the author’s name and page number of the work within the text. All sources must be listed in the bibliography.

Submit papers via hard copy or by email. My email address is paulas@vst.edu.
Completion and approval of this paper constitutes 50% of the course grade. Submission of Assignment 1 constitutes 20%. This assignment is not graded, but must be turned in. It is more in the nature of a journal reflection. It will be returned to you with comments, however.

Attendance is 20%

Participation in the group project on the last day of the class is 10%.

BIBLIOGRAPHY


Batchelder, David B. “Living Wet: baptismal remembrance and life at the edge of dawn” in Liturgy 21: 11-17, 2007


Hatchett, Marion. Seven Pre-reformation Eucharistic Liturgies. Sewanee, TN: University of the South, 1973


_Weil, Louis._

