WO 510 The Servant as Liturgist

Lester Ruth

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Syllabus
WO510 The Servant as Liturgist
Fall Semester 2000
Tu/Th 9:30-10:45 a.m.

Professor: Dr. Lester Ruth; BC 218; 858-2175; (email: WO510 Office or lester_ruth@asburyseminary.edu)
Office hours: 1:15-2:30 Tuesdays and Thursdays; other times by appointment

Course description: This course lays the foundation for the ministry of the whole congregation in corporate worship. Biblical, theological, historical and practical focus is brought to bear on the elements of prayer, Scripture, music, and proclamation in terms of the design of services, the keeping of time, and worship space. Attention is given to interpreting, planning and presiding at the Church’s principal worship services, sacraments, weddings and funerals.

Course goals: This course will seek to equip the student to:
1) glorify God and edify the church
2) make sound worship decisions
3) provide gracious worship leadership
4) put herself or himself in context, gaining perspective on her or his own present practice of worship within the diversity of approaches to Christian worship.

Grading and Evaluation: Each student will receive a grade based upon three elements: a midterm exam, a final exam, and a contracted level of reading. A numeric grade, which will be translated to letter grades, will be assigned to each element. Students should refer to page 24 in the 1998-2000 ATS catalog to see qualitative descriptions of these letter grades. In this class “A” refers to a numeric grade of 94 and above; “A-“ to 90-93; “B+” to 87-89; “B” to 84-86”; “B-“ to 80-83,” and so forth.

--Exams: The midterm exam will occur during class on Thursday, October 12. It will cover both class lectures and general required reading up to that point. The final exam is scheduled for Thursday, December 14 from 9:00-11:00 a.m. It will cover lectures and general required reading since from October 17 onward.

--Reading: There are three levels of readings for this class: 1) general required which is expected of everyone; 2) a B level of reading (the general required + designated additional reading); and 3) an A level of reading (the general required + additional B level reading + designated additional reading). As noted, everyone should do the general required. Students have the option of contracting for the B level or A level of reading. A listing of the reading for each level, a contract to be turned in on Tuesday, September 12, and checklist are provided below (the checklist is due on the last day of class). Each level of reading will be assigned the following numeric value for assessing the final course grade: General required=75; B=85; and A=95. The checklist is due on the day of the final.

Additional requirement: All students should visit one worship service at a church outside of their normal range of experience. The visitation should be done with at least one other student. The professor can make suggestions about churches and services. The visitation does not need be on a Sunday although visiting a church’s main service is preferred. Students can use the class folder on the First Class server to find people who join them in a visitation. No written report will be due. Time will be taken on October 26 for discussion of the visitations. (Of course, the visitation should be done before this date.) In the case of utter necessity, videotapes or television can be used. However, this is not nearly as preferable as actual visitation and thus this option must be approved by the professor.

Reading list:
--General required:

Authentic Worship in a Changing Culture (Grand Rapids: CRC Publications, 1997). (AWCC)
--B level:
The general required reading plus the following:
John D. Witvliet, *So You've Been Asked To...Lead a Worship Service* (Grand Rapids: CRC Publications, 1999).
John D. Witvliet, *So You've Been Asked To...Plan a Worship Service* (Grand Rapids: CRC Publications, 1999).
And these articles in the course packet:

--A level:
The general required reading plus the B level reading plus the following:
And four of these articles in the course packet:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>General required reading schedule</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 5</td>
<td>Course intro: the glory of God</td>
<td>AWCC36-49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>How we got here: the Bible and worship</td>
<td>ICW21-51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>How we got here: brief history of worship</td>
<td>WMI73-79, AWCC14-19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Where we are now: current diversity</td>
<td>AWCC50-75, WMI37-42</td>
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<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Where we should be: theology and norms</td>
<td>AWCC80-102, WMI23-28, 80-92</td>
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<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Saying where we are: vocabulary for assessing and planning worship</td>
<td>ICW52-87</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Worship in detail: Time</td>
<td>ICW88-121, WMI155-167, WMI171-81</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 3</td>
<td>Worship in detail: Space</td>
<td>WMII47-53, 126-134</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Worship in detail: Music</td>
<td>WMII29-37, WMII142-147</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Exam</td>
<td>WMII119-125</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Excursus: children and generational issues</td>
<td>AWCC20-34, WMI15-22, WMII172-176</td>
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<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Excursus: worship and evangelism</td>
<td>ICW122-140</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Worship in detail: Prayer</td>
<td>WMII123-129</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Worship in detail: In-class discussion of worship visitation</td>
<td>ICW141-164, WMI30-36, WMII23-28, 101-110</td>
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<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>Worship in detail: Word</td>
<td>ICW165-191, WMI134-141</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Worship in detail: Initiation</td>
<td>WMII191-218</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Worship in detail: Initiation</td>
<td>WMII51-56</td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Worship in detail: the Lord’s Supper</td>
<td>ICW219-253, WMII137-146</td>
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<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Excursus: enriching worship</td>
<td>WMII58-62, 173-176, WMII85-100</td>
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<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>Excursus: negotiating change</td>
<td>ICW254-268, 279-288, WMII147-154</td>
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<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Worship in detail: Ministry to the sick, reconciliation, ordination</td>
<td>ICW268-279</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec. 5</td>
<td>Worship in detail: Weddings</td>
<td>ICW288-297</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Worship in detail: Funerals</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>final exam, 9-11 a.m.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
B and A level reading checklist
(Remember that these items are not on the exam.)
This checklist is due on or before the last class day.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Read?</th>
<th>suggested reading date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Staples, <em>Outward Sign and Inward Grace</em></td>
<td>B</td>
<td></td>
<td>early second half of semester</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Witvliet, <em>So…Lead a Worship Service</em></td>
<td>B</td>
<td>____</td>
<td>by Nov. 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Witvliet, <em>So…Plan a Worship Service</em></td>
<td>B</td>
<td>____</td>
<td>by Nov. 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bradshaw <em>Two Ways of Praying</em></td>
<td>B</td>
<td>____</td>
<td>by Oct. 26</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bridge/Phypers, <em>The Water That Divides</em></td>
<td>B</td>
<td>____</td>
<td>by Nov. 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Collins/Weidler, <em>Sound Decisions</em></td>
<td>B</td>
<td>____</td>
<td>by Oct. 10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hamilton, “The Triumph of Praise Songs”</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>____</td>
<td>by Oct. 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lulofs, “Conflict in the Church”</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>____</td>
<td>by Sept. 21</td>
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<td>Ruth, “Literature on Liturgical Inculturation”</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>____</td>
<td>by Oct. 24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Von Allmen, “Meaning of Common Prayer”</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>____</td>
<td>by Oct. 26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Webber, <em>Planning Blended Worship</em></td>
<td>B</td>
<td>____</td>
<td>by Oct. 17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dawn, <em>A Royal “Waste” of Time</em></td>
<td>A</td>
<td>____</td>
<td>first half of the semester</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Felton, <em>By Water and the Spirit</em></td>
<td>A</td>
<td>____</td>
<td>by Nov. 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>and four of the following:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Jones et al. <em>The Study of Liturgy</em></td>
<td>A</td>
<td>____</td>
<td>by Sept. 21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lathrop, <em>Holy People</em></td>
<td>A</td>
<td>____</td>
<td>by Sept. 19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liesch, <em>The New Worship</em></td>
<td>A</td>
<td>____</td>
<td>by Oct. 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proctor-Smith, <em>In Her Own Rite</em></td>
<td>A</td>
<td>____</td>
<td>by Sept. 14</td>
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<tr>
<td>Russell, “Toward...Language of Hospitality”</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>____</td>
<td>by Oct. 31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Von Allmen, “Theology Place of Worship”</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>____</td>
<td>by Oct. 3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Name: ________________________________
Signature: ___________________________
Date: ______________________________
To facilitate discussion

There are three ways to continue discussion of the issues raised in this class:

1) Come by and see the professor, either during his scheduled office hours or by appointment.

2) Join in the weekly lunch roundtable on worship. This will be an informal, optional time to talk about whatever the pressing worship issues might be. The discussion will begin with the topics from the closest class periods but will not be limited to those. The roundtable will meet on Fridays at noon in the cafeteria.

3) Pay attention to the WO510 Discussion Center on the email system. Interested parties are invited to offer questions to the class, post opinions, or otherwise stir the liturgical waters. The professor will participate but students will not be graded on anything they might post. In this course center course materials (such as PowerPoint slides) as well as conferencing, web links, and a chat room will be available on-line through an icon (WO510-LR) placed on each student’s desktop, using the Seminary’s FirstClass Client program. This means that every student should have access to the Seminary’s e-mail system; access is possible through use of computers available on the Wilmore or Orlando campus Media Center, through dialing into the system from a home computer, or via the World Wide Web (and thus through any computer, such as those available at public libraries). To post a message type in WO510-LR into the recipient line (To:) of a message or just hit the new message button while in the WO510-LR folder.

The “sequels”

This class is just a beginning. Consider taking additional WO and MU classes, including, but not limited to, WO 611 Public Worship: Study-Discussion, WO 612 Public Worship: Practicum, and WO 738 Sacramental Theology.
Visitation Observation Tool

I. Time
What day did you visit? When in the day was the service? Was it a regular service or one on a special occasion? Did the service seem to have any sort of relationship with a special time (daily, weekly, or yearly)?

II. The worship space
Please draw an elementary sketch of the worship space and label the important spaces (congregational, movement, choir, baptismal, and sanctuary, i.e., altar-table, space) and centers (baptismal font/pool, pulpit, lectern, altar-table, presider's chair, and the normal place of presiding).

III. The order of worship
Was a written bulletin/program provided? If so, how closely did the order correspond to what was written? Please reproduce an order of the elements of worship and provide your own grouping of major units. Was there some sort of movement or progression in the service?

IV. Music
How much music was there? What type of music was there? By whom was the music performed? Who seemed to be the primary audience for the music? What sort of piety would be formed by this type of music? What function did the music seem to have?

IV. Preaching, reading, and praying
How important was the sermon in the service? How would you characterize the sermon? What relationship did it have to the Bible passages which were read?
How many Bible passages were read? How extensive were the readings? Was special respect for the Bible shown? If so, how?
Was the praying from a book or extemporaneously? Who did the praying, the presider, the congregation, or both? What seemed to be common topics of the prayer?

V. Persons
What sort of people made up this congregation? How was the service a reflection of their culture?
Who did most of the worship acts? Were there distinctions by age, sex, etc.? How many presiders were there? How could you tell if someone was a presider? Was there one many presider?

VI. Symbolic acts, gestures, language, and objects
Were there especially significant symbolic acts, gestures, or objects? If so, what? How could you tell? What seems especially holy or sacred for this congregation?
Were there distinctive terminology or lingo? Were there recurring themes or metaphors? If so, what? Is this distinctive language immediately recognizable in meaning to a visitor?

VII. The "purpose" of the service
What seemed to be the "purpose" of the service? Who was the main audience of the things said and done? What was the normal way of addressing this audience?

VIII. This service within its tradition
How characteristic of its tradition was this service? What seemed in line with this church's broader tradition? What seemed out of place with this church's tradition?

IX. Intangibles
What was the style of this service?
From your observation of this service, what do you think is this congregation's view of God? From your observation of this service, what do you think is this congregation's view of the church?
What are your own personal reaction and impressions of this worship? What else needed to be asked on this observation tool in order to assess correctly this worship service?
What range of emotions or affections were expressed in the service?
How full was the remembrance and proclamation?
Reading Contract
WO510
Fall 2000

To be turned in by September 12.

I wish to contract to read at this grade level: General   A   B (please circle one)

_________________________    ______________________
Name:       Date
(Please print.)
Student Information

Name_________________________________________

I moved here from _______________________________

Current church affiliation:_________________________

Prior church affiliation:___________________________

Year at ATS:  1st  2nd  3rd  4th  Other

I would characterize my own preference for worship as
____________________________________________________________________________________.

My greatest desire for this course is
____________________________________________________________________________________.

I think the greatest challenge for the church today with respect to worship is
____________________________________________________________________________________.