

Wesley Theological Seminary Course of Study

Summer 2022

June (asynchronous), July 18-22 (synchronous, online)

Syllabus

CS-223 Worship and Sacraments

Faculty: Dr. Sherri Wood-Powe

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**Note: If you need to contact me before June, please use both email addresses.*

Course Description

This course examines the sacraments, rites, and liturgy of The United Methodist Church and the pastor's role as worship leader.

Objectives

1. Examine the church year and its historical and theological grounding
2. Examination of the theology and practice of the sacraments
3. Review of the rites of Christian marriage, death and resurrection, and other occasional services, including appropriate counseling methods
4. Reflection on worship practices, including use of nontraditional liturgies, media, music, and lay leadership
5. Development of a sample service of worship for reflection and theological meaning

Texts

1. Hoyt Hickman, *Worshipping with United Methodists: A Guide for Pastors and Church Leaders (revised edition)*
2. Robin Knowles Wallace, *The Christian Year: A Guide to Worship and Preaching*

3. Choose 1

- a. Majorie Thompson, *Soul Feast*
- b. Marcia McFee, *The Worship Workshop*
- c. Laurence Stookey, *Let the Whole Church Say Amen!*

Required References

4. The United Methodist Book of Worship
5. By Water and the Spirit - <http://www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/by-water-and-the-spirit-full-text>
6. This Holy Mystery - <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/this-holy-mystery-a-united-methodist-understanding-of-holy-communion>
7. Taylor Burton-Edwards, *Living into the Mystery: A United Methodist Guide to Celebrating Holy Communion*

To obtain textbooks go to **My Wesley** on the website and click on the button that says “Textbooks” (<https://www.wesleyseminary.edu/MyWesley>). From there select your program (Course of Study Summer Intensive), then select your course number. You may order books online directly from our e-store. You may also order your books from Cokesbury, any other bookseller, or borrow from friends.

Technical Requirements

Microsoft Windows

- Windows 8 or 10
- Intel Core i5 or higher or AMD equivalent
- At least 16GB of free storage space

Mac OS/X

- OS/XMac OS X 10.14 or newer
- Intel processor and at least 4 GB of RAM

All Systems

- Up-to-date browser: Firefox, Chrome, Safari, Edge ([click here for Blackboard browser checker](#))
- Up-to-date PDF reader ([Adobe](#) or [Foxit](#))
- Up-to-date version of [Adobe Flash Player](#)
- Up-to-date video player:
 - Windows Media player or
 - [VideoLAN VLC media player](#)
- Up-to-date Word processor and presentation package ([Wesley Theological Seminary offers free Office 365 Basic for students click here for instructions on how to download](#))
- High speed internet connection

Other Technical Requirements

Student should have a web cam and microphone. USB headset and microphone are ideal.

Assignment Instructions

Students are to read all required texts before doing assignments. Please pay attention to the due dates for all assignments. Instructions on posting to Blackboard are on the COS webpage. If you run into trouble, please contact blackboardsupport@wesleyseminary.edu for help.

If you are new to Course of Study at Wesley, please be sure to check Blackboard once you receive your login information from the IT department. It is the responsibility of the student to check Blackboard for posts. You should have access to your courses in Blackboard in late May.

Asynchronous Work

Assignment 1: Define Christian Worship (10%)

- A. Your response should be at least 2 paragraphs, including an explanation of your definition and evidence from required readings.

B. Read your classmates answers and share in one paragraph any new insight or difference of opinion.

Due June 1 (respond to 3 classmates, due June 6)

Assignment 2: Worship Worksheets (10%)

A. Complete Christian Year and Lectionary Worksheet

B. Complete Scriptures and Hymns Worksheet

Due June 10

Assignment 3: Theology of Baptism (20%)

A. Write a statement explaining the United Methodist theology of baptism as presented in the readings. (3-5 pages) Be sure to include the following:

- Purpose of baptism
- Role of the congregation
- Role of the pastor
- What does it mean that baptisms must be performed within the congregation?
- What do Methodists believe regarding the necessity of baptism for salvation?
- How does Wesley's understanding of grace interface with the theology and practice of baptism?

B. Read your classmates answers and share in one paragraph any new insight or difference of opinion.

Due June 17 (respond to 2 classmates, due June 21)

Assignment 4: Theology of the Rite of Christian Marriage (20%)

A. Write a statement explaining the United Methodist theology of Christian marriage as presented in the readings. (3-5 pages) Be sure to include the following:

- Purpose of having a wedding in a church
- Role of the pastor; purpose of an ordained clergyperson officiating the ceremony
- Role of the congregation
- How does a Christian Ceremony differ from a wedding by a justice of the peace?
- How does Wesley's understanding of grace interface with the theology and practice of weddings?

B. Read your classmates answers and share in one paragraph any new insight or difference of opinion.

Due June 24 (respond to 3 classmates, due June 30)

Synchronous ZOOM Sessions

July 18-22, 8:30am to 10:30am Mandatory

Please read the required texts.

Please note that all assignments are in Blackboard. Click on Learning Modules found on the left-hand side when you are in the class on Blackboard. Once you click on Learning Modules you will find a Module for the asynchronous portion and a Module for the synchronous class dates. Click on Module for appropriate date and follow the instructions to complete the assignment.

July 18: Zoom session 1

Class discussion - Theology of Worship

July 19: Zoom session 2

Class discussion - Sacraments

July 20: Zoom session 3

Class discussion - Rites

July 21: Zoom session 4

Class discussion - Worship Practices

July 22: Zoom session 5

Class Presentation and Submission of Final Assignment (30%)

- A. Be prepared to present a worship bulletin or printed copy of PowerPoint Slides to the class with a complete order of worship inclusive of all components of worship for Word AND Table. All prayers must be written out. Information provided for all hymns/musical selections, readings, Scripture, and liturgy. Document is due at the beginning of class.
- B. The oral presentation should include a complete overview of the order of worship, including theological reasoning for why the components are ordered as they are. Students should be prepared to present approximately 10 minutes (presentation length dependent upon final number of people in class).
- C. The presentation should be grounded in class resources. Comprehension of class readings should be evident. Please include information from the additional text you chose for this course.
- D. The following are important: Creativity, Usage of Class Resources, Attention to Grammar.

Submission

Each assignment should be submitted in its entirety in electronic format through Blackboard by the deadlines stated above. The document for the final assignment should be uploaded to Blackboard AND submitted in hard copy to the instructor by the beginning of the final class.

Formatting

All assignments should be 12pt font, Calibri (or equivalent) font, double spaced, 1" margins, with inserted page numbers.

Grading

The instructor assumes that everyone in the class is capable of the work required to receive a “B” grade for each assignment. The following interpretations of the meaning of each grade have been developed to help students review their work to identify strengths and problems.

An “A” means the assignment is well crafted, reveals considerable insight, and moves beyond the range of the student’s prior knowledge to begin to construct new perspectives and meanings for the subject.

An “A-“ means that the assignment is not only well crafted, but it also probes the issues with considerable insight.

A “B+” means the assignment is also well crafted.

A “B” means that the basic elements of the assignment have been faithfully included, the argument is internally coherent, and clearly articulated.

A “B-“ means that some of the basic elements of the assignment are lacking and the argument is not sufficiently coherent nor clearly articulated.

A “C+” means that the assignment lacks clarity or focus, tends to reveal more the writer’s opinions than the results of the writer’s analysis, and lacks reflective insight into the issues being discussed.

A “C” means that the assignment does not move beyond the reporting of information from readings and/or class discussions to engaging them with issues being discussed; it may indicate inappropriate or misuse of data and readings.

A “C-“ means that despite some moments of focused discussion and insight, major gaps exist in the development of the argument or discussion.

A “D” means the individual needs to see me.

An “F” means the individual needs to see me immediately.

Grades will be reduced a step (e.g. from B to a B-) for assignments handed in up to 24 hours after the due date, and a full letter grade for any assignments more than 24 hours past due. Assignments over 48 hours past due will be lowered two letter grades. We need to talk if an assignment is over 72 hours past due. Please note only two unexcused absences are allowed before grade is lowered one step.

Inclusive Language

In both oral and written contributions to the course, students are expected to be conscious of the power of language in theology. Inclusive language respects both gender and racial

diversity, and students should demonstrate awareness that language about persons and God expresses values and impacts theological ideas in the details of race and gender connotations. Both gender and race are socially-constructed categories, and changing language is part of bringing justice to theological discourse.

Academic Policies

Attendance: Students are expected to attend all classes in their entirety. Faculty member has the authority to set attendance policies for particular courses and those policies will be included in the course syllabus. Deviation from the attendance policy may result in reduction of grade or loss of credit for the course.

Plagiarism: Plagiarism is regarded as a serious offense and will result in substantial penalties, including the possibility of academic dismissal. The faculty regards the following as forms of plagiarism or dishonesty:

- Copying from another students paper
- Giving or receiving unauthorized assistance to or from another student during an examination
- Using unauthorized material during an examination
- Borrowing or presenting as one's own (i.e. without proper attribution) the composition or ideas of another.

Please refer to your Wesley Student Handbook (online) for more information about Wesley's academic policies or contact the Course of Study office, 202-885-8688.