

Course Description - Wartburg Seminary

Course Number *

MN 106W

Course Title *

Foundations of Worship

Name of Instructor *

Jan Schnell

Semester & Year *

Fall 2021



Requirement fulfilled, who may register, indicate if limited:

MDiv first year worship course

Number of hours, grading option: *

3, cr/ncr

Course Details

COURSE DESCRIPTION: *

This course will disrupt notions that there is one “right way” to worship. We will, instead, sharpen growing abilities to ask insightful questions about what is happening within worship, and we will explore the roles of assembly, text, and presence in relation to worship leadership—with attention to biblical, theological, historical, and ritual foundations. Therefore, in this course, we will focus on behaviors, being, and processing rather than memorization of facts. We are going to engage in worship as a way to learn about it. We will unpack the readings, expand on our diverse foundations, and form ourselves toward embodied worship leaders. In “workshops” students enact worship leadership and give constructive, critical feedback. This course seeks to form students to think innovatively and critically about worship in Christian assemblies, especially as pertains to word and sacrament and the celebration of the church year.

Pedagogically, this course affirms each participant as an active contributor to the learning constructed throughout the course and affirms that practices lead to theory, which leads to practices. Therefore, learners augment the class when they come ready to be generative, to deeply hear one another, and to practice the theories we learn as a daily part of the experience. We will use many methods of learning: liturgical leadership, discussion, lecture, reading, and activities.

COURSE OBJECTIVES: *

1. Appreciate the local nature of a worshipping community (diaconal-pastoral practice of pastoral concern).
2. Appreciate the unity of the Church in worship (practice of biblical and theological wisdom).
3. Acknowledge diverse origins of Christian worship sources (practice of missio Dei in word and sacrament).
4. Celebrate ongoing diversity of Christian worship practices (practice of engagement with cross-cultural and global dimensions and practice of ecclesial partnership).
5. Encourage restoration of lay leadership within worship services (practice of missio Dei in word and sacrament).
6. Explore some biblical, historical, and theological foundations of worship (practice of being rooted in the Gospel).
7. Develop a better understanding of your voice/role as worship leader/presider (practice of personal faith and integrity).
8. Practice reflecting critically and theologically on liturgical decisions (toward parish life) (practice of biblical and theological wisdom and practice of complex analysis).
9. Work on the ability to analyze one's own worship leadership accurately (practice of personal faith and integrity).

PROCEDURE: *

Students preparing for Christian ministry in congregations and religious leadership in other contexts study liturgy in order to lead and accompany people of faith in the important work of formation—both in Christian faith and for the life of the world. To do this kind of preparation, we will seek to create a community of learning in which we all are accountable to one another. practiced

*A particular note for Async students: A pattern of VoiceThread posts and responses accompanies each course session in order for async students to reflect deeply together, solidifying learnings, trying out ideas, and lifting up questions. For more specifics, see "Async Calendar" on the course site.

EVALUATION: *

1. 1% Definition of Worship
 2. 1% Concern/Potential regarding Worship
 3. 8% Liturgical Genealogy
 4. 10% Class Participation
 5. 4% Familiarity with LDE
 6. 16% Notes on Readings
 7. 5% Facilitation of Reading Discussion
 8. 10% Workshop 1: Liturgical Leadership—Various
 9. 10% Workshop 2: Liturgical Leadership—Prayers of Intercession
 10. 10% Workshop 3: Liturgical Leadership—Presiding and Assisting
 11. 25% Liturgical Leadership Write Up
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Bibliography

REQUIRED

Brugh, Lorraine S. and Gordon Lathrop. *The Sunday Assembly. (Using Evangelical Worship, book 1)* Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress, 2008.

Articles:

Johnson, Maxwell. "What is Normative in Contemporary Lutheran Worship? Word and Sacrament as Non-negotiable" in *Currents in Theology and Mission* 38, no. 4 (2011): 245-255.

<http://www.currentsjournal.org/index.php/currents/issue/view/28>

Lathrop, Gordon. "The Reformation and Liturgical Reform: An Ecumenical Perspective." Gritsch Memorial Lecture (2017). http://ericwgritsch.org/archives/2017_symposium_gordon_laythrop_presentation

Rippentrop Schnell, Jan. "Ready for Communion: Living in Holy Space" in *The Christian Century* 132, no. 17 (2015): 30–33. <https://dtl.idm.oclc.org/login?url=https://link.gale.com/apps/doc/A434513784/AONE?u=upl1179&sid=AONE&xid=86596565>

Saliers, Don. "Sense, Spirit, and Body in Presiding: A Synaesthetic Environment" in *Liturgy* 22, no. 2 (2007), 35-40.

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Schattauer, Thomas. "From Sacrifice to Supper" in *A Companion to the Eucharist in the Reformation*, edited Lee Palmer Wandel. p. 205-230. Boston: Brill, 2014.

eBook available

Winner, Lauren F. "Prayer that Echoes God: Why There is so much Scripture in Liturgy" in *The Christian Century* 34, no.18 (2017), 26-29. <https://www.christiancentury.org/article/gods-words-liturgys-echo>

Documents:

World Council of Churches. Commission on Faith and Order. *Baptism, Eucharist & Ministry, 1982-1990 : Report on the Process and Responses. Faith and Order Paper, No. 149.* Geneva, Switzerland: WCC Publications, 1990. <https://www.oikoumene.org/en/resources/documents/commissions/faith-and-order/unity-the-church-and-its-mission/baptism-eucharist-and-ministry-faith-and-order-paper-no-111-the-lima-text>. file:///Users/jrippentrop-schnell/Downloads/FO1982_111_en%20(1).pdf

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, ed. *The Use of the Means of Grace: A Statement on the Practice of Word and Sacrament.* Minneapolis, MN: Augsburg Fortress, 1997.

https://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/The_Use_Of_The_Means_Of_Grace.pdf

"Can we Talk?: Engaging Worship and Culture" with "Nairobi Statement on Worship and Culture," from the Lutheran World Federation study on worship and culture (1996).

http://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Can_We_Talk_Engaging_Worship_and_Culture.pdf

RECOMMENDED

Evangelical Lutheran Worship: Pew Edition (2006) (highly, highly recommended)

Evangelical Lutheran Worship: Leaders' Desk Edition (2006) (highly, highly recommended)

NB: Ecumenical students consult with instructor to substitute worship books from your tradition. For example:

Episcopalian: Book of Common Prayer and Book of Occasional Services

Methodist: UMC Book of Worship and Hymnal

Presbyterian: Book of Common Worship (Pastoral Edition), Directory for Worship, and The Presbyterian Hymnal

United Church of Christ: Book of Worship: United Church of Christ and the New Century Hymnal

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