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CH 651 The Sacraments in History

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The purpose of this course is to enable the student to become familiar with the developing understandings of the sacraments and their use from the post-apostolic age to the liturgical movement of the past century. Consideration will be given to eastern and western churches in early centuries, to the western church in the middle ages, and to sixteenth-century and post-reformation developments in Roman Catholic and Protestant traditions. Although emphasizing baptism and eucharist, the rites of confirmation, penance, and unction will be discussed as they developed in relation with the gospel sacraments. Source readings, including doctrinal formulae, theological writings, and liturgical materials, will provide the basis for class discussions.

**Required texts:**

James F. White, *Documents of Christian Worship: Descriptive and Interpretive Sources*

Bard Thompson, ed., *Liturgies of the Western Church*

John H. Leith, ed., *Creeds of the Churches: A Reader in Christian Doctrine from the Bible to the Present*

John Fenwick & Bryan Spinks, *Worship in Transition: the Liturgical Movement in the Twentieth Century*

**Requirements:**

1. Completion of assigned readings

2. Completion of all weekly source readings as assigned for class discussion. Readings will be taken from the required textbooks and from designated websites. Students will be assigned specific selections for which they will be prepared to lead class discussion.

3. Participation in discussions at all class sessions.

4. Midterm and final examinations.

5. A paper of 3,000 to 4,000 words on a topic proposed by the instructor or proposed by the student with instructor's approval.

**Grading:**

The final grade will be based on presentations and general participation in class discussions (35%), midterm examination (12%), final examination (23%) and paper (30%).