

LITURGICAL STUDIES 5141B

INTRODUCTION TO CATHOLIC LITURGY

Winter 2017, Wednesdays, 9:30 to 12:30 a.m.
Auditorium

CHRISTIAN MCCONNELL, PH.D.

☎ (519) 432-1824 ext. 280

✉ cmccon4@uwo.ca

office hours: Mondays, 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. a 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. an 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. openness and commitment to ongoing, deepening 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. either:
 - a. two (2) short texts for parish talks, on topics of the student’s choice, or
 - b. one ritual observation analysis and report
3. 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 (2 × 15%) <i>or</i> ritual observation:	30%
final paper:	35%
exam:	25%
class preparation and participation:	10%

TEXTS

Required

Required readings will consist of a virtual “course packet” of scholarly articles, primary historical sources, and official liturgical documents. These will all be listed and available under “Lessons” in the course site on OWL, along with supporting media.

Recommended

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

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

White, J. F. *Introduction to Christian Worship*, 3rd ed. Abingdon, 2001.

TENTATIVE CLASS & READINGS SCHEDULE

Required readings are to be completed *before* the assigned date, in preparation for class discussions. Recommended readings may prove helpful, but are not required. *All* required materials will be posted in OWL, and assignment of materials *as listed in OWL* will be definitive.

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| Jan. 11 | Introduction, Key Concepts
<i>Required:</i> none
<i>Recommended:</i> (follow-up) White, <i>Introduction</i> , Chapter 1 |
| Jan. 18 | Ritual in Human Life
<i>Required:</i> articles in OWL
<i>Recommended:</i> Pecklers, <i>Worship</i> , Chapter 1 |
| Jan. 25 | Liturgical & Sacramental Theology
<i>Required:</i> articles; excerpts from Johnson, <i>Sacraments and Worship</i>
<i>Recommended:</i> White, <i>Introduction</i> , Chapter 1 & Chapter 7 |
| Feb. 1 | Liturgy & Culture
<i>Required:</i> articles in OWL
<i>Recommended:</i> White, <i>Introduction</i> , Chapters 2–3; Pecklers, <i>Worship</i> , Chapter 5–6 |
| Feb. 8 | Overview of Liturgical History
<i>Required:</i> articles and explanatory materials in OWL
<i>Recommended:</i> Pecklers, <i>Worship</i> , Chapters 2 & 3 |
| Feb. 15 | The Liturgical Movement & Vatican II
<i>Required:</i> articles; Vatican II, <i>Sacrosanctum Concilium</i>
<i>Recommended:</i> Pecklers, <i>Worship</i> , Chapter 4 |
| Feb. 22 | <i>Break Week—No Class</i> |
| Mar. 1 | The Liturgical Year
<i>Required:</i> articles; <i>General Instruction on the Liturgical Year</i>
<i>Recommended:</i> White, <i>Introduction</i> , Chapter 2; Johnson, <i>Sacraments & Worship</i> , 371–402. |

- Mar. 8 Daily Prayer & Liturgies of the Word
Required: articles; *General Instruction of the Liturgy of the Hours*
Recommended: White, *Introduction*, Chapter 2; Johnson, *Sacraments & Worship*, 344–370, and Chapter 5.
- Mar. 15 Rites of Initiation
Required: articles; excerpts from *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults* and *Rite of Baptism for Children*
Recommended: White, *Introduction*, Chapter 8; Johnson, *Sacraments & Worship*, Chapter 3.
- Mar. 22 Eucharist
Required: articles; *General Instruction of the Roman Missal*, “Preamble” to Chapter 2
Recommended: White, *Introduction*, Chapter 8; Johnson, *Sacraments & Worship*, Chapter 3.
- Mar. 29 Rite of Penance & Rite of Marriage
Required: articles; excerpts from *Rite of Penance* and *Rite of Matrimony*
Recommended: White, *Introduction*, 265–276; Johnson, *Sacraments & Worship*, 271–291.
- Apr. 5 Rites for the Sick & Funeral Rites
Required: articles; excerpts from *Pastoral Care of the Sick* and *Order of Christian Funerals*
Recommended: Johnson, *Sacraments & Worship*, 292–312, 336–342.

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 15, and #2 is due March 29.

Ritual Observation Exercise (Option B)

The main purpose of the participant observation exercise is to try one’s hand at one important method in liturgical studies, the direct observation and analysis of ritual. Students are expected to attend the worship of a community of their own choice, observing what is happening in the ritual, and considering the ritual’s meaning(s) and function. This exercise will be evaluated on detail, original insight, and careful critical thinking.

Readings will be provided as a basic introduction to the “how-to” of participant observation, and can be followed in undertaking the assignment. Students are to attend any worship service in a tradition other than one’s own. This exercise will each focus on three aspects of the liturgy:

1. liturgical texts (spoken or sung)
2. liturgical actions
3. liturgical setting & objects

For each, note particularly interesting or meaningful features, and write them down as soon as possible after the event. After noting what you observe, make an initial interpretation of what these features seem to be “saying.” A report of no more than eight pages, describing both the observation and the interpretation, will be due March 22.

Final Paper

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 on the last day of class, April 6.

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

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

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