DM 849 Getting Premodern to go Post Modern: Wisdom from the Early Church for Preaching and Worship Today

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Syllabus Draft
DM 849
Getting Premodern to go Post Modern:
Wisdom from the Early Church for Preaching and Worship Today (3 hours)
January 20-24, 2003
Dr. Michael Pasquarello and Dr. Lester Ruth
Guest lecturers: Sally Morganthaler and Karen Ward

Each student will need an ATS e-mail account (First Class) and facility with this account in order to participate in required online assignments.

Course Description: This course seeks to facilitate a conversation between a Patristic vision of reality and the Postmodern world so as to provoke reflection and discussion about current possible practices of preaching and worship. It will seek to explore a third way for preaching and worship beyond the confines of so-called “contemporary” and “traditional” worship.

Objectives of the Course:
1) to familiarize students with essential characteristics of the patristic vision and the Postmodern world;
2) to see how the patristic vision was expressed as the church at worship;
3) to explore connections between this patristic vision and the world of Postmodernity

Competencies to be developed by the student: a student who has successfully completed this course will be able to:
1) demonstrate her or his understanding of these core patristic concepts: economy of salvation, remembrance, time, sacrament, and church;
2) describe the basic rhythms and practices of worship in the patristic era;
3) articulate an overview of the various cultural expressions that make up Postmodernity; and
4) use the practical wisdom of the early church Fathers in leading the church at worship in the emerging Postmodern world.

Textbooks and other reading material:
A course packet containing the following material will also be required:
Kavanagh, Aidan. “A Rite of Passage.”
+ 4 sermons from Augustine, Chrysostom, Ambrose, and Cyril of Jerusalem.
+ liturgical material from The Apostolic Constitutions
+ hymnody from Ephrem the Syrian

**Course Requirements**
Each student will complete the following requirements:
1) the assigned reading
2) attendance at all class sessions
3) 4 online assignments
4) 2 papers

**Details on each assignment and the basis for evaluation**
Online assignments (beginning, respectively, on the following dates: Dec. 26, Jan. 6, Feb. 3 and Feb. 20; at a minimum each student will be expected to post an initial response to the professors’ discussion starter and a response to another classmate’s initial posting; postings will be evaluated not only for quantity (how much you participate) but also for quality (how well you participate). Quality postings will show insightfulness, ability to integrate readings, and will move the discussion forward.)

Weight of grading for the requirements
--Each online assignment is worth 10% of the class grade for a total of 40%
--The first paper will be worth 20% of the class grade
--The second paper will be worth 40% of the class grade

**Class Schedule**
Pre-course
Beginning **Dec. 26th** (the feast of Stephen) 1st online assignment: On this date be prepared to begin participating in the online assignment concerning McLaren’s *A New Kind of Christian*

Beginning **Jan. 6** (the Theophany of the Lord) 2nd online assignment: On this date be prepared to begin participating in the online assignment concerning Webber’s *Ancient-Future Faith*

**The week of classes**
Jan. 20: Course introduction; Sally Morgenthaler on Postmodernity
Jan. 21: morning: Sally Morganthalmer on Postmodern context; afternoon: Karen Ward on Postmodernity
Jan. 22: The Patristic Vision (have read 2 of the sermons in the course packet + Ephrem’s hymnody)
Jan. 23: Patristic Worship and Preaching (have read Kavanagh’s “A Rite of Passage” + 1 of the sermons in the course packet + *Hippolytus*)
Jan. 24: Patristic Worship and Preaching (have read last sermon in the course packet +
*The Apostolic Constitutions*)

Beginning **February 3** 3rd online assignment: On this date be prepared to begin
participating in the online assignment concerning Patristic people. The following should
have been read: Allen’s *Spiritual Theology*, Greer’s *Broken Lights and Mended Lives*,
Kelly’s *Golden Mouth*,

Beginning **February 20** 4th online assignment: On this date be prepared to respond to the
online assignment concerning Patristic practices. The following should have been read:
Cuming’s *Hippolytus*, Harmless’ *Augustine and the Catechumenate*, Taft’s “Toward a
Theology of the Christian Feast.”

**March 6** 1st paper due: From the readings, assignments, and class discussion, construct
an over-arching vision of patristic faith and practice, demonstrating how worship and
preaching, spirituality and pastoral ministry, are integrated to form a wholistic view of
reality. Consider biblical, theological, historical, and cultural factors and sources. 5-10
pages

**March 31** 2nd paper due: Utilizing a vision you have constructed as your framework and
foundation, describe its implementation for ministry in a post-modern setting. Be
specific in creating a model that shows how this would look in the life of a congregation,
providing justification for your decisions. 15-20 pages.