

Wesley Theological Seminary Course of Study
Winter Weekend January on-line and February 26-27
Study Guide

CS-223 Worship and Sacraments (hybrid)

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Please read the entire study guide before beginning the assignments.

Course Description

This course examines the sacraments, rites, and liturgy of The United Methodist Church and the pastor's role as worship leader.

Objectives

1. Examine components of order worship for reflection and evaluation
2. Examination of the church year and its historical and theological grounding
3. Practice developing pastoral prayers
4. Examination of the theology and practice of the sacraments
5. Review of the rites of Christian marriage, death and resurrection, and other occasional services, including appropriate counseling methods

Required Texts:

Hoyt L Hickman, *Worshipping with United Methodists, revised edition*

Laurence Hull Stookey. *Let the Whole Church Say Amen*

Robin Knowles Wallace. *The Christian Year: A Guide to Worship and Preaching*

Reference Texts: (Students should have from a previous course or licensing school)

The United Methodist Book of Worship

The United Methodist Hymnal

Gayle Carlton Felton, *By Water and the Spirit*

Gayle Carleton Felton, *This Holy Mystery*

James F. White *Introduction to Christian Worship*, 3rd edition

Supplemental Texts:

Andy Langford, *Blueprints for Worship*

Andy Langford, *Christian Funerals*

Andy Langford, *Christian Weddings, revised edition*

Norman Shawchuck and Rueben Job. *A Guide to Prayer for Ministers and Other Servants*

Marjorie Thompson, *Soul Feast*

Policies and Procedures

Inclusive Language Policy

Bearing in mind that language reflects, reinforces, and creates social reality, the Seminary expects class conversation and written work to employ language that respects the equal dignity and worth of all human beings. Linguistic sexism and racism are to be avoided.

Weather Policy

The weather will be of no consequence to us in January during the online portion of this course. During the weekend that students travel to campus, please pay close attention to the Wesley web site. If the campus is closed, there will be a message on the website as well as a recorded message at the main switchboard number: 202-885-8600.

Citations and Plagiarism Policy and Procedure

Students are expected to have familiarity with all of the required readings; these readings should be cited in your papers, as well as any additional sources referenced for the assignment. All answers should be in accordance with Methodist doctrine and course readings, not necessarily reflective of worship in the student's ministry setting.

The assignments necessitate that student's process and integrate the required readings for full credit; therefore, the assignments should reveal the student's critical reflection of the readings. In no case should an assignment include lengthy, verbatim quotes (e.g., an entire paragraph from the *United Methodist Book of Worship*). It is imperative that when quoting another person's work, or referencing an idea published by another, to cite the source. Keep in mind: either quoting verbatim from another person's work without citation or rephrasing another person's work in your own words without citation are equally forms of plagiarism. Plagiarism violations may result in a failing grade for the assignment at the professor's discretion. When citing a source, it is acceptable to use parenthetical notes (including the author's name, book title, and page number) or footnotes.

Blackboard Tracking

Blackboard Learn automatically records all student and faculty activities including the following: the first and last access to the course, the pages accessed, the number of discussion messages read and sent, chat room discussion text, and posted discussion topics. This data can be accessed by the instructor to evaluate class participation, to identify participants having difficulty, or to verify academic honesty.

Technical Support

If you experience problems using Blackboard, please exercise one or all of the following options:

- Review troubleshooting information in Blackboard Training Materials
- Contact Sara Sheppard at ssheppard@wesleyseminary.edu

- Contact Blackboard Support at (202) 885-6091 or edtech@wesleyseminary.edu

Requirements and Assignments

Submission

Each assignment should be submitted in its entirety, by the deadline stated. Student papers should be 12pt font, double spaced, 1" margins, and include page numbers.

Attendance and Participation

The student is expected to participate in both weekends in order to receive credit for this course. Students not able to meet this requirement should contact Sara Sheppard immediately. Online and in class participation will be considered when calculating the final grade for this course. There are ample opportunities in both settings for students to be engaged in course discussions.

Late Assignments

Assignments not received by the due date may have the grade lowered one letter grade or not be accepted in fairness to the other students.

Grading

Online Participation	15%
Introduction	
Define Worship	
Unspoken Influences	
Classroom Participation	10%
Weekend One Assignments	35%
Personal Theology	
Order of Worship	
Christian Year	
Scriptures and Hymns	
Prayer	
Weekend Two Assignments	40%

**Grades will be on Blackboard and can be accessed by clicking MyGrades in the course menu.*

Assignments for January session

1. Read *Worshipping with United Methodists*.
2. Read *The Christian Year*.
3. Read *Let the Whole Church Say Amen*.
4. Read material posted online by instructor and reply, as requested.
 - Post self-introduction. DUE: 1/4/2016
 - Participate in online discussion defining worship in the Methodist tradition. DUE: 1/5/2016
 - Participate in online discussion of unspoken influences of worship. DUE: 1/7/2016
5. Read material posted online by instructor and reply, as requested.
 - Develop personal theology of worship and post online. DUE: 1/14/2016
 - Complete Order of Worship assignment and post online. DUE: 1/21/2016
 - Complete worksheet on the Christian Year and post online. DUE: 1/21/2016
 - Complete scriptures and hymns assignment and post online. DUE: 1/28/2016
 - Complete prayer assignment and post online. DUE: 1/28/2016

Assignments for February Session

1. Familiarize yourself with *By Water and the Spirit*.
2. Electronically submit assignment below by Thursday, February 11, 2016. **5 pages maximum**

Question 1 - Sacrament

You are to receive into the church the following family:

- *father*: never baptized, who has received appropriate instruction and now wishes to make a profession of faith
- *teenage daughter*: baptized as an infant, but never confirmed
- *infant son*: *newly born*, unbaptized
- *mother*: a faithful member of another United Methodist congregation, who now wishes to become part of the church where her family will belong
- *grandmother*: baptized in the Roman Catholic Church as an infant and confirmed there, but currently inactive and has been for years.

- (a) Begin with a statement of current United Methodist theology of baptism utilizing the Felton (*By Water and the Spirit*) text and other Methodist resources. This statement should address the following questions:
- What is the purpose baptism?
 - What is the role of the congregation in this sacrament?
 - What is your role, as pastor?
 - What do Methodists believe regarding the necessity of baptism for salvation?
 - How does Wesley's understanding of grace interface with United Methodist theology and practice of baptism?
- (b) Taking into account the background of each person, how would you counsel/prepare each person to be received into the church?
- (c) Refer to "Baptismal Covenant I," UMBOW, pp. 86-94, and indicate which portions of this service apply to each of the family members and why.
3. Electronically submit assignment below by Thursday, February 25, 2016. **5 pages maximum**

Question 2 - Rite

The daughter of a member of the church where you are assigned is getting married. Although she has not been in regular attendance at church since youth group, she wants to get married at your church. To complicate matters, she is marrying someone who is not a believer. In fact, the daughter's fiancé believes that Christians are hypocrites.

- (a) State your theology of Christian Marriage Ceremonies and how your theology is supported by Methodist doctrine (refer to Methodist resources). This statement should address the following questions:
- What is the purpose of a church wedding?
 - Would you recommend a church wedding for this couple? Explain your answer.
 - What is the role of the congregation?
 - What is your role, as pastor?
 - How does Wesley's understanding of grace interface with United Methodist theology and practice of weddings?
- (b) What advice/counseling will you give to the daughter, fiancé, and mother?
- (c) Refer to "A Service of Christian Marriage I," UMBOW, pp. 115-127, and indicate which portions of this service you might use or delete if you were officiating this wedding.