

LITURGICAL STUDIES 5141B

## INTRODUCTION TO CATHOLIC LITURGY

Spring 2018, Thursdays, 7:00 to 10:00 p.m.

Room 102

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office hours: Thursdays, 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

A basic exploration of sacramental celebrations, the Liturgy of the Hours, and liturgical time and space in the Roman Rite, from their historical, theological, biblical, spiritual and pastoral perspectives.

## GOALS

This course will assist students to grow in the following knowledge, skills, and attitudes:

### *Knowledge*

1. general familiarity with the sources and historical development of Christian liturgy
2. appreciation of the role of ritual and symbol in human life
3. understanding of the key features, principles, and structures of current Roman Catholic liturgical rites
4. critical awareness of current and future questions and issues in pastoral liturgical practice

### *Skills*

1. an sense of how to interpret liturgical events as meaningful ritual action
2. ability to draw upon liturgy as a privileged source for theology, related to sacramental theology and the wider theological tradition
3. ability to critically consider and evaluate liturgical practices
4. some ability to make informed decisions about pastoral liturgical practice

### *Attitudes*

1. pastoral sensitivity concerning the needs of the worshipping community
2. appreciation of the nature of the liturgy as “source and summit” of Christian life
3. care and concern for the importance of rich, well-celebrated liturgical rites
4. commitment to ongoing, life-long growth in understanding of liturgical practice

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

The above goals will be met by:

1. well-prepared and vigorous “full, conscious, and active” participation in class discussions
2. very brief class preparation assignments or in-class activities
3. *either*:
  - a. two (2) short texts for parish talks, on topics of the student’s choice, *or*
  - b. a final paper, thoroughly analyzing one liturgical unit
4. a final oral examination, during the examination period

Grading will be determined as follows:

two (2) short talks <i>or</i> final paper:	40% (2 × 20%)
exam:	40%
participation:	20%
(including preparation & in-class assignments)	

## TEXTS

### *Required*

Catholic Church. *The Rites*, vol. I. Liturgical Press, 1990.

Guardini, Romano. “Open Letter” *Herder Correspondence* (Special Issue, 1964) 24–26.

Johnson, Maxwell E., ed. *Sacraments and Worship: The Sources of Christian Theology*. Westminster/John Knox, 2012.

Second Vatican Council, “*Sacrosanctum Concilium: Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy*”

White, James F. *Introduction to Christian Worship*, 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. Abingdon, 2001.

### *Recommended*

Martimort, A. G., et al. *The Church at Prayer*. 4 vols. Liturgical Press, 1984–86.

Pecklers, Keith. *Worship: A Primer in Christian Ritual*. Liturgical Press, 2003.

## TENTATIVE CLASS & READINGS SCHEDULE

- Jan. 11 Introduction
- Jan. 18 Key Concepts, Overview of Liturgical History, Vatican II  
White, *Introduction*, ch. 1  
Vatican II, *Sacrosanctum Concilium*
- Jan. 25 Ritual & Symbol in Human Life  
Guardini, “Open Letter”
- Feb. 1 The Language of Time  
White, *Introduction*, ch. 2  
*General Instruction on the Liturgical Year*
- Feb. 8 The Language of Space & The Sounds of Church Music  
White, *Introduction*, ch. 3–4
- Feb. 15 Daily Prayer & Liturgies of the Word  
White, *Introduction*, ch. 5–6  
*General Instruction of the Liturgy of the Hours*
- Mar. 1 Sacramental & Liturgical Theology  
White, *Introduction*, ch. 7
- Mar. 8 Rites of Initiation: RCIA  
White, *Introduction*, ch. 8  
*Rites*, 15–47
- Mar. 15 Rites of Initiation: Baptism of Children  
review White, *Introduction*, ch. 8  
*Rites*, 361–375
- Mar. 22 Eucharist  
White, *Introduction*, ch. 9  
*General Instruction on the Roman Missal*, from “Preamble” to Chapter 2
- Mar. 29 Rite of Penance & Rites for the Sick  
White, *Introduction*, 265–276  
*Rites*, 519–544, 761–789
- Apr. 5 Rites of Marriage & Funeral Rites  
White, *Introduction*, 276–303  
*Rites*, 717–724, 911–944

## ASSIGNMENTS

### *Short Talks (Option A)*

For this option, students will write *two* short talks, as follows. The intended audience would be a group of parishioners, such as those in an RCIA or adult faith formation group, including people “in the pews,” with a general interest in your topic. In each one, you have three options to choose from.

1. You are asked to give a talk that explains *one* of the following:
  - a. the Liturgy of the Hours,
  - b. the significance of Sunday, *or*
  - c. the liturgical year.
2. You are asked to explain *one* of the following rites:
  - a. the rite of Christian initiation for adults celebrated at the Easter Vigil,
  - b. the rite of baptism for a child, *or*
  - c. the Eucharistic liturgy celebrated at the Sunday Mass.

Each explanation should refer directly to the rite itself and should explain the importance of the symbols and rites that are found in the celebration. It will be impossible in a talk of 12-15 minutes to deal with everything. You will have to select those aspects of the rite that you believe are the most important. Your talk should include reference to the historical, spiritual and theological importance of the rite, as you see fit. #1 is due March 1, and #2 is due March 22.

### *Final Paper (Option B)*

For this option, you may consider one particular liturgical unit — a text, symbol, gesture, or feast/season in the liturgical year. It is good to ensure that the unit be carefully defined, so as to make the paper as feasible as possible. Upon defining what unit you would like to study, consider all of the following:

1. its historical origins and development
2. theological interpretation of its meaning, whether official or unofficial
3. the relationship of this unit to other texts, symbols and rites, or to the year
4. critical evaluation of the unit in practice today (Should it be done differently, and how? Should it be done at all? Why?)
5. critical evaluation of its current understanding, whether official or unofficial (Should it be understood or explained differently than it usually is? How? Should some aspects of its meaning be emphasized more, or less? Why?)

The final paper will be due April 5.

### *Final Exam*

The final examination will be an 20-minute oral or two-hour written examination, as each student prefers. Written exams will be on the regular examination schedule, and oral exams will be scheduled during ExaminationWeek, at a mutually agreeable time. Students will be responsible for all of the material covered in class. A study guide will be provided ahead of time.

## UNIVERSITY REGULATIONS & SUPPORT SERVICES

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following website: [http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/scholastic\\_discipline\\_undergrad.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf) Students are responsible for knowing the University's academic policies and regulations and any particularities of their own course of study. Ignorance of these policies is not an excuse for any violation thereof. The following policies are particularly important to note:

### *Submission of Assignments*

It is the responsibility of the student to organize his or her work so that the assignments are completed on time. A penalty of 10% of the value of the assignment will be deducted for each day it is overdue without permission.

### *Plagiarism*

Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt by quotation marks and/or footnotes. Plagiarism is a major academic offense.

Students may be required to submit their work in electronic form for textual similarity review with the software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).

### *Selection and Registration of Courses*

Students are responsible for ensuring that their selection of courses is appropriate and accurately recorded, that all prerequisite course(s) have been successfully completed, and that they are aware of any anti-requisite course(s) that they have taken.

## *Support Services*

Students who are in emotional/mental health distress should refer to Mental Health@Western (<http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/>) for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

University Students Council provides many valuable support services for students (including the health insurance plan): <http://westernusc.ca/services/>.

Information about Counselling and Student Development, including Services for Students with Disabilities at King's, is available at <http://tinyurl.com/nln6kpb>.

For emotional/mental health assistance see specifically: <http://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/campus-services/student-support-services/personal-counselling/>.

The web site for Academic Support Services at King's University College is <http://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/academic-support/>.

These services are not meant to replace those offered at the Seminary, but may be beneficial to our students after consultation with the appropriate instructors, administrators, and formators.

## SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY

Bradshaw, Paul. *The Search for the Origins of Christian Worship*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Oxford University Press, 2002.

Gerhards, Albert and Benedikt Kranemann. *Introduction to the Study of Liturgy*. Translated by Linda M. Maloney. Liturgical Press, 2017.

Jones, Cheslyn, et al., eds. *The Study of Liturgy*. Oxford University Press, 1993.

Taft, Robert F. *The Byzantine Rite: A Short History*. Liturgical Press, 1992.

Vogel, Cyril. *Medieval Liturgy: An Introduction to the Sources*. Pastoral Press, 1986.

Wainwright, Geoffrey and Karen Westerfield-Tucker, eds. *The Oxford History of Christian Worship*. Oxford University Press, 2006.

White, James F. *Protestant Worship: Traditions in Transition*. Westminster/Knox, 1989.

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