WO 530 United Methodist Worship

Keith Ray
Course: WO530 X1 (SP 2009)
Title: United Methodist Worship
Hours: 3.00
Published: Yes, on 01/16/2009
Prerequisites: None

Department: Worship
Faculty: Dr. Keith Ray

Email: keith.ray@asburyseminary.edu
Office: AD
SPO:

Meetings:
During 02/09/2009 to 05/22/2009 Online via ExL.

Maximum Registration: 22
Catalog Description: This course examines United Methodist worship to prepare students to plan and lead worship in a range of this denomination’s churches. Emphasis is placed on familiarity with United Methodist worship resources, especially denominationally approved orders of worship, and with various specific dimensions of worship like Word, sacrament, prayer, music, calendar, weddings, and funerals. Of specific concern will be appropriate adaptation for various cultures, geographic settings (rural, suburban, urban), and demographic contexts.

Objectives:
United Methodist Worship

Prerequisites
There are no prerequisite courses for WO 530.

Course Description
This course examines United Methodist worship to prepare students to plan and lead worship in a range of this denomination’s churches. Emphasis is placed on familiarity with United Methodist worship resources, especially denominationally approved orders of worship, and with various specific dimensions of worship like word, sacrament, prayer, music, calendar, weddings, and funerals. Of specific concern will be appropriate adaptation for various cultures, geographic settings (rural, suburban, urban), and demographic contexts.

Course Relationship
UM 530 fulfills a proclamation core elective in the M.Div curriculum.

Welcome
How delighted I am to share this journey with you as we explore the riches of United Methodist worship. Drawing upon the "official" resources of the denomination, we will have the opportunity to explore the foundations of Christian worship that speak to the heart through word, sign, and symbol.

Perhaps this prayer from The United Methodist Hymnal will keep us focused as we begin our journey:

Holy God,
you have given us grace,
by the confession of the faith of your holy church,
to acknowledge the mystery of the eternal Trinity
and, in the power of your divine majesty, to worship the Unity.
Keep us steadfast in this faith and worship,
and bring us at last to see in your eternal glory
One God, now and forever. Amen.[1]

Personal Introduction

Dr. Keith D. Ray II
Adjunct Instructor of Worship
Asbury Theological Seminary
Email: kdray@asburyseminary.edu (Note: I will be checking this email account a minimum of two times per week during the semester. If you have an urgent question or need, please feel free to call me at the numbers below or utilize my personal email.

Office Phone: 864-246-4311
Home Phone: 864-228-0476
Alternate Email: keithdray@gmail.com

My other vocational endeavors:

Pastor
Berea Friendship United Methodist Church
8100 White Horse Road
Greenville, SC 29613

Doctoral Thesis Director
Robert E. Webber Institute for Worship Studies
Orange Park, Florida.

I am an ordained elder in the South Carolina Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church.

Education:


ExL Contact Information

For technical support, library research support, library loans, and ExL media, contact Information Commons:
info_commons@asburyseminary.edu
Phone: 859.858.2233; Toll-free: 866.454.2733

For general questions and administrative assistance regarding the ExL program, contact Dale Hale:
ExL_Office@asburyseminary.edu
Phone: 859.858.2393

Accessing Information Commons Material

General Questions:

The Information Commons is a "one-stop shop" for all student research, circulation and technical needs. The Information
Commons hours are posted here: [http://www.asburyseminary.edu/information/hours.php](http://www.asburyseminary.edu/information/hours.php)

Materials Requests:

To search the library catalog for available materials, click here: [http://www.asburyseminary.edu/information/](http://www.asburyseminary.edu/information/)

ExL students may request books, photocopies or emailed attachments of journal articles/portions of reference books from Asbury Seminary’s library. Please allow 3 – 10 business days for all requests to be filled. Contact the Information Commons for costs and instructions on how to make requests.

ExL students are encouraged to make use of local library resources. Students who live within a 50 mile radius of either the Florida or the Kentucky campus should come to campus to obtain their materials.

Research Questions:

ExL students are encouraged to contact Information Commons for research assistance including help determining the best sources to use for a paper, finding book reviews, or research questions about using the online databases or any other library materials.

Online Databases:

To access the online library resources including the library catalog and full-text journal databases, go to [http://www.asburyseminary.edu/information/](http://www.asburyseminary.edu/information/) and enter your 10-digit student ID number in the login box. Your student ID number is provided on the biographical information section of the student registration webpage. Add a 2 and enough 0’s to the front to make a 10-digit number (20000XXXXX where XXXXX = your student ID number).

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**Date of Course**

This course begins **February 9, 2009 and concludes May 22, 2009**. A detailed module schedule is provided below.

**Course Objectives**

This course in pastoral liturgy gives the student an opportunity to explore many facets of liturgical leadership in a United Methodist context. By the end of the course the student should be prepared to:

- articulate a theology of worship grounded in Wesleyan understandings of liturgical practice;
- use the official liturgical resources of The United Methodist Church in worship planning and implementation;
- demonstrate basic skills in the ministry of presiding at pastoral rites, including baptism, eucharist, weddings, funerals;
- articulate a connection between United Methodist worship and ministries of social holiness;
- enrich congregational worship through sound worship practices rooted in scripture and United Methodist heritage;
- demonstrate an awareness of the impact of cultural contexts on the practice of worship in United Methodist contexts.

**Module Agenda**

This course is designed in twelve learning modules, each dealing with topics related to United Methodist worship theology,
planning and practice. Each module includes a combination of reading assignments, video/PowerPoint presentations, audio segments, and/or web sites for viewing.

Each module has one or more discussion questions posted for your response. You will post an initial response to the question(s) provided and then respond to at least one other posting from a classmate.

Depending on the size of enrollment, students will be divided into smaller groups for discussion board work so as to maximize interaction and discussion.

Additional assignments will be used to assess understanding and competencies related to each module.

I will provide you a Module Planning Sheet at the beginning of each Module. Use this as a guide to complete the assigned tasks. I have attached the sheets for Modules 1 and 2 to the syllabus for your review.

Due dates for all assignments are provided in the Module Planning Sheet for each unit of study.

**Expectations**

What you can expect of me:

- I will do my best to respond to your questions and postings in a timely manner. I will interact with the course on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at a minimum.
- Interaction, participation, and direction in the ongoing discussions throughout the semester.
- Prompt feedback and assessment on assignments.
- Imperfection! Keep in mind that I am learning along with you, particularly when it comes to the nature and rhythm of ExL.

What I expect of you:

- Participation in the online discussion in a consistent and regular matter.
- Timely completion of assignments.
- Honest questions when you do not understand the material or instruction.
- Your patience as we work to build a learning community via ExL.

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**Required Texts:**

**Readings**

The following texts are required. Specific reading assignments are provided for each module and/or assignment as indicated in Moodle.


Course Requirements:

Course Requirements

Students are expected to fulfill the following requirements in the course:

Module Discussion Boards and Learning Exercises [25 % of grade]. Students are expected to prepare for and participate in module discussion boards. You must post a minimum of one response to my initial question/assignment for each module and one response to a classmate's posting for each module. You must make your initial posting by the fourth day of the module (e.g., if the module begins on Monday, you must provide your initial post by Thursday at midnight). Your second post must come at the end of the module (in our example, by Sunday midnight). Additional postings are welcome and encouraged. In addition, each module concludes with a learning exercise that assesses your understanding of the material, especially as it relates to the practice of Christian worship within a United Methodist congregation.

Cultural Factors Paper [10 % of grade]. Utilizing Kathy Black's Worship Across Cultures and Karen Westerfield Tucker's essay in liturgical inculturation in Worship Matters, the student is to write a position paper on the cultural adaptability of worship, identifying which elements of worship could be described as countercultural, cross-cultural, transcultural, and contextual. Further instructions will be given during Module 4. This assignment is due March 27, 2009 by midnight via Moodle.

Research Project [25% of grade]. This project is to be approximately 15 - 20 pages in length. The paper is in two parts. First, research the issue at hand and provide an overview of pertinent issues related to the topic. Second, provide a practical application of the project based on your research. Choose one of the topics below. Other topics may be negotiated with the professor. All students should have a topic chosen by first week in March. This project is due May 8, 2009 by midnight via Moodle.

1. Worship Resources for Holy Week. Research the theological and historical themes related to Holy Week worship. How have Christians marked these significant days in the past? What significance do these days have for United Methodists? Practical application: Develop a plan for worship during Holy Week in a church where you have leadership responsibilities or a church you know well. At least one of the services should be complete with prayers, scripture texts, musical selections and all liturgical resources. Further, you should provide a description of the ministry context.

1. Children in Worship. What is the "place" of children in the worshiping assembly? Do children have a role to play in liturgy? How do children participate in the sacraments in the United Methodist tradition? Practical application: Develop a plan to involve children in worship in a particular United Methodist congregation. Describe the particular context of the worshiping community.

1. Healing in Christian Worship. Explore the biblical, historical, and theological rationale for rites of healing in the practice of Christian worship. Note that the United Methodist Church provides resources for services pertaining to healing and wholeness. How do these services align with our Wesleyan theology? Practical application: Design a worship service of healing for either a community in general or for those confronted with specific healing needs (AIDS, cancer, mental illness, etc.).

1. Postmodern Worship. Analyze how worship in the United Methodist tradition can be shaped for effectiveness in a postmodern context. Practical application: Develop a plan for a renewed Sunday worship service in a postmodern context that is faithful to the United Methodist heritage and theology.

1. Frequency of Communion. Using biblical, historical, and theological sources in the Wesleyan tradition, analyze the issue of frequency of communion and compare these findings to your church community's Eucharistic practice.
Practical application: Develop a plan to address this issue in your congregation. You may use liturgical, preaching, teaching, writing and other resources in this plan.

**Two Examinations** [15% each].
- The first examination will be accessible via Moodle on **March 16, 2009** and must be completed by **March 22, 2009 at 12 NOON (Eastern time)**. This will be a comprehensive test on Modules 1 – 5.
- The second examination will be accessible via Moodle on **May 18, 2009** and must be completed by **May 21, 2009 at 12 NOON (Eastern time)**. This will be a comprehensive test on Modules 6 – 11.

**Eucharistic Prayer Journal** [10% of grade]. The leading and planning of Christian worship can be a discipline of faith formation for the worship leader. During the course students are asked to use "The Great Thanksgiving" Eucharistic prayers found in the United Methodist *Book of Worship* as a devotional resource throughout the class. Choose one Great Thanksgiving prayer each week and read it carefully and prayerfully at least three days per week, remembering that Eucharistic prayers summarize the great story of salvation history. Keep a personal journal of your insights and/or awakenings. At the end of the term submit a one-page single-spaced summary describing your experience of using these prayers in your devotional life.
Your summary (not the journal) is due **May 15, 2009** via Moodle.

**Grading and Evaluation**

In order to assess your work, the professor must have some standard of evaluating the quality of your learning. Keep in mind, however, that it is my prayer that this course will strengthen you in your ministry of worship leadership, whatever form this takes in the future. Even so, I will use the Asbury Theological Seminary catalog descriptions to assign grades as follows:

A – Exceptional work: surpassing achievement of course objectives.

B – Good work: strong, significant achievement of course objectives.

C – Acceptable work: basic, essential achievement of course objectives.

D – Marginal work: inadequate, minimal achievement of course objectives.

F – Unacceptable work: failure to achieve course objectives.

**Numeric Grading Scale**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>95-100</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>Exceptional work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>93-94</td>
<td>A-</td>
<td>Good work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>91-92</td>
<td>B+</td>
<td>Acceptable work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>88-90</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>Marginal work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>86-87</td>
<td>B-</td>
<td>Unacceptable work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>84-85</td>
<td>C+</td>
<td>Failure to achieve course objectives</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80-83</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>Acceptable work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>78-79</td>
<td>C-</td>
<td>Marginal work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>76-77</td>
<td>D+</td>
<td>Unacceptable work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>72-75</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>Failure to achieve course objectives</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70-71</td>
<td>D-</td>
<td>Unacceptable work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0-69</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>Failure to achieve course objectives</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Penalty for Tardy Work**

Every day that an assignment is late will result in the loss of a letter grade per day on that assignment unless an extension has been requested ahead of time and granted for reason beyond control of the student.

**Class Schedule:**

**Module Schedule**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module</th>
<th>Dates of Module</th>
<th>Topic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Feb. 9 – 15, 2009</td>
<td>Introductions; Historical Foundations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Feb. 16 – 22, 2009</td>
<td>Theology of Worship for United Methodists</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Feb. 23 – March 1, 2009</td>
<td>Ordering of Worship for United Methodists</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>March 2 – 8, 2009</td>
<td>Cultural Diversity in Worship</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
5 March 9 – 15, 2009 | Marking Christian Time in Worship
6 March 16 – 22, 2009 | Music in Christian Worship
7 March 23 – 29, 2009 | Sacraments, Sacred Actions, and the Nonverbal Aspects of Worship
XX March 30 – April 3, 2009 | SPRING READING WEEK – NO CLASS
8 April 6 – 19, 2009 | Christian Initiation in the United Methodist Church
9 April 20 - 26, 2009 | The Table of the Lord in the United Methodist Church
10 April 27 – May 3, 2009 | The Ministry of Presiding in Worship
11 May 4 – May 10, 2009 | Occasional Services: Weddings, Funerals, Other Rites
12 May 11 – 17, 2009 | Worship that Practices Personal and Social Holiness

WO 530 ExL: UNITED METHODIST WORSHIP
SPRING 2009
Dr. Keith Ray
Asbury Theological Seminary

Module 1: INTRODUCTIONS; HISTORICAL FOUNDATIONS OF UNITED METHODIST WORSHIP

**Checklist**

- Introduce yourself to the class on Moodle through the “Welcome to WO 530” discussion board.

- Read the following texts for this module:
  1. Hickman, Worshiping with United Methodists, 7-76.
  2. Read “The Means of Grace,” a sermon by John Wesley, available in many places, including here: [http://wesley.nnu.edu/john_wesley/sermons/016.htm](http://wesley.nnu.edu/john_wesley/sermons/016.htm)

- View the first PowerPoint lecture with accompanying audio file found on Moodle.

- Contribute to the discussion board related to the assigned reading no later than Thursday, February 12, 2009 (midnight Eastern time). Specific questions related to the reading are posted on the Moodle page.

- Respond to one of your peers on the discussion board no later than February 15, 2009 (midnight Eastern time).

- Work with the class in developing a summary wiki document that highlights the historical foundations of Methodist worship as described in the readings and in lecture. Every student must make two contributions to the wiki page. Detailed instructions are provided on Moodle.

- Use a prayer of Great Thanksgiving for your own personal devotional reading/reflection. Record insights in your journal as explained in the syllabus.

**SCHEDULE – Module 1: INTRODUCTIONS; HISTORICAL FOUNDATIONS OF UNITED METHODIST WORSHIP**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2/9/2009</td>
<td>Module opens; reading, PowerPoint presentation, and audio lecture should be completed ASAP.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>As soon as possible</td>
<td>Introduce yourself to the class via Moodle.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/12/2009</td>
<td>Post first discussion board response.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Before module ends</td>
<td>Post second discussion board response.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Before module ends</td>
<td>Contribute to Wiki page</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/15/2009</td>
<td>Module ends.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Module 2: THEOLOGY OF WORSHIP FOR UNITED METHODISTS

**Checklist**

- Listen to audio introduction to Module 2
- Read the following texts for this module:
  5. Read content of two web pages embedded in Moodle: "Reflection on Worship's Meaning and Purpose" and "Toward a Theology of Worship"
- View the second PowerPoint lecture with accompanying audio file found on Moodle.
- Contribute to the discussion board related to the assigned reading no later than Thursday, February 19, 2009 (midnight Eastern time). Specific questions related to the reading are posted on the Moodle page.
- Respond to one of your peers on the discussion board questions no later than February 22, 2009 (midnight Eastern time).
- Write a newsletter article for a local church as described in the Moodle assignment no later than the end of the module.
- Use a prayer of Great Thanksgiving for your own personal devotional reading/reflection. Record insights in your journal as explained in the syllabus.

**SCHEDULE – Module 2: THEOLOGY OF WORSHIP FOR UNITED METHODISTS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2/16/2009</td>
<td>Module opens; reading and PowerPoint presentation should be completed ASAP.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/19/2009</td>
<td>Post first discussion board response.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Before module ends.</td>
<td>Post second discussion board response.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Before module ends.</td>
<td>Create and upload newsletter article.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/22/2009</td>
<td>Module ends.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>