Course syllabus

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

**Fall 2019**

**INSTRUCTOR:**

Eunjoo Mary Kim: ekim@iliff.edu

**GATHERING DAYS:**

October 8 (Tue.), 1-5 PM & October 9 (Wed.), 8 AM-Noon

**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 in multicultural contexts. Among many factors of cultural diversity, this course focuses on **race and ethnicity** as the major factors of liturgical formation and expression. Upon realizing the significant challenge of racial and cultural diversity, this course aims to search for new liturgical concepts and 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 hybrid course is designed to help students research and have clear ideas about the theology and method of worship in multicultural contexts. The students’ assignments 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. equip themselves to become more effective leaders of multicultural worship with inter/multicultural competence and skills.

**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. Becker, Amy J., “Want to be Multiethnic? Get Ready for Discomfort.” (Available in Canvas).
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. Kim, Eunjoo, *Christian Preaching and Worship in Multicultural Contexts*. ISBN: 0814663206.
6. Seonwoo, Hyuk, “Whose Christmas Is Coming?: Christmas Season and White Privilege.” (Available in Canvas).
7. Yee, Russell, *Worship on the Way: Exploring Asian North American Christian Experience.* ISBN: 978-0-8170-1707-1.

**RECOMMENDED TEXTS:**

1. Duck, Ruth, *Worship for the Whole People of God*. ISBN: 978-0-664-23427-0.

**SUGGESTED TEXTS:**

1. Black, Kathleen, et al., *Rhythms of Religious Rituals: The Yearly Cycle of Jews, Christians, and Muslims*. 978-1946230157.
2. Tanner, Kathryn, *Theories of Culture: A New Agenda for Theology.* ISBN: 0800630971

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

The regular attendance of all online classes is required. You are required to read the assigned readings and post your assignments in a timely manner. All the assignments will be posted on the discussion site, so that you may learn from other classmates’ writings by reading and replying to them. When replying, respond to at least three classmates’ posts. Please make sure that all students have replies, before commenting on posts that already have replies. You do not have to reply to late posts.

The instructor will also provide her comments on the students’ assignments by replying to the posts on the discussion site within a week, and you are supposed to read her replies to other students’ posts, as well as your own, as learning opportunities.

The instructor should be informed in advance of any necessary absences or delays of posting assignments. If you are not able to attend the Gathering Days class, you cannot pass the course.

Following are the written assignments that should be posted in Canvas:

1. **Seven One-page Essays** (single-spaced, 12-point, Times New Roman or 450-500 words/each essay) and replies to the classmates’ essays (at least in 100 words each). Essays should reflect the weekly reading assignments with references and include appropriate footnotes or the list of works cited with page numbers, if necessary. Your replies should be critical and constructive, so that you may help the authors deepen their understandings of the subjects.
2. **Two Worship Reports** (2-3 pages, double-spaced, 12-point, Times New Roman or 500-750 words/each report) on your cross-cultural worship experiences. Attend two worship services being held either in a multiracial and multicultural context or in racially and ethnically different congregations from your own. In order to have constructive learning opportunities, you need to research and find appropriate worship services for this assignment. After attending each service, write a report, focusing on (1) the racial and ethnic 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 service, (4) your critical and constructive reflection on the service, and (5) 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 five categories, you may need to interview some church members or staff. Post your reports in Canvas with scanned worship bulletins (If the church did not provide them, please write down the order of service) by the following dates: Report I—Week 4, Wed. (10/02); Reports II—Week 9, Wed. (11/06) by 11:59 p.m. (MT). Reply to at least three classmates’ reports by Fridays (10/04 and 11/08), 11:59 p.m. (MT).

1. **One Multicultural Worship Resource and Revision of a Worship Bulletin.**  Create your own multicultural worship resource which may be used in your congregational worship (e.g., a prayer, a song, a sermon, a creed, charge and benediction, etc.), and post it in Canvas by Week 5, Mon. (10/07), 11:59 p.m. (MT). It will be shared in the Gathering Days class. In addition, bring one of the worship bulletins of your church with enough copies to share with the classmates. It will be revised from a multicultural perspective in class.

1. **Final Project: One Complete Liturgy from a Multicultural Perspective.** Based on your knowledge and experience gained from the class readings and assignments, write a liturgy from a multicultural perspective. It must be for a one-hour service for either Sunday worship or a special liturgical occasion. You need to decide the worshiping community, the liturgical theme, the liturgical style (or model), and the particular liturgical setting. And then, design the order of service and write a full liturgy for the service. (If necessary, you may consult with the instructor on the phone or via Zoom.) The liturgy should demonstrate your creative and concrete ideas to develop a culturally sensitive and theologically relevant worship service from a multicultural perspective. **During the Gathering-Days class, you may present your basic ideas about the project.**

The liturgy must include full texts of prayers, hymns, a sermon manuscript (if preaching is included), and other liturgical elements. 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 written liturgy.

In addition, you are required to provide the instructor with **a written rationale** (2-3 pages, single-spaced, or 900-1350 words) that explains why you choose that particular liturgical theme, why the service is ordered as it is, why and how the various liturgical elements are selected, and how they are used in creative ways. The rationale should also include the information about the worshiping community and the particular liturgical setting.

When you work for this assignment, you need to refer to the “Criteria for Worship Evaluation” that is posted in Canvas. Post your work by Week 10, Wed. (11/13), 11:59 p.m. (MT). You are required to review at least three classmates’ assignments and provide them with your feedback in no less than 200 words by Fri. (11/15), 11:59 p.m. (MT).

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 the Course Requirements. The students who want to contract for a grade of P/F must email a note to the instructor by the second week of the quarter.

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 .…..…………………..………56% (8% x 7 one-page essays & feedback)

Requirement #2……………………..…………16% (8% x 2)

Requirement #3 …..……………………………. 8%

Requirement #4…………………………………20%

5%: The project not only meets the criteria for worship evaluation but also shows the student’s creativity.

15%: The project meets the criteria for worship evaluation.

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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 Master’s Student Handbook*):

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 submissions (both excused and unexcused) will result in lowering your grade (-1 points/each). In addition, late submissions may not receive written comments from the instructor and the peers. The deadline for late submissions is 11/18 (Mon.), 11:59 p.m. (MT). All the late posts may be reviewed by the instructor after this date.

\*No replies to other classmates’ posts will result in lowering your grade (-0.5 point/each).

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

**Incomplete Policy:** Students are responsible for following the procedures outlined in the *Master’s Student Handbook.*

**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 (09/09-09/13): Introduction**

* Readings: Kim, Introduction & Ch. 1; Seonwoo.
* Assignments:

1. Post **your videotape** (3-4 min.)introducing yourself and your congregationby Wed. (09/11), 11:59 p.m. (MT). Please let us know your program at Iliff, denomination, leadership experience in preaching and worship, future plan after graduation, why you take this course, the racial and ethnic makeup of your congregation and its geographical location, etc.
2. **One-page Essay 1** (single-spaced, Times New Roman, 12 pt. or 450-500 words), focusing on the following question: What are the challenges for you to rethink Christian worship in relation to racial and ethnic diversity?

You are required to reflect on the readings and reference them in your writing. Post your essay by Wednesday (09/11), 11:59 p.m. (MT), and reply to your classmates’ essays in no less than 100 words/each by Friday (09/13), 11:59 p.m. (MT).

**Week 2 (09/16-09/20): Theology, Culture, and Liturgy**

* Readings: Kim, Ch. 2; Francis, Ch. 2
* Suggested readings: Tanner.
* Assignments:

1. O**ne-page Essay** **2** (single-spaced, Times New Roman, 12 pt. or 450-500 words), focusing on the question: What is your critical evaluation of your current congregational worship from the multicultural perspective?

You are required to reflect on the readings, especially the three views of culture that is explained in Kim’s Chapter 2, and reference them in your writing. Post your essay by Wednesday (09/18), 11:59 p.m. (MT), and reply to your classmates’ essays in no less than 100 words/each by Friday (09/20), 11:59 p.m. (MT).

**Week 3 (09/23-09/27): Sacred Texts and Christian Worship**

* Readings: Kim, Chapters 3 & 4.
* Assignments:

1. **One-page Essay 3** (single-spaced, Times New Roman, 12 pt. or 450-500 words), focusing on the following questions: Why (or why not) do you think that other religious texts can be used in Christian worship? What would be advantages and disadvantages of using “multicultural hermeneutics” that is explained in Chapter 3 of Kim’s book in your congregational worship?

You are required to reflect on the readings and reference them in your writing. Post your essay by Wednesday (09/25, 11:59 p.m. (MT), and reply to your group members’ essays in no less than 100 words/each by Friday (09/27), 11:59 p.m. (MT).

**Week 4 (09/30-10/04): The Renewal of Christian Worship**

* Readings: Kim, Chapter 5; Francis, Chapters 3 & 4.
* Assignments:

1. **One-page Essay** **4** (single-spaced, Times New Roman, 12 pt. or 450-500 words), focusing on the following questions: How do you define Christian worship from the multicultural perspective? What is your vision for Christian worship in the 21st century?

You are required to reflect on the readings and reference them in your writing. Post your essay by Wednesday (10/02), 11:59 p.m. (MT), and reply to your classmates’ essays in no less than 100 words/each by Friday (10/04), 11:59 p.m. (MT).

1. Post **Requirement #2/Worship Report I,** by Wed. (10/02), 11:59 p.m. (MT), and reply to your classmates’ reports in no less than 100 words/each by Friday (10/04), 11:59 p.m. (MT).

**Week 5 (10/07-10/11): Gathering Days (10/08 (Tue.), 1-5 PM - 10/09 (Wed.), 8 AM-Noon)**

* Readings: Kim, Ch. 6; Becker; “Criteria for Worship Evaluation.”
* Recommended Readings: Duck, Chapters 4, 5, 6, 7.
* Assignments: Requirement #3

1. Bring one of your church worship bulletins with enough copies for the classmates into class. We will evaluate and revise it from a multicultural perspective.
2. Bring a multicultural worship resource that you created into class.
3. Present your basic ideas about your final project in class (optional).

**Week 6 (10/14-10/18): The Diversity of Worship (I) - African American Worship**

* Readings: Costen.
* Assignments:

1. **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 (10/16), 11:59 p.m. (MT) and reply to your classmates’ essays in no less than 100 words/each by Friday (10/18), 11:59 p.m. (MT).

**Week 7 (10/21-10/25): The Diversity of Worship (II) - Asian American Worship**

* Readings: Yee.

1. 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 (10/23), 11:59 p.m. (MT), and reply to your classmates’ essays in no less than 100 words/each by Friday (10/25), 11:59 p.m. (MT).

**Week 8 (10/28-11/01): The Diversity of Worship (III) - Hispanic American Worship**

* Readings: Gonzales (ed.).
* Assignments:

1. **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 (10/30), 11:59 p.m. (MT), and reply to your classmates’ essays in no less than 100 words/each by Friday (11/01), 11:59 p.m. (MT).

**Week 9 (11/04-11/08): The Practice of Multicultural Worship (I)**

* Readings: Kim, Chapter 7; Francis, pp. 89-112.
* Suggested Readings: Black.
* Assignments:

1. Brainstorm your ideas for Requirement #4 in relation to the following questions:

* What is your worshipers’ racial and ethnic makeup? What is your evaluation of their current practice of worship?
* What is the liturgical theme for Requirement #4? Why do you choose that particular theme? How does it relate to your multicultural perspective?
* Do you have any creative ideas to develop liturgical components (e.g., prayers, songs, scripture, preaching, Communion, baptism, symbols, space, language, etc.) from the multicultural perspective to make the service meaningful and memorable?
* Does the service meet the “Criteria for Worship Evaluation”?

Answers to these questions should be included in the written rational for Requirement #4, due Week 10, Wed. (11/13), 11:59 p.m. (MT).

1. Post Requirement #2/Worship Report II**,** by Wed. (11/06), 11:59 p.m. (MT), and reply to your classmates’ reports in no less than 100 words/each by Friday (11/8), 11:59 p.m. (MT).

**Week 10 (11/11-11/15): The Practice of Multicultural Worship (II)**

* Assignments:

1. Post Requirement #4 by Wed. (11/13), 11:59 p.m. (MT)), and provide your feedback on your three classmates’ projects by Friday (11/15), 11:59 p.m. (MT), in no less than200 words**/**each. Your feedback should be critical and constructive to help your classmates revise their works.

**Bibliography**

Black, Kathleen, et al., *Rhythms of Religious Rituals: The Yearly Cycle of Jews, Christians, and*

*Muslims*. Claremont: Claremont Press, 2018.

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