Course syllabus

**IST20221(PRDEPTH) Worship in Multicultural Contexts (online/4 credits)**

**Winter 2017**

**INSTRUCTOR:**

Eunjoo Mary Kim: ekim@iliff.edu

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

We are living in a globalized multicultural world, in which individuals and communities struggle to realize their identities, values and meanings of the life, and aspirations of the Christian faith. Christian worship is challenged to guide the community of faith by discerning the will of God through theological reflection on racial and cultural issues emerging from the multicultural context. Upon realizing the significant challenge of racial and cultural diversity, this course aims to search for new liturgical models for Christian worship, culturally sensitive and spiritually vital, through the theological understanding of the relationship between liturgy and culture and innovative research on a variety of multicultural approaches to Christian worship.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

This online course is designed to help students research independently and to have clear ideas about the theology and method of worship in multicultural contexts. The approach to worship in this course will be based a great deal on socio-cultural and ethnic factors in liturgical formation and expression. The students’ research projects will be shared with peers as well as the instructor and receive critical and constructive feedback from them. During the course period, students will:

* 1. review thoroughly some selected books on culture and liturgy as to define what multicultural worship means,
  2. analyze local and global contexts for worship through the lens of cultural diversity,
  3. widen and deepen the understanding of Christian worship by increasing knowledge about different racial and ethnic worship,
  4. write a multicultural liturgy in theologically relevant and liturgically creative ways.

**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)*.

**REQUIRED TEXTS:**

1. Blount, Brian and Leonora Tisdale, *Making Room at the Table: An Invitation to Multicultural Worship.* ISBN: 0664202221.
2. Costen, Melva, W., *African American Christian Worship* (updated edition). ISBN: 978-0-687-64622-7
3. Francis, Mark K., C.S.V., *Shape A Circle Ever Wider: Liturgical Inculturation in the United States*. ISBN: 1-56854-277-1
4. Gonzalez, Justo (ed.), *Alabadle!: Hispanic Christian Worship.* ISBN: 0-687-01032-2
5. Huh, Paul, “Creating Bilingual Worship Services in Korean and English.” Available in Canvas.
6. Yee, Russell, *Worship on the Way: Exploring Asian North American Christian Experience.* ISBN: 978-0-8170-1707-1

**SUGGESTED TEXTS:**

1. Tanner, Kathryn, *Theories of Culture: A New Agenda for Theology.* ISBN: 0800630971

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

1. **Participation**. The regular attendance of all online classes is required. You are required to read assigned readings, post your class assignments on time, and actively participate in group discussions. In order for you to have chances to work with more classmates, your discussion group will rotate as follows: the 1st-round discussion group for Weeks 1-4; the 2nd-round discussion group for Weeks 5-7; and the 3rd-round discussion group for Weeks 8-10.
2. **Seven One-page Essays** **(single-spaced, 12-point, Times New Roman or 450-500 words/each essay)** and **critical and constructive feedback** on ALL of your group members’ essays posted on your group discussion site **(at least 100 words to each essay)**. Essays should include appropriate **footnotes or the list of works cited with page numbers**, if necessary. The instructor should be informed in advance of any necessary absences or delays of postings.
3. **Two reports (3-4 pages, double-spaced, 12-point, Times New Roman or 900-1200 words) on your cross-cultural worship experiences.** Attend two worship services. The services you attend should be held either in a multiracial and multicultural context or in a racially and ethnically different congregations from your own. After attending each service, write a report, focusing on (1) the racial and ethnic demographical makeup and other social components of the congregation you worshipped with, (2) the history of the congregation’s worship life, (3) distinctive liturgical and theological features of the services, and (4) your critical and constructive reflection on the service with at least two things that you took away from it as you develop multicultural worship for your own congregation.

In order to respond to these four categories, you may need to interview some church members or staff. Post your report in Canvas with a scanned worship bulletin (If the church did not provide it, you might write down the order of service) by the following dates: Report I—**Week 5, Wed. (2/8)**; Reports II—**Week 9, Wed. (3/8) by 11:59 p.m. (MT)**. You may read all the classmates’ assignments and comment them. But, you are required to provide feedback on All of your group members’ reports by **Fri. (2/10 and 3/10), 11:59 p.m.**

1. **One complete liturgy from a multicultural perspective.** Based on your knowledge and experience gained from class readings and assignments, write the order of the service from a multicultural perspective. It must be for a one-hour service either for Sunday worship or any special liturgical occasion. You need to decide the liturgical theme and the particular setting and select liturgical components at your own choice. (If necessary, you may consult with the instructor on the phone or via Skype.) The liturgy must include full texts of prayers, hymns, the sermon manuscript (if preaching is included), and other liturgical components. (If you are going to have a chance to perform this liturgy before the submission date, you may videotape your worship service and post it in Canvas with the worship bulletin, instead of the full text of the liturgy.)

In addition, you are required to provide the instructor with **a written rationale** for why the service was ordered as it was, why and how the various elements within it were selected, and how they were used in creative ways. The rationale can either be written on separate pages (2-3 pages, single-spaced or 900-1400 words) and be attached to the worship order, or be incorporated as a running commentary within the worship order. The order of the service should demonstrate your creative and concrete ideas to develop a culturally more sensitive and theologically more relevant worship service from the multicultural perspective. You are supposed to refer to the “Criteria for Worship Evaluation” that is posted in Canvas when you prepare for this assignment. Post your work by Week 10, **Wednesday (3/15), 11:59 p.m. (MT).** You may read all the classmates’ assignments and comment them. But, you are required to provide your feedback on ALL of your group members’ works by **Friday (3/17), 11:59 p.m.**

In this course, 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 discussion, we will do our best to respect differences and diversity in human life and spiritual journey. Concerning plagiarism, refer to the section of “Academic Integrity” in the *Master’s Student Handbook.*

**COURSE EVALUATION:**

Students can take the course using their P/F option. In order to receive the grade of “P,” the students must complete the four requirements listed in the section of Course Requirements. The students who want to contract for a grade of P/F must email a note to the instructor by January 17.

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

Requirements #1 & 2 .…..………………………56% (8% x 7 one-page essays & feedback)

Requirement #3…………………………………24% (12% each)

Requirement #4 …..…………….………………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 2014-2015 Master’s Student Handbook*, p. 80):

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%)

\*Late postings and responses will result in lowering your grade (-2 points/each).

\*Late submissions may not receive written comments from the instructor and the peers.

\*The deadline of late submissions is March 19. All late submissions may be reviewed by the instructor after this date.

\*The use of inclusive language is strongly urged in all class discussions and writings.

**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.

**COURSE SCHEDULE**

**Week 1: Changing Context for Christian Worship**

* Getting acquainted one another: Post introductory words about you (e.g., your program at Iliff, denomination, ministerial setting, preaching and worship leadership experience, future plan after graduation, why taking this course, etc.) by Wed. (01/11), 11:59 p.m. (MT). If you like, you can audio- or videotape introduction to yourself and upload it.
* Readings: ClassNotes1; Francis, Ch.2.
* Assignments: **One-page Essay 1** (single-spaced, Times New Roman, 12 pt. or 450-500 words), focusing on the following questions:
* In what kind of cultural contexts is your congregation located? Describe your congregation’s racial and ethnic subculture(s) and the larger sociocultural context that your congregation belongs to.
* What is your experience of Sunday worship in your church? What are the cultural challenges for you to rethink Christian worship in a culturally sensitive way?

Post your essay by Wednesday (1/11), 11:59 p.m. (MT). Respond to ALL of your 1st-round group members’ essays (no less than 100 words each) by Friday (1/13), 11:59 p.m. (MT).

**Week 2: Culture and Liturgy**

* Readings: ClassNotes2; Francis, Ch. 3.
* Suggested readings: Tanner.
* Assignments: O**ne-page Essay** **2** (single-spaced, Times New Roman, 12 pt. or 450-500 words), focusing on the following question:
* What is the liturgical history of your denomination and your particular congregation? When you summarize it, explore how the three conceptions of culture that is explained in Class Notes2 associate or intersect in the history of your congregational liturgical culture.
* What are the pressing issues or problems emerging from your church when you consider its worship from a multicultural perspective?

Post your essay by Wednesday (1/18), 11:59 p.m. (MT). Respond to ALL of your 1st-round group members’ essays (no less than 100 words each) by Friday (1/20), 11:59 p.m. (MT).

**Week 3: The Renewal of Worship from Multicultural Perspectives**

* Readings: ClassNotes3; Francis, Ch. 4, Blount &Tisdale (eds.), at least one chapter in Part 1 at your own choice.
* Assignments: **One-page Essay 3** (single-spaced, Times New Roman, 12 pt. or 450-500 words), focusing on the following questions:
* Is it necessary to consider Christian worship from a multicultural perspective?
* Why (or why not) do you consider culture a significant influence on the renewal of worship?
* What might be difficulties if you try to renew your congregational worship? How can it be done effectively?

Post your essay by Wednesday (1/25), 11:59 p.m. (MT). Respond to ALL of your 1st-round group members’ essays (no less than 100 words each) by Friday (1/27), 11:59 p.m. (MT).

**Week 4: Theologies of Worship**

* Readings: Class Notes4; Blount & Tisdale (ed.), at least one chapter in Parts 2 and 3 at your own choice.
* Assignments: **One-page Essay** **4** (single-spaced, Times New Roman, 12 pt. or 450-500 words), focusing on the following question:
* What is worship for you? Articulate your theological and biblical understanding of Christian worship based on the readings for Week 3 and Week 4, as well as your personal and communal experiences of worship.

Post your one-page essay by Wednesday (2/01), 11:59 p.m. (MT). Respond to ALL of your 1st-round group members’ essays (no less than 100 words each) by Friday (2/03), 11:59 p.m. (MT).

**Week 5: The Reading Week**

* Readings: If you were behind reading assignments, please catch them up this week.
* Assignments: Post **Requirement #3/Report I** in Canvas by Wednesday (2/8), 11:59 p.m. (MT) and respond to ALL of your 2nd-round group members’ reports (no less than 100 words each) by Friday (2/10), 11:59 p.m. (MT).

**Week 6: The Diversity of Worship (I): African American Worship**

* Readings: Costen.
* Assignments: **One-page Essay 5** (single-spaced, Times New Roman, 12 pt. or 450-500 words), focusing on the following questions:
* What are the distinctive characteristics of African American worship that you learned from Costen’s book?
* How can you relate what you learned about African American worship to your church’s worship experience?

Post your essay by Wednesday (2/15), 11:59 p.m. (MT). Respond to ALL of your 2nd-round group members’ essays (no less than 100 words each) by Friday (2/17), 11:59 p.m. (MT).

**Week 7: The Diversity of Worship (II): Asian American Worship**

* Readings: Yee.
* Assignments: **One-page Essay 6** (single-spaced, Times New Roman, 12 pt. or 450-500 words), focusing on the following questions:
* What are the distinctive characteristics of Asian American worship that you learned from Yee’s book?
* How can you relate what you learned about Asian American worship to your church’s worship experience?

Post your essay by Wednesday (2/22), 11:59 p.m. (MT). Respond to ALL of your 2nd-round group members’ essays (no less than 100 words each) by Friday (2/24), 11:59 p.m. (MT).

**Week 8: The Diversity of Worship (III): Hispanic American Worship**

* Readings: Gonzales (ed.).
* Assignments: **One-page Essay** **7** (single-spaced, Times New Roman, 12 pt. or 450-500 words), focusing on the following questions:
* What are the distinctive characteristics of Hispanic American worship that you learned from Gonzales’ book?
* How can you relate what you learned about Hispanic American worship to your church’s worship experience?

Post your essay by Wednesday (3/01), 11:59 p.m. (MT). Respond to ALL of your 3rd-round group members’ essays (no less than 100 words each) by Friday (3/03), 11:59 p.m. (MT).

**Week 9: Practice of Multicultural Worship (I)**

* Readings: Class Notes5 & 6; Huh; Francis, pp. 89-112.
* Assignments: Based on your readings this week, brainstorm your ideas for Requirement #4 in relation to the following questions:
* Do you have any creative ideas about designing the worship service from a multicultural perspective? Explore any ideas you have in relation to the four models explained in ClassNotes5, or you may develop your own model. This idea is supposed to be used in your Requirement #4 project.
* Do you have any concrete ideas to develop liturgical components (e.g., prayers, songs, scripture, preaching, Communion, baptism, symbols, space, language, etc.) creatively to help your congregation experience the presence and work of God in our multicultural world? These ideas are supposed to be included in your Requirement #4.

Post **Requirement #3/Report II** in Canvas by Wednesday (3/8), 11:59 p.m. (MT) and respond to ALL of your 3rd-round group members’ reports (no less than 100 words each) by Friday (3/10), 11:59 p.m. (MT).

**Week 10: Practice of Multicultural Worship (II)**

* Assignments:

1. Post **Requirement #4** by Wednesday (3/15), 11:59 p.m. (MT)).
2. Provide your feedback on ALL of your 3rd-round group members’ works by Friday (3/17), 11:59 p.m. (MT). (Your feedback is supposed to be critical and constructive in no less than **450 words** on each group member’s work.)