

Andover Newton Theological School
CMWO 625 THE PRACTICE OF WEEKLY WORSHIP
Spring 2012
Tuesdays, 9-11:50

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

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THE COURSE An introduction to planning weekly worship, including preparing an order of worship, writing/editing, working with leaders/committees and other ministers in planning and coordinating worship, and negotiating local worship custom and controversy.

GOALS The course aims to help the student:

1. Articulate and embrace the spiritual, ethical, pastoral and practical challenges of creating, shaping, and leading worship in the local church;
2. Acquire an appreciation for the knowledge, skill, pastoral awareness, planning, and prayer required for excellent worship in the local church;
3. Acquire and practice some of the skills necessary for shaping local church worship;
4. Ponder the issues and choices that need to be negotiated weekly and over the course of the church year in preparing to celebrate with the community, and to practice deciding them.

A NOTE ABOUT THE SYLLABUS Like life, it is subject to change.

REQUIRED BOOKS

- ❖ Carol Doran and Thomas Troeger, *Trouble at the Table, Gathering the Tribes for Worship*
- ❖ Ruth Duck, *Finding Words for Worship, A Guide for Leaders*
- ❖ Gail Ramshaw, *Liturgical Language, Keeping It Metaphorical, Making It Inclusive*
- ❖ Wayne Arneson and Kathleen Rolenz, *Worship that Works, Theory and Practice for Unitarians*

ALSO REQUIRED

[One of the following. See ASSIGNMENT 3: COURSE ASSIGNMENTS AND PROJECTS. Please wait to purchase until after Class 1]

- ❖ Norma deWaal Malefyt and Vanderwall, *Designing Worship Together, Models and Strategies for Worship Planning*

- ❖ Robert Webber, *Planning Blended Worship, the Creative Mixture of Old and New*
- ❖ Barbara Day Miller, *Encounters with the Holy, A Conversational Model for Worship Planning*
- ❖ Dan Kimball, *Emerging Worship, Creating Worship Gatherings for New Generations*
- ❖ Howard Vanderwell, ed., *The Church of All Ages, Generations Worshipping Together*
- ❖ Brian Blount and Leonora Tubbs Tisdale, *Making Room at the Table, An Invitation to Multicultural Worship*
- ❖ Timothy Wright, *A Community of Joy: How to Create Contemporary Worship*
- ❖ David R. Ray, *Wonderful Worship in Smaller Churches*

EXPECTATIONS

Attendance

More than 2 unexcused absences will jeopardize a passing grade.

Format and Participation

The class will combine lecture, discussion, and small group work. It is expected that all students will find ways to make thoughtful contributions.

Deadlines

Students will try not to request incompletes and extensions unless prompted by real emergencies. The instructor will try not to cave.

Adherence to policies and community standards (e. g., inclusive language, plagiarism)

Students should read the Student Handbook carefully (see ANTS website). Failure to follow ANTS policies and guidelines cannot be attributed to ignorance.

Cell phones

Cell phones must be turned off during class, unless a student is expecting a call because of a serious situation at home or at work, and has informed the class beforehand.

Laptops

It is permissible to use laptops for note-taking. While class is in session, however, please do not conduct internet searches or read/watch material online that is unrelated to the course.

Recorders

If you wish to tape the class, please request permission of the instructor first.

Written Assignment Format

All written assignments should be in 12-point type, in Times or Times New Roman font, standard margins, double-spaced.

Grading

All will receive letter grades unless otherwise requested. Grading will be as follows:

A Range

Exceptional work. Attentive to and transcending the purposes of the assignment. Thoughtful and insightful. Contributes something new or furthers the conversation. Shows awareness of the interconnections among various topics of the course. Well-written, coherent, clear and interesting style, with evidence of originality. and free of grammatical and spelling errors.

B Range

Good solid work. Attentive to the purposes of the assignment. Few new insights, but offers evidence that the student has learned some things and has grasped the important dimensions of the subject and how things hang together. Clearly-written, without major errors in grammar, spelling, punctuation.

C Range

Average work that responds to the requirements of the assignment, shows some learning, but shows little insight into the importance of the subject or its relationship to other aspects of the class. Insufficient attention paid to composition. Distracting errors of grammar, syntax and spelling.

D Range

Responds only superficially to the purposes of the assignment. No evidence of serious thought or study. Badly-written, or careless. Gets some things right but does not show that the student has learned much.

F

Misses the point, or skims the surface, or shows evidence of “blowing off” the work. Student has committed plagiarism, or has failed to hand in the assignment, or has passed in the assignment late without permission or notification. Assignment unintelligibly written.

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS AND PROJECTS Complete details and guidelines for each assignment are found in the Appendix to the Syllabus. You must consult these guidelines and shape your assignments accordingly.

- 1. PRELIMINARY INTERVIEW/DUE BEFORE FIRST CLASS** You will interview your minister/pastor/priest/worship leader.
- 2. ORIGINAL ORDER OF SERVICE/DUE IN CLASS 9** You will design a complete annotated order of service.
- 3. TEN COMMANDMENTS OF WORSHIP PLANNING/DUE IN CLASS 1** You will describe 10 key insights you have had about this important pastoral practice.
- 4. PLANNING MODELS & STRATEGIES/GROUP PROJECT TO BE PRESENTED IN ONE OF LAST FOUR CLASSES** You will create a presentation for the class about a book on the “Also Required” list.

COURSE OUTLINE

Class 1 January 31

Introductions and Syllabus

Discussion: What does it mean to say that worship is at the heart of the church's life?

Assignment for Class 2

Trouble at the Table, pp. 93-136

Finding Words for Worship, pp. 119-132

Worship that Works, pp.33-82, 87-94

At www.uua.org/spirituallife/worshipweb, click on "Leading Congregations." Read the short essays under that heading.

Class 2 February 7

Discussion of worship planning interviews

Issues in planning worship: FORM: classical elements of Christian worship; options in UU worship structure; order in Black Church traditions; coherence, flow, proportion, appropriateness, themes

Assignment for class 3

Trouble at the Table, pp. 11-46

Worship that Works, pp. ix-32, pp.50-54, 122-129, 141-164

Handout/posting: "Black Churches' Worship", "African American Worship Practices" in *Worship Across Cultures*, Kathy Black: 21-34, *African American Christian Worship*, Melva Costen, 1-37, 45-78, 120-126.

Browse some or all of the following:

www.thecrossingboston.org

www.theooze.com

www.emergentvillage.com

www.sacramentis.com

www.ancientfutureworship.com

http://www.taize.fr/en_rubrique12.html

At www.reformedworship.org go to back issue #76 [June 2005, vol. 20], and check out a variety of theoretical and practical articles about multigenerational worship; see also Issue #77 "The Emerging Church: A Guide for the Perplexed," by Jamie Smith; and Issue #66, "Celtic Connections," by Paul Rack

Class 3 February 14

Issues in planning worship: STYLE: Traditional, Contemporary, Blended, Emergent, Multigenerational, Alternative, and so on!

Assignment for Class 4

Excerpt from *The New Handbook of the Christian Year*, by Hickman, Saliers, Stookey and White, to be provided by the instructor.

Worship that Works, pp. 83-86

Aaron McEmrys, “Living Liturgy: A Unitarian-Universalist Liturgical Theology in Theory and Practice,” *Journal of Liberal Religion*, online at

http://meadville.edu/LL_JLR_v6_n1_McEmrys.htm

Fred Anderson, “Protestant Worship Today,” in *Theology Today*, at

<http://theologytoday.ptsem.edu/apr1986/v43-1-article6.htm>

Browse www.houseforall.org for an example of an “emergent” [Lutheran] church observing the classical Christian Year in ancient and new ways.

Class 4 February 21

Issues in planning worship: THE LITURGICAL YEAR AND RITUAL LIFE: The Calendar and Lectionary; frequency of sacraments/ordinances; ritual dimensions of worship

Assignment for Class 5

Finding Words for Worship, pp. 20-44, 63-87, 90-94

Worship that Works, 108-117

For some brief considerations about appropriating the symbols and rituals of other cultures and religious traditions, go to:

<http://www.uua.org/leaders/idbm/multiculturalism/misappropriation/index.shtml> and

<http://www.uua.org/leaders/idbm/multiculturalism/misappropriation/23371.shtml>

Class 5 February 28

Issues in planning worship: CONTENT: “Prayer Book” and “Free Church” worship; Write or edit? Resources for worship (for editors); resources for worship (for writers); The genres of worship; cultural appropriations

Assignment for Class 6

Read in its entirety: *Liturgical Language*

For tips for writing the different worship elements in the UU tradition, see some suggestions at: <http://www.uua.org/spirituallife/worshipweb/theory/171038.shtml>

Class 6 March 6

Issues in Planning Worship: CONTENT Cont’d: Writing for worship; more on genres, prayers for Communion and other rituals; restoring the AMEN as the people’s prayer

Assignment for Class 7

Trouble at the Table, pp. 47-92

Finding Words for Worship, pp. 102-118

Worship that Works, review pp. 54-60. Read also 103-107

Paul Westermeyer, “The Practical Life of the Church Musician” at:

<http://www.religion-online.org/showarticle.asp?title=893>

Norma deWaal Malefyt and Howard Vanderwell, “Members, Methods, and Mandates: Guidelines for forming a worship committee,” at

http://www.reformedworship.org/magazine/article.cfm?article_id=827 [Issue #33]

Class 7 March 20

Issues in planning worship: MUSIC: Working with music directors/ministers of music, music committees; restoring congregational song as the people’s prayer

Assignment for Class 8

Worship that Works, pp. 42-44

Kathleen Kline-Chesson, “The Living Word: Dance as a Language of Faith” at

<http://www.religion-online.org/showarticle.asp?title=1106>

From the Calvin Institute, “Visual Arts in Worship: From Either/Or to Both/And,” at

<http://worship.calvin.edu/resources/resource-library/visual-arts-in-worship-from-either-or-to-both-and/>

Matt Frise, “How to Humanize A Worship Space,” an article posted on www.danwilt.com

Browse through the articles in Issue #75 dedicated to Christian art and symbolism, at

www.reformedworship.org, click on back issues

Class 8 April 3

Worship Planning Presentation, Groups 1 and 2

Issues in planning worship: OTHER ARTS: dance, movement, visual art, adornment and the question of a “beautiful” environment; colors, vestments, symbols and props of worship

Assignment for Class 9 TBA**Class 9 April 10**

Worship Planning Presentation, Groups 3 and 4

Issues in planning worship: LEADING—effective leadership do’s and don’ts

When do I get to worship? The pastor’s worship life

No assignment for class 10**Class 10 April 17**

Worship Planning Presentation, Groups 5 and 6; Catching up: Where are we?

Assignment for Class 11

Excerpt from Marva Dawn, *A Royal "Waste" of Time*, pp. 301-313, handout to be provided

“Create Worship Renewal, Not Worship War: Six tips on how to talk about worship” and “Evaluating our Worship Life (Bible Study)” at

<http://cicwupbeat.calvin.edu/resources/resource-library/create-worship-renewal-not-worship-war-six-tips-on-how-to-talk-about-worship/>

and <http://cicwupbeat.calvin.edu/resources/resource-library/evaluating-our-worship-life-bible-study-/>

Class 11 April 24

Worship Planning Presentation Groups 7 and 8

Issues in planning worship: EVALUATING WORSHIP

Class 12 A

Tying up loose ends/Concluding reflections