

Worship 04PT526
RTS Atlanta
Summer 2018
Burk Parsons

Class Particulars

Class meets Monday–Friday 8am–5pm with a break for lunch. It is expected that students will be punctual and present for the entirety of each class throughout the entirety of the course. Questions about the course or assignment particulars can be addressed by contacting Andrew Sarnicki, TA for this course, at asarnicki@sachapel.com or (407) 328–1139.

Course Description

This course examines the biblico-theological, socio-cultural, historical, ecclesial, and confessional foundations of worship in the Reformed tradition for the church of Jesus Christ as we seek to glorify and enjoy God now and forever.

Course Objectives

The objective of this course is that students would grow in their comprehension, competency, and character as it pertains to the worship of our triune God by examining the biblico-theological, socio-cultural, historical, ecclesial, and confessional foundations of worship in the Reformed tradition and its import for all of life, doctrine, and ministry to the end that we might glorify and enjoy God as we strive to be faithful servants and stewards of corporate worship for the church of Jesus Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, relying upon the outward and ordinary means of grace and in accordance with the regulative principle of worship as we rest in the promises of our sovereign and triune God to redeem his bride from among the nations as we eagerly await the consummation of the kingdom, the return of Jesus Christ, and the new heaven and earth where our worship will be altogether lovely and glorious.

Course Assignments and Assessment

Liturgies	20%
Essays	40%
Research Paper	40%

Liturgies

Each student will create a complete liturgy for each of the following services: Lord’s Day morning congregational worship, Lord’s Day morning congregational worship with baptism by profession of faith, Lord’s Day morning congregational worship with Lord’s Supper, Lord’s Day morning reception of new members, memorial service, and wedding. In addition, students whose churches practice paedobaptism will need to create a liturgy specifically for a Lord’s Day morning congregational worship service including the baptism of an infant. Students should rely heavily on their churches’ books of church order and directories for worship if applicable. These liturgies should reflect the liturgical traditions of each student’s current church. Students would do well to reference books used in this course. Each liturgy will vary in length and content from student to student, depending upon each student’s ecclesial tradition. Each liturgy should be drafted in such a way that it could be used in each student’s respective church and in their ministry. Liturgies are due via email to Andrew Sarnicki (asarnicki@sachapel.com) by 10:00 AM (EST) July 20, 2018.

Essays

Students will write short essays on the following three topics: The regulative principle of worship, the liturgical year/church calendar, and the frequency of the administration of the Lord's Supper. Each essay is to compare and contrast the differing major perspectives on each topic and demonstrate the student has a general grasp of the overarching issues related to each topic while also setting forth the student's own view and the biblical, theological, and confessional reasons for his or her view. Each essay is to be 3–4 pages, double-spaced, in standard Turabian formatting. Essays are due via email to Andrew Sarnicki (asarnicki@sachapel.com) by 10:00 AM (EST) July 27, 2018

Research Paper

This paper will examine a topic of the student's choosing pertaining to worship. Students may discuss potential subjects with the instructor during the week of class and must gain approval for the subject in writing, providing the instructor with a preliminary working title or theme of the paper and a short explanation of what the student intends to discover or demonstrate. Students must submit their suggested subjects for approval by the instructor via email to Andrew Sarnicki (asarnicki@sachapel.com) by 10:00 AM (EST) July 13, 2018. The general components, structure, and purpose of this paper will be discussed in class. As part of the assignment, each student must have a pastor read the paper and then discuss it together. The pastor should be from the church where the student worships. The final submission should include a written summary of that discussion and the pastor's feedback. Papers are to be properly formatted according to Turabian 8th, double-spaced, 12-point Times New Roman typeface (standard tracking) with cover page, footnotes, and works cited, one-inch paper margins. The paper should interact with and cite no fewer than ten sources. All papers must fit within the page count (10–12 pages) and attached to the paper must be the written summary (1–2 pages). The research paper is due via email to Andrew Sarnicki (asarnicki@sachapel.com) by 10:00 AM (EST) August 10, 2018.

Assessment

All assignments are due via email to Andrew Sarnicki (asarnicki@sachapel.com) by 10:00 AM (EST) of the aforementioned due dates. Late assignments will be marked down ten percent after 10:00 AM on the due date and then an additional ten percent every twenty-four-hour period beginning after 10:00 AM on the due date. All assignments will be assessed on content, clarity, accuracy, spelling, grammar, and formatting.

Extension Policy

All assignments and exams are to be completed by the deadlines announced in this syllabus or in class.

Extensions for assignments and exams due within the normal duration of the course must be approved beforehand by the Professor. Extensions of two weeks or less beyond the date of the last deadline for the course must be approved beforehand by the Professor. A grade penalty may be assessed.

Extensions of greater than two weeks but not more than six weeks beyond the last deadline for the

course may be granted in extenuating circumstances (i.e. illness, family emergency). For an extension of more than two weeks the student must request an Extension Request Form from the Registrar's Office. The request must be approved by the Professor and the Academic Dean. A grade penalty may be assessed. (RTS Catalog p. 42 and RTS Atlanta Student Handbook p. 14)

Any incompletes not cleared six weeks after the last published due date for course work will be converted to a failing grade. Professors may have the failing grade changed to a passing grade by request. (RTS Catalog p. 42)

Preparation

On account of the nature of the course and on account of students' varying studying and writing preferences, no assignments or readings are required prior to the beginning of the course, however students may want to begin reading the required course books prior to the course. Students may also want to begin working on their liturgies and essays prior to the course, however students should wait to begin working on their research papers until after the course has concluded.

Required Course Books

Calvin, John. *The Necessity of Reforming the Church*. (PDF:<http://reformedliterature.com/calvin-the-necessity-of-reforming-the-church.pdf>)

Carson, D. A. (Ed.). *Worship By The Book*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2002.

Dever, Mark, and Sinclair B. Ferguson. *The Westminster Directory of Public Worship: Discussed by Mark Dever and Sinclair Ferguson*. Scotland: Christian Focus Publications, 2008.

Old, Hughes Oliphant. *Worship: Reformed According to Scripture*. Rev. ed. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2002.

Ryken, Philip Graham, Derek W. H. Thomas, and J. Ligon Duncan III (Eds.). *Give Praise to God: A Vision for Reforming Worship*. Phillipsburg: P&R Publishing, 2003.

Texts for Further Study and Reference (Not Required)

Chapell, Brian. *Christ-Centered Worship*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2009.

Horton, Michael. *A Better Way*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2002.

Johnson, Terry. *Leading in Worship*, White Hall: Tolle Lege Press, 2013.

Jones, Cheslyn, Edward Yarnold, Paul Bradshaw, and Geoff Wainwright (Eds.). *The Study of Liturgy*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2007.

Martin, Ralph P. *Worship in the Early Church*. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing, 1975.

Old, Hughes Oliphant. *Holy Communion in the Piety of the Reformed Church*. White Hall: Tolle Lege Press, 2014.

Payne, Jon D. *In the Splendor of Holiness: Rediscovering the Beauty of Reformed Worship for the 21st Century*. White Hall: Tolle Lege Press, 2008.

Peterson, David G. *Engaging with God*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2002.

Pinson, Matthew J. *Perspectives on Christian Worship: 5 Views*. Nashville: B&H Academic, 2009.

Thompson, Bard. *Liturgies of the Western Church*. Minneapolis: First Fortress Press, 1980.



Course Objectives Related to MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes

Course: Worship

Professor: Burk Parsons

Campus: Atlanta

MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes		Rubric	Mini-Justification
<p><i>In order to measure the success of the MDiv curriculum, RTS has defined the following as the intended outcomes of the student learning process. Each course contributes to these overall outcomes. This rubric shows the contribution of this course to the MDiv outcomes.</i></p> <p><i>*As the MDiv is the core degree at RTS, the MDiv rubric will be used in this syllabus.</i></p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Strong ➤ Moderate ➤ Minimal ➤ None 	
Articulation (oral & written)	Broadly understands and articulates knowledge, both oral and written, of essential biblical, theological, historical, and cultural/global information, including details, concepts, and frameworks.	Moderate	Students will express their convictions about worship through written liturgies, essays, and research paper.
Scripture	Significant knowledge of the original meaning of Scripture. Also, the concepts for and skill to research further into the original meaning of Scripture and to apply Scripture to a variety of modern circumstances. (Includes appropriate use of original languages and hermeneutics; and integrates theological, historical, and cultural/global perspectives.)	Strong	Students will gain a better understanding of worship from Scripture.

Reformed Theology	Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.	Strong	Students will read various Reformed books on worship.
Sanctification	Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student's sanctification.	Moderate	Students will grow in their comprehension, competency, and character as it pertains to the worship of our triune God.
Desire for Worldview	Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God.	Minimal	Students will see how being faithful servants in Christ's church relates to all of life.
Winsomely Reformed	Embraces a winsomely Reformed ethos. (Includes an appropriate ecumenical spirit with other Christians, especially Evangelicals; a concern to present the Gospel in a God-honoring manner to non-Christians; and a truth-in-love attitude in disagreements.)	Strong	The goal is to equip students to be winsomely Reformed in understanding worship and interacting with those in the Reformed tradition.
Preach	Ability to preach and teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm.	Moderate	Students will learn how to better understand preaching's role in the worship service.
Worship	Knowledgeable of historic and modern Christian-worship forms; and ability to construct and skill to lead a worship service.	Strong	Students will learn how to be faithful servant-leaders in worship.
Shepherd	Ability to shepherd the local congregation: aiding in spiritual maturity; promoting use of gifts and callings; and encouraging a concern for non-Christians, both in America and worldwide.	Moderate	Students will come to see themselves as undershepherds in leading worship.
Church/World	Ability to interact within a denominational context, within the broader worldwide church, and with significant public issues.	Moderate	Students will consider other contexts through discussion of worship styles.