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CH 740 History of Christian Worship

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PURPOSE/DESCRIPTION

This course will present a survey of the history of the forms and theologies of Christian worship from the Apostolic Age to the modern era. Included will be consideration of worship in the contemporary African American tradition and in the emerging churches of the non-Western world.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

At the conclusion of this course, the student will be able:

1. To articulate a panoramic view of the history of the Christian community in worship;
2. To demonstrate basic factual knowledge of the persons, communities, movements, and events that have shaped the worship of Christian people;
3. To describe the continuity and change of Christian worship through the ages;
4. To demonstrate skills of critical analysis and appreciation through participant/observer immersion in worship traditions other than one’s own;
5. To articulate the particular contributions of the Wesleyan tradition to the heritage of Christian worship;
6. To evaluate the monumental movements of the twentieth century that are shaping contemporary worship patterns and practice;
7. To show an awareness of and appreciation for the diversity of worship in a global Christian family;
8. To translate the discoveries of the course into practical forms that will shape or inform worship in contemporary settings of ministry.

SCHEDULE/OUTLINE

Sat Sep 16  The Jewish Roots of Christian Worship
  Early and Imperial Church Worship
  Evolving Patterns of Prayer, Music, & Diverse Liturgical Families
  Elaboration and Fragmentation of the Roman Rite

  Background Reading for Today:
  White, History, Chapters 1-2
  Thompson, Liturgies, Chapters 1-2

Sat Sep 30  The Latin Roman Breviary of Tridentine Reform
  The Protestant Liturgical Heritage

  Background Reading for Today:
  White, History, Chapters 3-4
  White, Protestant Worship, Chapters 1-5
  Thompson, Liturgies, Chapters 3-6
Sat Oct 12 The Anglican *Book of Common Prayer*
Puritanism, Rationalism, Pietism, Revivalism, & Bach
The Wesleyan Sacramental Revival
The Liturgical Renewal Movement and Its Impact
*Baptism, Eucharist, and Ministry*: Consensus in Worship?
Taizé: That Little Springtime

Background Reading for Today:
- White, *Protestant Worship*, Chapters 6-10
- Thompson, *Liturgies*, Chapters 8, 10-13
- Tucker, *Service of Methodists*, Chapters 1, 7, 17
- *Baptism, Eucharist, and Ministry*

Sat Oct 28 Worship in the African American Tradition
Worship in a Global Christian Family
Rediscoveries from Non-Western Christianity

Background Reading for Today:
- White, *Protestant Worship*, Chapters 11-12
- Tucker, *Service of Methodists*, Chapters 2-6, 8-16, 18
- [Costen, *African American Worship*]

Sat Nov 11 Sharing of Progress on Projects
Contemporary Directions
A Celebration of Diversity
Concluding Eucharist

Background Reading for Today:
- White, *History*, Chapters 5-6

RESOURCES

**Required Texts**

- James White, *A Brief History of Christian Worship*
- James White, *Protestant Worship*
- Bard Thompson, *Liturgies of the Western Church*
- Karen Westerfield Tucker, *The Sunday Service of the Methodists*
- *Baptism, Eucharist, and Ministry*

**Recommended Texts** (In no particular order)

- James White, *Documents of Christian Worship*
- Paul Bradshaw, *Search for the Origins of Christian Worship*
- J. Jungmann, *Early Liturgy of Gregory*
- Dom Gregory Dix, *The Shape of the Liturgy*
- C. Vogel, *Medieval Liturgy*
- J. Ernest Rattenbury, *Eucharistic Hymns of the Wesleys*
- Melva Costen, *African American Christian Worship*
- D. Benedict & C. K. Miller, *Contemporary Worship*
- M. Tirabassi & K. Eddy, *Gifts of Many Cultures*
Andrew Wilson-Dickson, *The Story of Christian Music*
Marcel Metzger, *History of the Liturgy*
Anita Stauffer, ed., *Worship and Culture in Dialogue*
James White, *Roman Catholic Worship*
Susan White, *Christian Worship and Technological Change*
Carlton Young, *My Great Redeemer’s Praise*

**Important Reference Works**

- L. Clarke & C. Harris, *Liturgy and Worship*
- J. G. Davies, *Dictionary of Liturgy and Worship*
- C. Jones, G. Wainwright, & E. Yarnold, *The Study of Liturgy*
- C. Cuming, *A History of Anglican Liturgy*
- J. Jeremias, *The Eucharistic Words of Jesus*
- E. Ratcliff, *Litururgical Studies*

**Studia Liturgica**

**Worship**

**REQUIREMENTS AND EVALUATION**

1. **Participant/Observer Reports & Class Participation (30%)**

   Each student is required to complete two Participant/Observer Reports based upon site visits to worship experiences (or reflections on past experiences, if need be). Guidelines for this exercise will be discussed on the first day of class. The purpose of this exercise is to enter into the experience of worship with sensitivity and with enough historical background to participate and analyze the experience with care. Each report is valued at 15% of the final grade.

   Your lively and informed participation in all class activities is valuable for you and contributes to the edification of all. Active involvement in class will be taken into account in determining final grades.

2. **Book Reports (30%)**

   Each student must complete two book reports. Each of these reports must be three pages (typed and double-spaced). Each report is valued at 15% of the final grade. There is no particular format stipulated for the Report, simply the need for the reader to demonstrate their knowledge of and dialogue with the book in question. Students are free to choose the books upon which to report, but in consultation with the instructor.

3. **Practical Project (40%)**

   Each student will be required to develop a practical project, a way of translating the learning of the course into a form that can be utilized in Christian worship, religious education, pastoral care settings, or other forms of ministry. This requirement can be fulfilled in a number of different ways and will be discussed in class.
Christ is communion.

Will you choose to live a life rooted in the Risen Lord present on earth in the communion of his Body, the Church?

When the Church is a radiant mystery of motherly love and forgiveness, it offers a clear reflection of Christ Jesus.

(Brother Roger of Taizé)