

Course of Study 223: Worship and Sacraments

INSTRUCTORS

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COURSE DESCRIPTION: COS 223 Worship & Sacraments

This course examines worship within the United Methodist Church including liturgy, sacraments, and special services. Attention will be given to the pastor's role as leader in worship.

Students will be able to:

1. Articulate a theology of Christian worship consistent with the Wesleyan tradition, including reflection on the theology and rhythm of the Christian year.
2. Articulate a Wesleyan theology of the sacraments and be competent in their administration.
3. Interpret theologically the rites of death and resurrection and be able to lead such services well.
4. Construct a worship service, and reflect theologically on the use of hymns, media, contemporary music, and lay leadership.

CLASS TEXTS

- *The United Methodist Book of Worship*
- *The United Methodist Hymnal*
- *This Holy Mystery: A United Methodist Understanding of Communion* - Gayle C. Felton
- *By Water and the Spirit: Making Connections for Identity and Ministry* - Gayle C. Felton
- *The Christian Year: A Guide for Worship and Preaching* – Robin Knowles Wallace
- *Accompany Them With Singing: The Christian Funeral* - Thomas G. Long – Chapters 1, 3, 5, and 7 through 9. These chapters will be posted on Course Connect. YOU DO NOT NEED TO PURCHASE THIS BOOK.
- *Worshipping with United Methodists* – Hoyt Hickman
- *Let the Church Whole Church Say Amen! A Guide for Those Who Pray in Public* – Laurence Stookey

FINAL GRADE WILL BE CALCULATED USING THIS FORMULA:

- Attendance and Participation, including participation on Course Connect (30%)
- Order of Worship Assignment (20%)
- Theology of Christian Funeral Essay (20%)
- Sacrament Assignment (20%)
- Written Prayer Assignment (10%)

ASSIGNMENTS: Assignments are designed to accommodate a diversity of learning and testing styles. Please note that your sacrament assignment gives you two options. You are to choose ONE of those options to submit as your assignment. You do not need to complete both. **All assignments are due no later than Wednesday, August 18. Please submit all 4 assignments via email (sjadamswilson@me.com) at the same time.**

Worship Assignment – Theological Analysis of Your Church’s Order of Worship

In this assignment you will assess theologically each element of the order of worship, prelude through benediction. For example, if you or your musician chose *Amazing Grace* as the opening hymn you will be expected to explain why that hymn did or did not contribute to the overall flow and purpose of worship that day. Additionally, you should offer a theological or pastoral rationale for why your worship is ordered the way it is or why you think it should be ordered differently. Explain why each element in the order of worship belongs where it is or should be moved.

The purpose of this assignment is to assess your ability to engage theologically with your order of worship. You will not be graded on the quality of your order of worship itself but on your theological analysis of it. Help us understand how you see your order of worship communicating something about God.

Here are some questions to help you evaluate your church’s order of worship. (You do not need to answer these questions in this order. They are simply a guide as you complete this assignment.)

- How do the hymns and liturgy work alongside the preaching text for that day?
- What does this worship service communicate about who God is?
- If someone who didn’t know the story of Jesus came to your church, what would they have learned from this service of worship?
- How were worshippers active participants in this service?
- What pastoral need did this worship service meet?
- What would you change, if anything, about this order of worship? Why do you think such a change or changes should be made?

This assignment does not need to be in the format of a traditional paper. It can be your order of worship with your reflections throughout. It must, however, be typed and printed. Please do not submit anything that is handwritten. Reference class textbooks where appropriate. This assignment should be a minimum of 6 pages.

Theology of Christian Funeral Essay

Read the assigned chapters of *Accompany Them with Singing: The Christian Funeral* by Thomas G. Long. Write a 4 to 5 page, double spaced, typed essay that carries out the following tasks:

- Analyze this author’s theology of Christian worship, especially as it relates to funerals. Articulate this author’s understanding of the priorities of a Christian funeral and how it is consistent with the explanation of the Christian funeral in the United Methodist Book of Worship.

- Offer your personal reflection on Christian funerals using your experience, the content covered in this class, and the theology of the author. What are the strengths and weaknesses of Long's theology of worship? How can you learn from what he writes? What would you critique?

Sacrament Assignment – You may choose ONE of the following assignments to complete:

Assignment Option #1: Write a 4 to 5 page paper answering the following question: What is the meaning and significance of the Christian sacraments (baptism and communion)? Be careful to incorporate and analyze the course material (*This Holy Mystery, By Water and the Spirit, UM Hymnal, UM Book of Worship*). Be sure to give attention to the question of infant baptism.

Assignment Option #2: Host a conversation between you and a lay person from your church about the meaning and significance of the sacraments. You can provide them with questions to ask or ask them to come with their own questions. The goal of this assignment is for you demonstrate that you can effectively communicate the meaning and significance of the sacraments in a way that is both Wesleyan and pastoral. This conversation should be 12-15 minutes and should be recorded and submitted via Course Connect. (Note: your submission will not be judged on the quality of video but both you and your conversation partner should be visible and able to be heard clearly.)

Corporate Prayer Assignment

Read and complete Exercise 16 (pages 105-110) in *Let the Church Say Amen*. (You do not need to turn in the exercise, it is just for your practice.) Write a prayer about an issue that would be considered controversial in your congregation. You may choose an event/issue that has been in the news in the last year or something unique to your setting. Your prayer should be 1 to 2 pages double spaced. After writing your prayer, write a 1 page reflection on your prayer. You should reflect on why you chose that issue, how you decided the kind of language to use, and what it means to lead your congregation in prayer around this topic.

ASSIGNMENT FORMAT

All papers are to be written in Times New Roman, 12pt font, double spaced with 1- inch margins. (The video and order of worship analysis are exceptions.)

ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION

Attendance and active participation are essential to successful completion of this course. In case of emergency, students may request an excused absence from up to 4 hours of instruction time from the instructors and Course of Study Director, Rev. Paige Swaim-Presley. Students who miss more than 4 hours of class for any reason or students who do not secure an excuse for absences of 4 hours or less will be required to repeat the course. Additionally, students who are absent or tardy for any reason must still complete all work and turn in any assignments due for that session to receive course credit. In addition to being physically present at all classes, students are asked to be mentally present as well by turning off all electronic devices (except those use to take notes) and actively engaging in class discussions and group assignments.

PLAGIARISM AND INTELLECTUAL HONESTY

As ministers of the Gospel, we are called to live with integrity in all areas of life, including academic study. All students are to practice intellectual honesty and avoid plagiarism in any form by (1) clearly acknowledging when they draw from the ideas or phrasing of other authors, (2) learning and using appropriate citation for sources consulted, (3) asking their instructor for guidance when they are uncertain of how to acknowledge the contributions of others in their thinking and writing. The need for appropriate citation in all written assignments includes all references to Scripture and required course readings. Plagiarism, whether intentional or unintentional, is a serious offense that will result in a failing grade on the plagiarized assignment and possible failure of the course.

CLASS SCHEDULE (All Classes Meet Via Zoom):

Friday, July 16 / 6:30 – 8:30 pm – Intro to Christian Worship
Saturday, July 17 / 9:30 – 11:30 am – The Christian Year
Friday, July 30 / 6:30 – 8:30 pm – Worship Planning/Ordering Worship
Saturday, July 31 / 9:30 – 11:30 am – Christian Weddings and Funerals
Friday, August 13 / 6:30 – 8:30 pm – Baptism
Saturday, August 14 / 9:30 – 11:30 am - Communion

SESSION ONE | FRIDAY, JULY 16 | 6:30 – 8:30 P.M. 2 CONTACT HOURS

INTRO TO CHRISTIAN WORSHIP

Prior to session one:

1. Discussion Forum Question via Course Connect. **.5 CONTACT HOURS**
 - Discussion question will be posted Monday, July 12. Students should reply by Friday, July 19 at noon.
2. Discussion Forum Question via Course Connect. **.5 CONTACT HOURS**
 - Discussion question will be posted Monday, July 12. Students should reply by Friday, July 19 at noon.
3. View video on Course Connect: Intro to the Course with Sarah Jo. **.5 CONTACT HOURS**
4. Read pages 13-32 of the United Methodist Book of Worship.
5. Read *The Christian Year: A Guide for Worship and Preaching*.

SESSION TWO | SATURDAY, JULY 17 | 9:30 – 11:30 A.M. 2 CONTACT HOURS

THE CHRISTIAN YEAR

SESSION THREE | FRIDAY, JULY 30 | 6:30 – 8:30 P.M. 2 CONTACT HOURS

Prior to session three:

1. Discussion Forum Question via Course Connect. **.5 CONTACT HOURS**
 - Discussion question will be posted Monday, July 19. Students should reply to the question themselves AND respond to three fellow students by Friday, July 23 at midnight.
2. Discussion Forum Question via Course Connect. **.5 CONTACT HOURS**
 - Discussion question will be posted Monday, July 26. Students should reply to the question themselves AND respond to three fellow students by Friday, July 30 at noon.

SESSION FOUR | SATURDAY, JULY 31 | 9:30 – 11:30 A.M. 2 CONTACT HOURS

CHRISTIAN FUNERALS AND WEDDINGS

Prior to session four:

1. Watch video on Course Connect. **.5 CONTACT HOURS**
2. Read *Accompany Them with Singing* by Tom Long.

SESSION FIVE | FRIDAY, AUGUST 13 | 6:30 – 8:30 P.M. 2 CONTACT HOURS

BAPTISM IN THE UNITED METHODIST TRADITION

Prior to session five:

1. Discussion Forum Question via Course Connect. **.5 CONTACT HOURS**
 - Discussion question will be posted Monday, August 2. Students should reply to the question themselves AND respond to three fellow students by Friday, August 6 at midnight.
2. Discussion Forum Question via Course Connect. **.5 CONTACT HOURS**
 - Discussion question will be posted Monday, August 9. Students should reply to the question themselves AND respond to three fellow students by Friday, August 13 at noon.
3. View video on Course Connect. **.5 CONTACT HOURS**
4. View video on Course Connect. **.5 CONTACT HOURS**
5. Read *By Water and the Spirit*, making notes and questions in the margins.

SESSION SIX | SATURDAY, AUGUST 14 | 9:30 – 11:30 A.M. 2 CONTACT HOURS

COMMUNION IN THE UNITED METHODIST TRADITION

Prior to session six:

1. Read *This Holy Mystery*, making notes and questions in the margins.

ADDITIONAL CONTACT HOUR ASSIGNMENTS:

1. View video on Course Connect and respond/reflect. **1 CONTACT HOUR**
 - Video will be posted Monday, August 16. Students should watch video AND reflect on its content by Friday, August 20 at midnight.
2. View video on Course Connect and respond/reflect. **1 CONTACT HOUR**
 - Video will be posted Monday, August 16. Students should watch video AND reflect on its content by Friday, August 20 at midnight.
3. Discussion Forum Question via Course Connect. **.5 CONTACT HOURS**
 - Question will be posted Monday, August 16. Students should reply to the question themselves AND three fellow students by Friday, August 20 at midnight.
4. Discussion Forum Question via Course Connect. **.5 CONTACT HOURS**
 - Question will be posted Monday, August 16. Students should reply to the question themselves AND three fellow students by Friday, August 20 at midnight.