

***LS 500 A Public Work for the Common Good:  
A Historical, Theological and Pastoral Introduction to Christian Worship***

***Dr R. G. Leggett***

***Fall Term 2009  
Tuesdays 9.00 a.m. to 12.00 noon***

**Purpose**

In this course you will be introduced to the study of Christian worship as it is expressed in the following dimensions:

- Historical, i.e., an examination of Christian worship practices primarily in the early (35 to 600 C.E.), medieval (600 to 1500 C.E.) and reformation (1500 to 1700 C.E.);
- Theological, i.e., an examination of Christian worship as a way of 'doing' theology and
- Pastoral, i.e., an examination of the cultural and social factors that have influenced the development of Christian worship practices.

There are two primary purposes in this introduction course:

- to introduce you to the language and discipline of liturgical studies and
- to explore some important aspects of Christian worship traditions in historical periods identified above.

**Format**

This course meets for three hours once a week for the fall term in a lecture and discussion format.

**Content**

In the first half of the course we will focus on the following aspects of liturgical studies in preparation for the seminars on primary texts that follow.

- liturgical time;
- liturgical space;
- daily public prayer;
- Christian initiation;
- eucharist;
- ordination and
- pastoral offices

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After these topics have been introduced, the second half of the term will focus on seminar examination of primary liturgical texts (in translation). These texts will be on reserve in the Library and a complete syllabus will be available at the first session of the course.

In preparation for seminar sessions you are encouraged but not required to prepare a one-page *aide-memoire* using the following questions as a guide:

- What does this text tell me about the historical, theological and pastoral contexts of the community whose practice is described?
- What do I need to know more about?
- What could I share with my congregation from this week's reading?

### Competency objectives

You will be evaluated on your ability to demonstrate the following competency objectives:

- your ability to describe liturgical structures and rites accurately;
- your ability to identify cultural, social, historical and theological factors that influence or have influenced the development of liturgical structures and rites;
- your ability to use primary and secondary sources in liturgical studies and
- your ability to compare and contrast the cultural, social, historical and theological factors that influence or have influenced the development of liturgical structures and rites in traditions other than your own.

### Expectations of the student

In order to complete this course successfully you must meet the following expectations:

- attend at least 80% of the scheduled class sessions;
- complete the assigned reading and
- complete the written assignments.

### Evaluation

The competency objectives will be evaluated by means of two assignments.

- i) Assignment 1: Describe the historical events and theological emphases that have shaped your tradition's practice of one of the following: (a) liturgical time, (b) liturgical space, (c) daily prayer, (d) Christian initiation, (e) eucharist, (f) ordination or (g) a pastoral office. This assignment is to be between 5 to 7 pages in length. You are expected to use primary and secondary sources.
- ii) Assignment 2: Compare and contrast the historical events and theological emphases that have shaped your tradition's practice of the above topic with those historical

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events and theological emphases that have shaped the practice of one of the texts examined during the seminar portion of the course. This assignment should build upon your work in Assignment 1, using the same topic, but now expanded by comparing and contrasting your own tradition's practice with that of the other tradition.

### Prerequisites

There are no prerequisites for this course.

### Bibliography

The three required texts for the course are the following:

Ramshaw, Gail. *Christian Worship: 10,000 Sundays of Symbols and Rituals*. Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 2009.

White, James F. *Introduction to Christian Worship*. 3rd ed. Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press, 2000.

White, James F. *Protestant Worship: Traditions in Transition*. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 1989.