

MN709D - Worship in the Reformed Tradition
University of Dubuque Theological Seminary
Course Description

Instructor: Rev. Dr. Richard J. Shaffer Jr.

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3 credits - letter grade or credit/no credit with instructor's permission.

Prerequisites: None

This course is highly recommended for Presbyterian students.

Course Description

This course will introduce students to the history and theology of worship in the Reformed tradition, with special emphasis on the current worship resources and practices of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). We will also examine proposed changes to the PCUSA Directory for Worship.

Course Objectives

By participating fully in this class, students will:

- Develop a working understanding of the history, theology, and practices of Reformed worship, including the sacraments.
- Develop a theological and practical understanding of the "Directory for Worship" of the PC(USA) *Book of Order*, and other denominational resources.
- Grow in the ability to plan and implement worship services that nurture Christian faith and character.
- Nurture the capacity to think theologically and critically about how Reformed worship services are ordered.
- Prepare for the PC(USA) ordination examination on Worship and Sacraments.

M.Div. Curricular Goals

This course helps fulfill the following M.Div. curricular goals, enabling students to:

- Be formed by, live in, and minister out of Scripture and the historical and theological tradition of the Church.
- Lead worship and administer the sacraments with theological integrity and to the glory of God.
- Educate and equip individuals and congregations to live and minister joyfully and faithfully as part of their own denomination and the ecumenical church.
- Integrate theology and practice in all areas of life and ministry.

Course Requirements

1. The student must keep up to date with posted lectures, assigned readings and class discussions.
2. All students will be expected to participate regularly in class discussions.
3. Responses to assigned questions must be posted on the discussion board in a timely manner. Students will be expected to post in these forums each week.
4. Class discussions will only be open for the assigned week.
5. Weekly topical quizzes.
6. One five page paper on a topic in Reformed Worship. This paper will be due on the date specified.
7. A detailed analysis of a Lord's Day service, including one sacrament, with a ten page commentary explaining the issues of Reformed theology, polity, and liturgy embodied in the service. (See details on syllabus.)
8. Final - a three page case study analysis. This paper will be due on the date specified.

Evaluation

The final grade will be determined as follows:

- 30% - Participation in class discussion boards and lectures, including responses to assigned questions and weekly topical quizzes.
- 40% - Detailed Analysis of a Lord's Day Service.
- 15% - Topical paper.
- 15% - Final - Case study analysis.

Grading Scale

3 credits; Letter grade or credit/no credit

A 93-100	C 73-76
A- 90-92	C- 70-72
B+ 87-89	D+ 67-69
B 83-86	D 63-66
B- 80-82	D- 60-62
C+ 77-79	F below 60

*Students taking the course "credit/no credit" must do passing work on all assignments.

Course Bibliography

Required Texts

Peter C. Bower, ed. *The Companion to the Book of Common Worship*. Louisville: Geneva Press, 2003.

Old, Hughes Oliphant. *Worship Reformed According to Scripture*, revised and expanded edition. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2002.

P.C. (U.S.A.) *The Book of Common Worship*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 1993.

P.C. (U.S.A.) *The Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)*, Part I, *The Book of Confessions* [current edition with index].

P.C. (U.S.A.) *The Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)*, Part II, *The Book of Order* [current edition].

P.C. (U.S.A.) *Book of Occasional Services*. Louisville: Geneva Press, 1999.

Recommended Texts (Not required, but helpful)

McKim, Donald K., ed. *The Westminster Handbook to Reformed Theology*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2001.

Glory to God: The Presbyterian Hymnal. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2013.

Supplemental Reading (These texts are not required, but will provide added insight to our conversation)

Byars, Ronald P. *Christian Worship: Glorifying and Enjoying God*. Louisville: Geneva Press, 2000.

Long, Thomas. *Beyond the Worship Wars: Building Vital and Faithful Worship*. Bethesda: Alban Institute, 2002.

McKim, Donald K. *Introducing the Reformed Faith*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2001.

Thompson, Bard, ed. *Liturgies of the Western Church*. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1994.

Vischer, Lukas, ed. *Christian Worship in Reformed Churches Past and Present*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2003.

Wandel, Lee P. *The Eucharist in the Reformation: Incarnation and Liturgy*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2006.