Course syllabus

**IST20221 Worship in Multicultural Contexts (Online/4 credits)**

**Spring 2021 [revised]**

**INSTRUCTOR:**

Eunjoo Mary Kim: ekim@iliff.edu

**Zoom Meetings:** Thursdays of Weeks 3 (4/8), 5 (4/22), 8 (5/1), 6:00 p.m.-7:15 p.m.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

We live 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 a theological reflection in multicultural contexts. Among many factors of cultural diversity, this course focuses on **race and ethnicity**as the crucial aspects 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 online 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 the relationship between liturgy and culture 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 on Canvas).
2. Costen, Melva, W., *African American Christian Worship* (updated edition). ISBN: 978-0-687-64622-7.
3. Elizondo, Virgil, *Galilean Journey: The Mexican-American Promise*, Ch. 3. ISBN: 0-88343-151-9. (Available on Canvas).
4. Francis, Mark K., C.S.V., *Shape A Circle Ever Wider: Liturgical Inculturation in the United States*. ISBN: 1-56854-277-1.
5. Gonzalez, Justo (ed.), *Alabadle!: Hispanic Christian Worship.* ISBN: 0-687-01032-2.
6. Kim, Eunjoo, *Christian Preaching and Worship in Multicultural Contexts*. ISBN: 0814663206.
7. Seonwoo, Hyuk, “Whose Christmas Is Coming?: Christmas Season and White Privilege.” (Available on Canvas).
8. 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.
2. Lamb, Lisa, *Blessed and Beautiful: Multiethnic Churches and the Preaching that Sustains Them.* Ch. 7, 169-178. (Available on Canvas). ISBN: 978-1-62032-812-5.

**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 participation in all Canvas discussions and the attendance of three Zoom classes are 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 Discussions board, so that you may learn from other classmates’ writings by reading and replying to them. While you are free to reply to the posts in one or two words or sentences, please respond to at least three classmates’ posts in no fewer than 100 words. Make sure that all students have replies, before commenting on posts that already have replies. You do not have to reply to the late posts.

The instructor will also provide her comments on the students’ assignments by replying to the posts on the d

Discussions board within a week. Please read her replies to other students’ posts, as well as your own, as a learning opportunity.

The instructor should be informed in advance of any necessary absences or delays of posting assignments. If you are not able to attend the Zoom classes, you cannot pass the course unless your academic advisor sends an approval letter.

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

1. **Six One-page Essays** (single-spaced, 12-point, Times New Roman or 450-500 words/each essay) in Weeks 1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 9 (see the Course Schedule) and responses to at least three classmates’ essays (no fewer than 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 (in-person or online). The services you attend should be held either in a multiracial and multicultural context or in a racially and ethnically different congregation from your own. 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 on Canvas with scanned worship bulletins (If the church did not provide them, you might write down the order of service) by the following dates: Report I—Week 4, Tuesday (4/13); Reports II—Week 8, Tuesday (5/11) by 11:59 p.m. (MT). Respond to at least three classmates’ reports by Thursday (4/15 and 5/13), 11:59 p.m. (MT).

1. **One Multicultural Worship Resource:** 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 on Canvas by Week 5, Tuesday (4/20), 11:59 p.m. (MT). Be ready to share it in the Zoom class 2 (Week 5).
2. **Revision of a Worship Bulletin:** Evaluate one of your church’s worship bulletins and revise it from a multicultural perspective. Post it on Canvas by Tuesday (5/11), 11:59 p.m. (MT). Be ready to share it in the Zoom class 3 (Week 8).

1. **Final Project: One Complete Liturgy from a Multicultural Perspective.** Based on your knowledge and experience gained from the class readings, discussions, 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 appropriate worship service from a multicultural perspective. Be ready to share your initial ideas about the project in the Zoom class (Week 8).

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 on 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 on Canvas. Post your work by Week 10, Tuesday (5/25), 11:59 p.m. (MT). You are required to review at least three classmates’ assignments and provide them with your feedback in no fewer than 200 words by Thursday (5/27), 11:59 p.m. (MT).

**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:

Zoom classes…………………………………...9% (3% x 3)

Requirement #1..…..…………………..………42% (7% x 6 one-page essays & feedback)

Requirement #2……………………..…………14% (7% x 2)

Requirement #3 …..………..….……………….5%

Requirement #4……………………………… ..5%

Requirement #5……………..…………………25%

3%: The project not only meets the criteria for worship evaluation but also shows the

student’s creativity.

13%: The project meets the criteria for worship evaluation.

6%: A written rationale

3%: Critical feedback on at least three other students’ projects (1% x 3)

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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 all the late submissions is 5/30 (Sun.), 11:59 p.m. (MT). All the late posts may be reviewed by the instructor after this date since she is scheduled to do other works after the original deadlines.

\*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.

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.*

**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 (3/22-3/26): Introduction**

* Required reading: Kim, Introduction & Chapters 1 &2; Francis, Ch. 2, Becker.
* Suggested reading: Tanner.
* Assignments:

1. Post **your videotape** (3-4 min.)introducing yourself and your congregationby Tues. (3/23), 11:59 p.m. (MT). Please let us know your program at Iliff, denomination, leadership experience in worship, future plan after graduation, expectations from the course, the racial and ethnic makeup of your congregation, and its geographical location, etc.
2. Course Syllabus Q & A: If you have any questions or concerns about the course syllabus, please post them on Canvas by Tues. (3/23), 11:59 p.m. (MT).
3. **One-page Essay 1** (single-spaced, Times New Roman, 12 pt. or 450-500 words), focusing on the following questions: What is your critical evaluation of your current congregational worship from the multicultural perspective? What are the challenges for you to rethink your congregational worship concerning racial and ethnic diversity?

You are required to reflect on the readings and reference them in your writing. Post your essay by Tuesday (3/23), 11:59 p.m. (MT), and reply to at least three classmates’ essays in no fewer than 100 words/each by Thursday (3/25), 11:59 p.m. (MT).

**Week 2 (3/29-4/02): The Renewal of Worship**

* Required reading: Kim, Ch. 5; Francis, Chapters 3 & 4; Seonwoo.
* Recommended reading: Duck, Ch. 1.
* Assignments:

1. O**ne-page Essay** **2** (single-spaced, Times New Roman, 12 pt. or 450-500 words), focusing on the following questions: What is your definition of worship from a multicultural perspective? What is your vision for worship in the 21st century?

You are required to reflect on the readings and reference them in your writing. Post your essay by Tuesday (3/30), 11:59 p.m. (MT), and reply to at least three classmates’ essays in no fewer than 100 words/each by Thursday (4/01), 11:59 p.m. (MT).

**Week 3 (4/05-4/09): Sacred Texts and Worship; Zoom Class 1 (Thu. 6:00 - 7:15 p.m. MT)**

* Required reading: Kim, Chapters 3 & 4.
* Recommended reading: Lamb
* 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? (If your congregation is not Christian, the question is, “Why (or why not) do you think that the Christian Scriptures can be used in your congregational worship?) What would be the advantages and disadvantages of using “multicultural hermeneutics” in your congregational worship?

You are required to reflect on the readings and reference them in your writing. Post your essay by Tuesday (4/06), 11:59 p.m. (MT), and reply to at least three classmates’ essays in no fewer than 100 words/each by Thursday (4/08), 11:59 p.m. (MT).

**Week 4 (4/12-4/16): Renewal of Worship/Cross-cultural Experiences**

* Suggested reading: Black.
* Assignments:

1. **Requirement #2/Worship Report 1** (2-3 pages, double-spaced, 12-point, Times New Roman, or 500-750 words) on your cross-cultural worship experience. Attend a worship service (in-person or online). The service you attend should be held either in a multiracial and multicultural context or in a racially and ethnically different congregation from your own. After attending the 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.

Post your reportby attachment by Tues. (4/13), 11:59 p.m. (MT), and reply to at least three classmates’ reports in no fewer than 100 words/each by Thurs. (4/15), 11:59 p.m. (MT).

**Week 5 (4/19-4/23): Worship Design; Zoom Class 2 (Thu. 6:00 p.m. - 7:15 p.m. MT)**

* Required reading: “Criteria for Worship Evaluation.”
* Recommended Readings: Duck, Chapters 4, 5, 6, 7.
* Assignments:

1. **Requirement #3** **One Multicultural Worship Resource:** 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 on Canvas by Week 5, Tuesday (4/20), 11:59 p.m. (MT). Be ready to share it in class.

**Week 6 (4/26-4/30): The Diversity of Worship (I) - African American Worship**

* Required reading: Costen.
* Assignments:

1. **One-page Essay 4** (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 Tuesday (4/27), 11:59 p.m. (MT) and reply to at least three of your classmates’ essays in no fewer than 100 words/each by Thursday (4/29), 11:59 p.m. (MT).

**Week 7 (5/03-5/07): The Diversity of Worship (II) - Asian American Worship**

* Required reading: Yee.

1. 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 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 Tuesday (5/04), 11:59 p.m. (MT), and reply to at least three of your classmates’ essays in no fewer than 100 words/each by Thursday (5/06), 11:59 p.m. (MT).

**Week 8 (5/10-5/14): Models of Multicultural Worship; Zoom Class 3 (Thu. 6-7:15 p.m. MT)**

* Required reading: Kim, Chapters 6 & 7; Francis, 89-112.
* Assignments:

1. **Requirement #4 The Revision of a Worship Bulletin:** Evaluate one of your church’s worship bulletins and revise it from a multicultural perspective. Post it on Canvas by Tuesday (5/11), 11:59 p.m. (MT). Be ready to share it in the Zoom class.
2. **Requirement #2/Worship Report II** (2-3 pages, double-spaced, 12-point, Times New Roman, or 500-750 words/each report) on your cross-cultural worship experience). Attend a worship service (in-person or online). The service you attend should be held either in a multiracial and multicultural context or in a racially and ethnically different congregation from your own. After attending the 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.

Post your reportby attachment by Tues. (5/11), 11:59 p.m. (MT), and reply to at least three classmates’ reports in no fewer than 100 words/each by Thurs. (5/13), 11:59 p.m. (MT).

**Week 9 (5/17-5/21): The Diversity of Worship (III) – Hispanic American Worship**

* Required reading: Gonzales (ed.); Elizondo, Ch. 3.
* Assignments:

1. **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 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 (5/18), 11:59 p.m. (MT), and reply to at least three of your classmates’ essays in no fewer than 100 words/each by Thursday (5/20), 11:59 p.m. (MT).

**Week 10 (5/24-5/28): Practice of Multicultural Worship**

* Assignments:

1. **Requirement #5 Final Project: One Complete Liturgy from a Multicultural Perspective.** Based on your knowledge and experience gained from the class readings, discussions, 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 appropriate worship service from a multicultural perspective.

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 on 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 what the liturgical context is, who the worshipers are, 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 from a multicultural perspective in creative ways.

When you work on this assignment, you need to refer to the “Criteria for Worship Evaluation” that is posted on Canvas.

Post your project by attachment by Tuesday (5/25), 11:59 p.m. (MT)), and provide your feedback on at least three of your classmates’ projects in no fewer than 200 words by Thursday (5/27), 11:59 p.m. (MT). 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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