

Wesley Theological Seminary Course of Study CS 223 Worship and Sacraments

Course Information

Instructor Information

Instructor: Rev. Dr. Hyemin Na

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Meeting Information

A) Online Asynchronous Modality

B) Synchronous Zoom Class Sessions at following link:

<https://wesleyseminary.zoom.us/j/96421342251>

Day 1: Friday April 11

1:00-4:30 pm ET	Class
4:30-8:00 pm	Dinner break + self-paced work
8:00-8:45 pm	Debrief Session

Day 2: Saturday April 12

9:00 am-12:00 pm	Class
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Full attendance for these zoom sessions is mandatory to pass the course.

Course Description

This course examines worship within The United Methodist Church including liturgy, sacraments, and special services. Attention will be given to the pastor's role as leader in worship.

Course Objectives

Students will be able to:

1. Articulate a theology of worship consistent with the Wesleyan tradition, including reflection on the theology and rhythm of Christian year.
2. Articulate a Wesleyan theology of sacraments and be competent in their administration.
3. Interpret theologically the rites of Christian Marriage, and of Death and Resurrection, and be able to lead such services well.
4. Construct a worship service, and reflect theologically on the use of hymns, media, contemporary music, and lay leadership.

Course Texts

1. Hoyt Hickman *Worshipping with United Methodists: A Guide for Pastors and Church Leaders*
2. Laurence Stookey *Let the Whole Church Say Amen!* This is a workbook with space to write in the pages, so please buy a paper copy.
3. Robin Knowles Wallace *The Christian Year: A Guide for Worship and Preaching*

Course Required Reference

4. *United Methodist Book of Worship* Please prepare a personal copy.
5. [By Water and the Spirit](#) – download and print out
6. [This Holy Mystery](#) – download and print out
7. Taylor Burton-Edwards [Living into the Mystery](#): *A United Methodist Guide to Celebrating Holy Communion*

Course Requirements

Activities/Assignments

[Submit assignments by 11:59 PM of the due date unless instructed otherwise.]

Activity/Assignment	Final %	Due Date
Read Hickman and Wallace		Fri. Mar 21
1. Self-Contextualization Assignment	10	Step 1 Fri Feb 14 Step 2 Fri Feb 21 Step 3 Wed Feb 26
2. Book of Worship Trivia	5	Fri Mar 7
3. <i>Let the Whole Church Say Amen</i>	20	Step 1 Fri Mar 14 Step 2 Fri Apr 11, noon
4. Writing and Analyzing Liturgy	20	Indicate option selection: Wed Mar 5 Step 1 Sat Apr 5, noon Step 2 Fri Apr 11, 8pm
5. Explanatory Letter	10	Tues Apr 8
6. Service of Death and Resurrection	10	Thurs Apr 10
7. Reflection	10	Fri Apr 18
8. Participation	15	

Instructions

1. Self-Contextualization Assignment Series

Due Fri. Feb. 14:

Step 1: Submit a 500-600-word self-introduction that includes the following:

- a) Basic information about you and your faith background
- b) What experiences—personal and/or professional—inform your understanding of worship?
- c) What does worship mean in your community and to you? What would you say are some of the important elements of your worshiping tradition/s?
- d) What do you hope to gain from this course? What questions regarding worship have risen for you and your congregation/s in your pastoral ministry? For example:
 - Attending to the liturgical year
 - Administering Baptism and Holy Communion
 - Conducting funerals
 - Conducting weddings
- e) Do any trepidations or burdens weigh on you as you begin the course (theological/life circumstances/academic/etc)? Is there anything you would like the instructor to know?
- f) What kind of learning environment helps you thrive as a learner? What learning situations stir anxiety or discomfort? Provide concrete examples. What is your experience with asynchronous learning? What specific strategies may help you accomplish the work for this class?
- g) Do you have any questions after reading the syllabus?

Due Fri. Feb. 21:

Step 2: Create and upload a 10-15-slide “Show and Tell” PowerPoint/Canva (or any software of choice) presentation introducing your ministry context/s. The presentation will make use of images and/or videos, and will include the following information:

- a) Basic sociological information regarding your ministry context (this includes, and extends beyond, the church building or congregation): geopolitical location, basic demographical/census data, economical landscape, cultural leanings.
- b) What a conventional worship service looks like in your current worshiping context, and how it is ordered
- c) What are the explicit or implicit “holy days” of your worshiping community? (Veteran’s Day, the annual UMW Thanksgiving fundraiser, VBS, football season, etc)
- d) What does baptism look like? What does Communion/Lord’s Supper/Eucharist look like?
- e) What are some current concerns related to worship in your worshiping tradition/community?

Due Wed. Feb. 26:

Step 3: Review each presentation, and write a paragraph reflecting on what you learned.

2. Book of Worship Trivia Due Fri Mar 8

Review the table of contents of the BOW, read all of the introductions to each section, and read over the rubrics. Make note of any questions you have. Create and submit five trivia questions based on your discoveries, along with the answers. Afterwards, take the BOW trivia quiz found on Blackboard. You may use your BOW while answering the quiz.

3. Let the Whole Church Say Amen

Read through Stookey's *Let the Whole Church Say Amen* and do all of the exercises. Please begin work on this as soon as possible. Stookey designed it to be done in short segments every two or three days, not all at once.

Step 1 Due Fri Mar 14

- Complete exercises 1-12 and Interlude C
- Choose 1-2 prayers to post on Blackboard by due date

Step 2 Due Fri Apr 11, noon

- Complete the remaining exercises
- Choose 1-2 prayers to post on Blackboard by due date

4. Writing and Analyzing Liturgy

You will do research for, design, and write original liturgy for your congregation, and analyze the work of your classmates in the spirit of fostering mutual learning. Attend to this assignment with the intention of actually using the service for your context. Let it work for your ministry.

Step 1 Due Sat Apr 5, noon:

- a. Watch videos on Eucharist (BB)
- b. Carefully read pages 33-80 of the *Book of Worship, This Holy Mystery*, and *Living Into the Mystery*.
- c. Read Eucharist Document and Rubric in BB
- d. Read [A Native American Celebration of Holy Communion](#)
- e. Read [Breaking Bread Behind the Wall](#)
- f. Read [Holy Communion at the End of an Appointment](#)
- g. Create a worship service for your congregation. Write a paragraph describing the specific context for this service. Create a worship bulletin listing the scripture text(s), acts of worship, hymn choices, a paragraph describing the theme of your sermon, prayers etc. and including an original custom-made communion liturgy that you have written for one of the following contexts.

- i. The birthday celebration of a parishioner who has turned 100 (or another milestone)
 - ii. Peace with Justice Sunday June 15, 2025.
 - iii. The dedication of actual lay ministers in your church (teachers, Habitat for humanity volunteers, mission team, etc.)
- h. Let Dr. Na of your selection (g.) by **Wednesday, March 5, 2025**.
- i. Turn in bulletin and other pieces of writing you have completed for g.

Step 2 Due Fri Apr 11 8pm:

Using the videos for Part I, readings, class discussions, information, and Rubric provided in Step 1:

evaluate your class-mate's worship service with communion liturgy. (2 pages)

-Does the worship follow the Basic Pattern as described in Hickman?

-Does it follow the core?

-Does it flow?

-Is it scripturally based and theologically sound?

-Is there any wording or action that may inadvertently exclude someone, or that might be misinterpreted?

-Does it honor the people while avoiding stereotypes?

-What adaptations would you want to make before you used this service and liturgy for *your* congregation/s?

5. Explanatory Letter Due Tues Apr 8:

Craft a letter addressing the following scenario:

The daughter of an active member of your congregation sends you an e-mail asking if you will "do her wedding" six weeks from now. She has already booked the reception hall and paid for the photographer so the date is not flexible. There is nothing on your calendar or the church calendar that conflicts with this date.

This person was confirmed in your church years ago, but she and her betrothed now live 120 miles away. You don't know anything about how they may currently be living out their faith.

Write a letter describing the intents and purposes of the rite of Christian Marriage as outlined in the United Methodist Book of Worship and explained in course lessons.

Explain under what conditions you would be willing to conduct their wedding, or why you would not be willing to do so (2 pages).

6. Service of Death and Resurrection Due Thurs Apr 10:

Pick one funeral you have conducted and reflect back on it. Create (or reproduce) a worship bulletin for this service (if your current congregation does not use bulletins please type up the order as best you can).

Annotate the bulletin, explaining the choices you made (see example on Blackboard). Be sure to include a paragraph about person who died and their context, and another paragraph about the theme of your sermon as well as explanation of each act of worship – describing how it helps the congregation worship God and/or honors the deceased as a child of God. Did you help the person's loved ones choose the music, scripture readings, prayers, media, and lay leadership with the person in mind?

Use the concepts and practices you are gaining in this class to think through and describe what took place. How did you tap into tradition, scripture, theology and experience to prepare the worship service? Is there anything you might do differently now because of what you are learning? Write a prayer for this funeral using what Stookey has been teaching you. (1 bulletin plus 2 pages)

7. Reflection Due Fri Apr 18

Write a summary of the most helpful things you have learned in this class. Review what you wrote for assignment 1 and reflect on which of your questions have been addressed. What new questions have been stirred up by this class? (1 page)

8. Participation

Attentive listening, informed and respectful participation, full presence, and attendance

Assignment General Instructions

- Please read the related texts and watch the videos before writing the following assignments. Writing is a great way to process new ideas and connect them to what you already know.
- All assignments are due by submission on Blackboard.
- Each assignment should be double spaced, 12-point Times New Roman (or similar) font, with one-inch margins. For word count assignments, word count does not include headers; only the assignment content.
- Use your own words and apply the assignments to your particular ministry setting while showing you understand the main ideas found in the readings. These are short papers; do not take up a lot of space quoting sources. Use parenthetical, in-text citations: ex (Stookey, p. 3) or (BOW, 334).
- The page numbers are set as a minimum. Please give thoughtful answers and do not go over more than a page than what is prescribed.