**Introduction to Christian Worship (IST20161)**

Winter, 2014

Instructor: Eunjoo Mary Kim (ekim@iliff.edu)

Class Time: Thursdays 8:30 a.m. – Noon

Office hours: By Appointment

Guest Speakers: Thomas Strickland, James Burns, Sarah Bjornebo, Lee Tredwell.

Course Description and Objectives

This course is designed to help students deepen their theological understanding of Christian worship and broaden their liturgical experience as a way to communicate faith with individuals and communities. Through lectures, readings, discussions, presentations, and worship exercises, students will be encouraged to become creative spiritual worship leaders who can help their congregations live faithfully in the presence of God in various spheres of life. It is hoped that by the end of the course students will

#### deepen their theological understanding of Christian worship,

#### clarify the pastoral and social functions of worship as a corporate ministry with congregations,

#### identify the distinctive elements of their liturgical traditions and challenges to the revitalization of worship,

#### develop their capacity as worship leaders to conduct vital and spiritual worship by integrating liturgical elements in creative and effective ways.

Required Texts (All are on reserve at the library.)

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| |  | | --- | | 1. Brian Blount & Leonora T. Tisdale (eds.), *Making Room at the Table: An Invitation to Multicultural Worship* (ISBN: 0664222021), Chapters 2, 4, 6, 9. 2. Thomas Long, *Accompany Them with Singing*: A Christian Funeral (ISBN: 9780664233196 0664233198), Chapter 8 (available in Canvas). 3. Kim Long, “White Limos, Red Velvet, and Elvis: What Vegas (And Disney) Can Teach the Church about Weddings” (available in Canvas). | | 1. Tex Sample, *Powerful Persuasion: Multimedia Witness in Christian Worship* (ISBN: 0687339014)*,* Chapters 3, 4, 6, 7. 2. N. Graham Standish, “Why Do We Worship the Way We Have Always Worshiped When People Keep Changing?” *Alban Weekly*, Issue 311, July 12, 2010. <http://www.alban.org/conversation.aspx?id=9140> (available in Canvas). 3. Susan J. White, *Foundations of Christian Worship* (ISBN: 664229247). 4. James White, *Protestant Worship: Tradition in Transition* (ISBN: 0664250378)*.* 5. Brian Wren, *Praying Twice: The Music and Words of Congregational Song* (0664256708)*,* Chapters 1, 2, 7, 10. 6. “The Lima Document on Baptism and Eucharist” (available in Canvas). 7. Your denomination’s worship book | |  | |  | |
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#### Suggested Texts (All are on reserve at the library.)

1. Ruth Duck, *Finding Words for Worship: A Guide for Leaders* (ISBN: 0664255736)*.*
2. Marcia McFee, *The Worship Workshop: Creative Ways to Design Worship Together* (ISBN: 0687046343).
3. Dorothea McEwan (ed.), *Making Liturgy: Creating Rituals for Worship and Life* (ISBN: 1853114405).
4. Gayle C. Felton, *By Water and the Spirit* (ISBN: 0881772011).
5. Hughes Old, *Guides to the Reformed Tradition* (ISBN: 0804232520).

Requirements

1. **Attendance and Participation.** You are expected to read all the assigned readings and post all the written assignments in Canvas on time. Your regular and punctual attendance and active and responsible participation in class discussion and feedback are required. The instructor should be informed in advance of any necessary absences. You cannot pass the course if you are absent from more than two classes during the course period.

In this class, we are committed to modeling the values Iliff embraces: diversity, mutual respect, accountability, honest communication, critical self-reflection, curiosity, creativity, and a sense of adventure. In each class, we will do our best to respect differences and diversity in human life and worship experience.

1. **A 3-4 page paper (double-spaced, 12-point, Times New Roman) on the liturgical history of your denomination.** If you have more than one denomination in your spiritual journey, please choose the one you are now involved in. The paper needs to focus on two things: 1) A summary of the historical development of your denominational worship in its style, theological ground, and impact on the formation of the distinctive characteristics of the community of faith. 2) Your critical reflection on contemporary challenges to your denominational worship. James White’s book, *Protestant Worship: Tradition in Transition*, will be a basic resource for this assignment in addition to your denominational resources. Post your paper in Canvas by **Wed., 1/15, 8:30 a.m.**
2. **Two one-page notes (single-spaced, 12-point, Times New Roman) for panel discussions on baptism (Class #5) and Communion (Class #6).** Read “Class Assignments” sections for Classes #5 and #6 and post your one-page answers to the questions **one day before each class time (Wed., 8:30 a.m.).**
3. **A 4-6 page report (double-spaced, 12-point, Times New Roman) on three worship services**. Attend at least three worship services in denominationally different churches (one can be your own church) or Iliff chapel services during the winter quarter and write a report on the services you attended (1-2 pages each), including 1) the history of the worship life of the congregation you worshiped with, 2) the strengths of that community’s worship life, and 3) your liturgical insights into improving the service. Post your report in Canvas with scanned worship bulletins by the date of **Class #10**.

The purpose of this assignment is NOT to praise or criticize. The goal is to define your skills for understanding the nature of worship. Statements such as “I loved\_\_\_\_” or “I hated \_\_\_\_\_” will be of little help. But saying, for example, “there was in the selection of the music a balance of tradition and innovation that gave me the sense of the Spirit working both in the past and in the present,” helps a lot, because it gives us precise information and a way of conceptualizing how something affected you and why.

1. **A group project.** You will join a worship group, whose task is to plan and lead a creative and revitalized worship service in class. Detailed guidelines for this project are attached to this syllabus. The formation of the project groups and presentation dates will be decided in Class #3.
2. **The order of a Sunday worship service**. One complete worship service is to be prepared, and its written form of the worship order must be posted in Canvas by the date of **Class #10.** The order of the service must be for a one-hour Sunday service; the theme and biblical texts can be selected by your own choice or from the lectionary. The form of the worship order must include full texts of prayers, hymns, the sermon manuscript, and other worship elements. In addition, the students should provide the instructor with a brief written rationale for why the service was ordered as it was, and why the various elements within it were selected. The rationale can either be written on separate pages (1-2) and attached to the worship order, or it can be incorporated as a running commentary within the worship order.

#### Evaluation

Students can take the course using their P/F option. In order to receive the grade of “P,” students must complete the 6 requirements listed in the section of Requirements. Those who want to contract for a grade of P/F must email a note to the instructor by the date of Class #3.

For a letter grade, normal school grading system is used. In order to ensure accountability and fairness, the following grading system will be applied:

Requirement #1..…..……………………………20%

Requirement #2………………………………....10%

Requirement #3…………………………………10%

Requirement #4 …..…………….………………20%

Requirement #5.………………………………...20%

Requirement #6…………………………………20%

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Total 100%

The Iliff grading system is a five-letter system from A through F with pluses and minuses. In computing grade point average (GPAs), grades are assigned the following numerical values (*The 2013-2014 Master’s Student Handbook*, p. 79):

A : 4.00 (100 − 96%)

A-: 3.75 (95 – 91%)

B+: 3.25 (90 – 86%)

B : 3.00 (85 – 81%)

B-: 2.75 (80 − 76%)

C+: 2.25 (75 – 71%)

C : 2.00 (70 – 66%)

\*Extra credits (+1 points) will be granted to panel participants.

\*Late submissions will result in lowering your grade (-2 points each).

\*Both unexcused and excused absences will result in lowering your grade (-3 points each).

**Incomplete Policy:** Students are responsible for following the procedures outlined in the attached document.

**ADA Policy:** Iliff engages in a collaborative effort with students with disabilities to reasonably accommodate student needs. Students are encouraged to contact their assigned advisor to initiate the process of requesting accommodations. The advising center can be contacted at advising@iliff.edu or by phone at 303.765.1146.

MDIV Degree Learning Goals

Theology and Religious Practices (PR): engage in analysis of contemporary religious traditions and institutions in order to assess, design, and perform meaningful leadership practices with sensitivity to contextual realities and relationship (*Master’s Student Handbook, 2013-2014, p. 12)*.

Course Schedule

### Class #1 (01/09):

Meditation: Kim

* Getting acquainted
* Many voices of worship
* Criteria for worship evaluation
* Introduction to the syllabus

Readings: Standish; S. White, Ch. 6.

Class Assignments: Do you agree or disagree on Standish’s article? Why or why not? What are the problems or challenges your church faces in its worship life? Prepare to discuss these issues in class.

**Class #2 (01/16):**

Meditation:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

* The history and nature of Christian worship
* Group discussion on Requirement #2

Readings: S. White, Ch. 1; J. White, the chapter of your denominational worship.

Class Assignments: Post Requirement #2 in Canvas by Wed., 1/15, 8:30 a.m. and prepare to share it in class.

**Class #3** **(01/23):**

Meditation: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

* Components of worship
* Worship design
* Formation of worship groups

Readings: S. White, Chs. 2 & 4.

Class Assignments: Bring a copy of your church’s worship bulletin. In class, we will review worship bulletins and evaluate them, focusing on the following questions: What is emphasized in your church’s worship service? What are the strengths and weaknesses of this emphasis? Where do you think this emphasis came from? How have the liturgical components (e.g., offering, passing of the peace, confession, preaching, etc.) shaped your spiritual life?

**Class #4 (01/30):** Guest speaker—Thomas Strickland (9:45-11:15)

Meditation: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

* Worship as a Way of the Christian Life: Liturgical Seasons
* Music and worship
* Preparation for group projects

Readings: Wren, Chs. 1, 2, 7, 10.

**Class #5 (02/06):**

Meditation: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

* Baptism: panel discussion
* Preparation for group projects

Readings: S. White, Ch. 3, pp. 68-88; “The Lima Document on Baptism.”

Suggested readings: Old, Ch. 2; your denominational resources for baptism (e.g., Felton, *By*

*Water and the Spirit)*

Class Assignments: One-page notes (single-spaced, 12 pt) of your response to the question,

“Would you baptize a stillborn child in a hospital at the request of the parents? Why or why not? ” Your answer should be based on 1) your knowledge of the history of the Christian practice of baptism in general, 2) your research on your denominational position on baptism, and 3) your own theological and pastoral reflection. Post your notes in Canvas by Wed., 02/05, 8:30 a.m.

**Class #6 (02/13):** Guest Speaker—Sarah Bjornebo (8:30-9:30)

Meditation: Bjornebo

* Kinesthetic Movements
* Communion: panel discussion
* Movie, *Romero*
* Preparation for group projects

Readings: Sample, 3; S. White, Ch. 3, pp. 88-105; “The Lima Document on Eucharist.”

Suggested readings: Old, Ch. 7; your denominational resources for Communion.

Class Assignments: One-page notes on “Open Communion” in relation to the following questions: What is your church (or denomination)’s position on Open Communion? If you were an ordained pastor, would you serve Communion to a person of another faith (inter-religious not ecumenical) if he or she requests it? Why or why not?” Your answers should be based on 1) your knowledge of the history of the Christian practice of Holy Communion in general, 2) your research on your denominational position on Communion, and 3) your own theological and pastoral reflection. Post your notes in Canvas by Wed., 02/12, 8:30 a.m.

**Class #7 (02/20)**: Guest Speaker – Lee Tredwell (8:30-10:00)

Meditation: Tredwell

* African American worship
* Multicultural worship
* Preparation for group projects

Readings: Blount, et al, Chs. 2, 4, 6, 9.

Class Assignments: In class, we will discuss some issues on “Multicultural Worship.” Please think about the following questions in advance: Do we need to learn about worship from different cultures? Why or why not? How can Christian worship be a boundary-breaking practice that eliminates divisions between race, age, gender, sexuality, etc.?

**Class #8** **(02/27):** Guest Speaker—James Burns (10:15-11:15)

* Marriage
* Multimedia and technology in worship
* Preparation for group projects

Readings: Sample, Chs. 3, 4, 6; S. White, Ch. 5; K. Long

Suggested readings: your own denominational resources for marriage.

Class Assignments: Reflect on your experience of weddings. Have you experienced a meaningful wedding directly or indirectly? What makes the wedding such a meaningful event? What is your theological understanding of marriage? Be prepared to share your reflection in class.

### Class #9 (03/06):

* Funeral
* Group project I: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Group project II: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Readings: T. Long, Ch. 8.

Suggested readings: your own denominational resources for funeral.

Class Assignments: Reflect on your personal experience of funerals. How is it different from or similar to Long’s proposal? Be prepared to share your reflection in class.

**Class #10 (03/13)**:

* Group project III: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Group project IV: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Wrap-up/evaluations

**Due Requirements #4 & #6.**

Selected Bibliography

**Worship as Ritual:**

Anderson, E. Byron. *Worship and Christian Identity: Practicing Ourselves*. Collegeville: The Liturgical Press. 2003.

Cooke, Bernard & Gary Macy. *Christian Symbol and Ritual: An Introduction*. New York: Oxford University Press. 2005.

Driver, Tom. *Liberating Rites: Understanding the Transformative Power of Ritual*. Boulder: Westview Press. 1998.

**Theology and History of Worship:**

Davies, Horton. *Bread of Life and Cup of Joy: Newer Ecumenical Perspectives on the Eucharist.* Grand Rapid: William B. Eerdmans Pulbishing Company. 1993.

Erickson, Craig D. *Participating in Worship; History, Theory, and Practice*. Westminster John Knox Press. 1989.

Jones, Cheslyn, et al. (eds.). *The Study of Liturgy.* London: SPCK. 1992.

Lang, Bernhard. *Sacred Games: A History of Christian Worship*. New Haven: Yale University Press. 1997.

Old, Hughes Oliphant. *Worship: That Is Reformed According to Scripture*. Atlanta: John Knox Press. 1984.

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Patton, Jeff. *God at the Crossroads: The Four movements of Transformational Worship.*  Nashville: Abingdon Press. 2005.

Pecklers, Keith F. SJ. *Worship: New Century Theology*. New York: Continuum. 2003.

Saliers, Don E. *Worship and Spirituality* (2nd edition). Akron: OSL Publications. 1996.

Wainwright, Geoffrey and Karen B. Westerfield Tucker (eds.), *The Oxford History of Christian Worship*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2006.

White, James. *Introduction to Christian Worship* (Revised Edition). Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1980.

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White, Susan. *Foundations of Christian Worship*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox. 2006.

**Multicultural/Contemporary/Creative Worship:**

Carson, Tim and Kathy. *So You’re Thinking About Contemporary Worship*. St. Louis: Chalice Press. 1997.

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Black, Kathy. *Culturally-Conscious Worship*. St. Louis: Chalice Press. 2000.

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Blount, Brian & Leonora T. Tisdale (eds.). *Making Room at the Table: An Invitation to Multicultural Worship*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press. 2001.

Butler, Nylea L, et al. *Praise Now: More Ready-to-Use Services for Contemporary and Multisensory Worship*. Nashville: Abingdon Press. 2004.

Farhadian (ed.). *Christian Worship Worldwide*. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company. 2007.

McEwan, Dorothea (ed.). *Making Liturgy: Creating Rituals for Worship and Life*. Norwich: Canterbury Press. 2001.

McFee, Marcia. *The Worship Workshop: Creative Ways to Design Worship Together*.

Nashville: Abingdon Press. 2002.

Plantinga, Cornelius Jr., & Sue a. Rozeboom. *Discerning the Spirits: A Guide to Thinking about Christian Worship Today*. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company. 2003.

Webber, Robert. *Planning Blended Worship: The Creative Mixture of Old & New*. Nashville: Abingdon Press. 1998.

Westermeyer, Paul, et al. *What is “Contemporary” Worship?* Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress. 1995.

**Worship and Culture:**

Babin, Pierre. *The New Era in Religious Communication*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press. 1991.

Byars, Ronald P. *The Future of protestant Worship: Beyond the Worship Wars.* Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press. 2002.

Costen, Melva W. *African American Christian Worship*. Nashville: Abingdon Press. 2007 (second edition.)

Chupungco, Anscar J. *Liturgical Inculturation: Sacramentals, Religiosity, and Catechesis*. Collegeville: The Liturgical Press. 1992.

Dawn, Marva J. *Reaching Out Without Dumbing Down: A Theology of Worship for the Turn-of-the-Century Culture*. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company. 1995.

Long, Thomas. *Beyond the Worship Wars: Building Vital and Faithful Worship*. Herndon: The Alban Institute. 2001.

Schineller, Peter, S. J.  *A Handbook on Inculturation*. New York: Paulist Press, 1990.

**Components of Worship (preaching, inclusive language, music, prayer, dance, technology, etc.)**:

Bass, Diana, et al. *From Nomads to Pilgrims*.

Duck, Ruth, *Finding Words for Worship*.

Greenhaw, David & Ronald J. Allen (eds.). *Preaching in the Context of Worship*. St. Louis: Chalice Press. 2000.

Jasper, David*. Language and the Worship of the Church*. London: MacMillan. 1990.

Kroeker, Charlotte (ed.). *Music in Christian Worship*. Collegeville: The Liturgical Press. 2005.

Sample, Tex. *Powerful Persuasion: Multimedia Witness in Christian Worship*. Nashville: Abingdon Press. 2005.

Schaffran, Janet & Pat Kozak. *More Than Words; Prayer and Ritual for Inclusive Communities*. Oak Park: Meyer-Stone Books. 1988.

Stookey, Laurence Hull, *Let the Whole Church Say Amen!*

Wilson, Len, et al. *Digital Storytellers*.

Zaleske, Philip & Carol Zaleski*. Prayer: A History*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company. 2005.

**Worship and Social Ethics:**

Mcclain, George D. *Claiming All Things for God: Prayer, Discernment, and Ritual for Social Change.* Nashville: Abingdon Press. 1998.

Scharen, Christian. *Public Worship and Public Work: Character & Commitment in Local Congregational Life*. Collegeville: The Liturgical Press. 2004.

**Worship and the Congregation Life /Pastoral Care:**

Long, Thomas. *Accompany Them with Singing: The Christian Funeral*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press. 2009.

Roberts, Howard W. *Pastoral Care Through Worship*. Macon: Smyth & Helwys Publishing, Inc. 1995.

Smith, Kathleen. *Stilling the Storm: Worship and Congregational Leadership in Difficult Times.* Herndon: The Alban Institute. 2006.

Vann, Jane. *Gathered Before God: Worship-Centered Church Renewal*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press. 2004.

Weaver, Andrew (ed.). Reflection on Marriage and Spiritual Growth. Nashville: Abingdon Press. 2003.

Willimon, William H., *Worship as Pastoral Care*. Nashville: Abingdon Press. 1979.

Guidelines for the Group Project

Your working group will plan and lead the class in a worship service of 30-35 minutes. Guidelines for your preparation are as follows:

1. Read Chapters 6 and 7 of S. White’s *Foundations of Christian Worship* and discuss with your group to brainstorm your group’s worship project.
2. Define your congregation. It might be your own church, your denominational gathering, an ecumenical or interreligious conference, or the Iliff community. The working group should assume that the congregation is a heterogeneous mix of those who have varying degrees of formation and familiarity with the tradition or traditions you will represent. Diversity in race, ethnicity, class, gender, age, sexual orientation, political conviction, and theological orientation must be taken into account.
3. Choose a liturgical context. For this group project, you are encouraged to consider a special worship service rather than a regular Sunday service. For example, it might be a corporate prayer meeting, the commemoration of a specific event (e.g., a funeral, an anniversary, etc.), the celebration of a major liturgical event (e.g., Christmas, Easter, etc.), or a denominational, ecumenical, or interreligious service.
4. Choose a theological theme for your worship service. For example, it might be justice and peace, sin and forgiveness, or reconciliation and solidarity. Discuss with your group how the theme should be interpreted in your particular congregational and liturgical context.
5. Consider what kind of worship style your group is going to use. Traditional? Contemporary? Emergent? Blended? Or any other creative style?
6. Design the order of the service and discuss the components of worship. For example, what kinds of music, prayer, technology, creed, text(s), sermon, etc. will be included in the service? Why should (or should not) some components be included in the order of the service? If you need some professional musicians, you may invite them at your own cost.
7. Think about how the space will be organized for worship and prepare some decorative liturgical artifacts if necessary.
8. Post in Canvas 1) the Order of the Service and 2) Interpretive Notes of Worship, summarizing the entire process of the worship preparation (3-4 pages, single-spaced, 12 pt.).
9. Make enough copies of the worship bulletin if necessary and bring them in to the class on your group presentation day.

**INCOMPLETE COURSES**  
Faculty will clarify at the beginning of each quarter whether or not they will accept Incompletes in special circumstances. If faculty choose not to allow Incompletes for any reason, that should be stated on the syllabus. Faculty will distribute to students a copy of the procedures and policies regarding Incompletes at the beginning of each course. Please note that an Incomplete given by an instructor without the appropriate form is recorded on the transcript as an “F."

If Incompletes are allowed, the following procedures will be followed:

a. The request must be made in writing to the instructor before the end of the quarter, using an Incomplete request form available from the Office of the Registrar. The instructor, if in agreement with the request, signs the Incomplete request form and forwards it to the dean for approval. The approved incomplete request is given to the registrar and a copy is sent to the student and the instructor. A separate form is needed for each Incomplete requested.

b. When the work is completed, the student must turn the work in to the registrar who will forward it to the instructor. The instructor will submit the grade to the registrar normally by the end of the quarter in which the work is submitted. The Business Office will bill students ($20.00 per incomplete) for the fee.

c. Incompletes automatically turn into failing grades after four quarters (one calendar year). The latest time to turn in incomplete work is the last day of class of the fourth quarter. See the Academic Calendar at the front of the *Masters Student Handbook* for dates. **Extensions will not be given for Incompletes beyond the established four quarters.**

d. If work for an incomplete is turned in later than one quarter after the end of the course, the work may be graded on a Pass/Fail basis, at the discretion of the instructor. At the discretion of the instructor, students taking an Incomplete may be required to attend class sessions at the next course offering to finish the course requirements, provided the course is offered within the established time frame.

e. Normally, students with 10 or more credits of outstanding Incompletes at one time will not be allowed to register.

Courses in which an Incomplete has been granted but not yet completed are not included in the student’s GPA calculations.