

SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY AND MINISTRY
SEATTLE UNIVERSITY

STMA 514. LEADING PRAYER AND WORSHIP

WINTER QUARTER 2013

TUESDAY, 9:00 – 11:50 A.M.

CHAPEL OF ST. IGNATIUS (JAN. 8) AT 8:30A.M.

HUNTHAUSEN 110 (JAN. 15, 22, 29; FEB. 12, 19, 26; MARCH 12)

ECUMENICAL CHAPEL (FEB. 5 AND MARCH 5)

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HUNTHAUSEN 126

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SYLLABUS

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course prepares leaders with hands-on, experiential practice in the skills required to lead groups graciously and effectively in public prayer. It will consider diverse forms of worship, including: informal blessings at meals, prayers to open meetings, and Christian ecclesial celebrations of Word and Sacrament. Course feedback will assess the use of the human voice, eyes and face, gestures and posture. Students will practice handling elemental substances like fire, water, oil, bread and wine, as well as books, plates and cups, and other sacred objects. The course will include reflection on the spirituality of prayer leadership.

II. S.T.M. LEARNING OUTCOMES ADDRESSED IN THIS COURSE

This course primarily addresses the following learning outcome put forward for the M.Div. degree:

Knowledge of the tradition in relation to sacramental theology, liturgical method, worship elements and structure, and the ability to engage them in an ecumenical diversity of praxis.

Secondarily, these learning outcomes will also be engaged:

- Knowledge of the interaction of religious/spiritual experience and culture in their ecumenical and multicultural dimensions.
- Ability to articulate and live from an understanding of self, as human, minister, and leader.
- Ability to guide and direct a Christian community (i.e., a congregation, parish, pastoral care unit. etc.) in its mission.

III. SEATTLE UNIVERSITY GRADUATE LEARNING OUTCOMES ADDRESSED IN THIS COURSE

Upon completion of this course, students will more fully:

- Demonstrate mastery of competencies required in their profession or field.
- Demonstrate effective communication in speech and in writing.
- Develop a professional perspective focused on life-long learning that is informed by the knowledge and skills of their graduate education.

IV. COURSE OBJECTIVES

The objectives of this course are for each student:

- 1) to acquire and refine basic skills of gracious and effective prayer and worship leadership, above all, the practiced art of being fully, solidly, and bodily present in word, posture, and gesture and at the same time transparent to the praying community, to the particular liturgical occasion and context, and to the Holy One (this is the “thread” one of the course);
- 2) to gain hands on experience in engaging the elements ingredient in prayer and worship (for example: time and space, Word and words, water, oil, earth, air, fire and smoke, bread and wine, vessels for food and drink, pools, tables, the human body, cloth, and clothing – thread two);
- 3) to assess the opportunities and limitations of a range of technology used to support prayer and worship (everything from paper worship aids and books, to projectors, tablets, and blogs – thread three);
- 4) to reflect upon and articulate one’s own spirituality of prayer and worship leadership (thread four);
- 5) to develop greater facility in oral and written communication, in theological reflection, and in the integration of theology, spirituality, and ministerial practice;
- 6) to recognize what is “common” in the prayer and worship lives of diverse Christian assemblies, as well as what is “particular” to each student’s local ecclesial context;
- 7) to appreciate how the church’s gathering in prayer and worship transforms individuals and communities for participation in God’s mission of mercy and justice in the world.

V. TEXTBOOKS

- Huck, Gabe and Gerald T. Chinchar. *Liturgy with Style and Grace*.
Chicago: Liturgy Training Publications, 1998.
- Lathrop, Gordon. *Central Things: Worship in Word and Sacrament*.
Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress, 2005.
- Mueller Nelson, Gertrud. *To Dance with God:
Family Ritual and Community Celebration*. Mahwah, NJ: Paulist, 1986.
- Stookey, Laurence Hull. *Let the Whole Church Say Amen!*
Nashville: Abingdon, 2001.

VI. FOR FURTHER READING

- Long, Kimberley Bracken. *The Worshipping Body: The Art of Leading Worship*.
Louisville, Ky.: Westminster John Knox, 2009.
- Saliers, Don E. *Worship Come to Its Senses*.
Nashville: Abingdon, 1996.
- Garcia-Rivera, Alejandro and Thomas Scirghi. *Living Beauty: The Art of Liturgy*.
Lanham, Md.: Rowman & Littlefield, 2008.
- Duck, Ruth C. *Finding Words for Worship: A Guide for Leaders*.
Louisville, Ky.: Westminster John Knox, 2009.
- Doran, Carol and Thomas H. Troeger. *Trouble at the Table: Gathering the
Tribes for Worship*. Nashville: Abingdon, 1992.
- Labberton, Mark. *The Dangerous Act of Worship: Living God's Call to Justice*.
Downers Grove, Ill.: IVP Books, 2007

VII. SCHEDULE OF CLASS SESSIONS AND ASSIGNMENTS

CLASS SESSION 1: JANUARY 8

**(THIS WEEK, MANY CHRISTIANS COMMEMORATE
– THE EPIPHANY OF JESUS CHRIST)**

**MEETING IN THE CHAPEL OF ST. IGNATIUS AT 8:30AM,
THEN MOVING TO HUNTHAUSEN 150 (END AT 11:20AM)**

Getting Acquainted and Getting Oriented to Prayer and Worship Leadership

Introductions

Using the STM Morning Prayer for January 8 as a “Critical Incident”

Course Organization

Thread One – the Elements (1): Time and Space

As follow up to this class session, please read:

Mueller Nelson, pp. 1-55.

Lathrop, pp. 7-26, 79-80.

Huck and Chinchar, pp. viii-ix, 1-9, 11-39, 91-105.

Mueller Nelson, pp. 116-126.

CLASS SESSION 2: JANUARY 15

(THIS WEEK – THE BAPTISM OF JESUS CHRIST)

**MEETING IN HUNTHAUSEN 110 – MORNING PRAYER PRECEDES IN
THE CHAPEL OF ST. IGNATIUS AT 8:30AM**

Thread Two – Body (1): Posture, Gesture, and the Face

As preparation for this class session, please read:

Huck and Chinchar, pp. 41-67.

Stookey, pp. 11-12, 83-85.

CLASS SESSION 3: JANUARY 22

(THE WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY)

**MEETING IN HUNTHAUSEN 110 – MORNING PRAYER PRECEDES IN
THE CHAPEL OF ST. IGNATIUS AT 8:30AM**

Thread One – Elements (2): The Word and Words

(Reading, Preaching, and Praying)

As preparation for this class session, please read:

Lathrop, pp. 27-46.

Huck and Chinchar, pp. 69-79.

Stookey, pp. 13-36.

CLASS SESSION 4: JANUARY 29

(“ORDINARY” TIME)

**MEETING IN HUNTHAUSEN 110 – MORNING PRAYER PRECEDES IN
THE CHAPEL OF ST. IGNATIUS AT 8:30AM**

Thread Three – Technology: Paper, Books, Projectors, Tablets, Blogs, etc.

As preparation for this class session, please read:

Stookey, pp. 37-57.

VII. SCHEDULE OF CLASS SESSIONS AND ASSIGNMENTS (CONTINUED)

CLASS SESSION 5: FEBRUARY 5 **(THE PRESENTATION, OR CANDLEMAS)**

**MEETING IN THE ECUMENICAL CHAPEL – MORNING PRAYER
PRECEDES IN THE CHAPEL OF ST. IGNATIUS AT 8:30AM**

Thread One – Elements (3): Water and Oil (Baptism)

Lathrop, pp. 57-66.

Huck and Chinchar, pp. 107-115.

CLASS SESSION 6: FEBRUARY 12 **(CARNIVAL AND ASH WEDNESDAY)**

**MEETING IN HUNTHAUSEN 110 – MORNING PRAYER PRECEDES IN
THE CHAPEL OF ST. IGNATIUS AT 8:30AM**

Thread Two – Body (2): Voice in Speech and Song

As preparation for this class session, please read:

Mueller Nelson, pp. 127-153.

Stookey, pp. 111-114.

CLASS SESSION 7: FEBRUARY 19 **(LENT)**

**MEETING IN HUNTHAUSEN 110 – MORNING PRAYER PRECEDES IN
THE CHAPEL OF ST. IGNATIUS AT 8:30AM**

Thread One – Elements (4): Earth, Air, and Fire

As preparation for this class session, please read:

Huck and Chinchar, pp. 116-123.

CLASS SESSION 8: FEBRUARY 26 **(LENT)**

**MEETING IN HUNTHAUSEN 110 – MORNING PRAYER PRECEDES IN
THE CHAPEL OF ST. IGNATIUS AT 8:30AM**

Thread Two – Body (3): Hands, Cloth, and Clothing

CLASS SESSION 9: MARCH 5 **(LENT)**

**MEETING IN THE ECUMENICAL CHAPEL – MORNING PRAYER
PRECEDES IN THE CHAPEL OF ST. IGNATIUS AT 8:30AM**

Thread One – Elements (5): Food (Eucharist/Lord's Supper)

As preparation for this class session, please read:

Lathrop, pp. 47-55.

Huck and Chinchar, pp. 80-89.

VII. SCHEDULE OF CLASS SESSIONS AND ASSIGNMENTS (CONTINUED)

CLASS SESSION 10: MARCH 12

(LENT)

**MEETING IN HUNTHAUSEN 110 – MORNING PRAYER PRECEDES IN
THE CHAPEL OF ST. IGNATIUS AT 8:30AM**

Thread Four – Spirituality of Prayer and Worship Leadership

Be prepared to read a paragraph or two from your final paper to the class,
some material that best expresses your learning about the spirituality of
prayer and worship leadership.

Course Evaluation

Closure

As preparation for this class session, please read:

Lathrop, pp. 67-78.

Stookey, pp. 147-154.

As follow up to this class session, please read:

Mueller Nelson, pp. 154-185.

Paper Due at 9:00am

VIII. PROCEDURES AND ASSIGNMENTS

A. Attendance. Class sessions are the primary means by which the instructor and students can share the material introduced in the assigned texts and other activities. Therefore, punctual attendance at all sessions of the course is essential.

B. Reading, Preparation for Class Sessions, and In-Class Participation. Each student is responsible for having read the material assigned for each session of the course and should be prepared to discuss their reading in class. Each student is also responsible for being an active participant in class sessions.

C. Gathering Prayer. Since our class meets at 9:00 a.m. and STM sponsors Morning Prayer Monday through Friday when school is in session, I invite you to join me, as you are inclined and able, at 8:30 on Thursdays in the Chapel of St. Ignatius for our class sessions' gathering prayer.

D. Sharing Worship Aids and Resources. Each student will bring copies of their church's Sunday worship aids (where available) to share with the class, as well as basic resources from their communities (prayer books, worship books, hymnals, etc.). Digital photographs of worship spaces, works of art, furnishings, vestments, etc., would also be appropriate to share.

E. Journaling and "Critical Incident." Students are encouraged to consider journaling throughout the quarter about her/his experiences of group prayer and worship, looking especially for a "critical incident" that might be shared and discussed in class, or on-line, or in the paper.

F. Worship Leadership. Each student will take a leadership role in two of the regularly scheduled STM Morning Prayers (Monday through Friday, 8:30-8:50am in the Chapel of St. Ignatius) or Afternoon Worship Services (Wednesdays, 4:45-5:30pm either in the Ecumenical Chapel or the Chapel of St. Ignatius). These leadership role (presider, lector, preacher, cantor) will provide an opportunity to develop prayer and worship leadership skills under supervision and with peer feedback from other members of the class (including the instructor).

G. Paper. Each student will write a 10 page paper synthesizing her/his learning in the course and articulating their own spirituality of prayer and worship leadership. More information will be provided by the instructor.

VIII. PROCEDURES AND ASSIGNMENTS (CONTINUED)

H. General Guidelines for Written Work

First of all, please review the section of the STM Student Advising Handbook entitled “Student Writing Expectations.” Beyond that, be aware that I always look for a seemingly paradoxical combination of two factors in papers written for my S.T.M. courses.

On the one hand, I am hoping for you to put your own individual gifts and insights into words as creatively and winsomely as possible; I simply do not know how to create a checklist or set of guidelines to encourage you to be yourself. So, I will simply say: be yourself, let your papers express who you are.

On the other hand, I am hoping that any reasonably intelligent reader could pick up your paper at random – in the park or on the bus – and make sense of it. So, your written work does need to follow basic rules of good writing. A successful paper must:

- 1) advance a thesis – a basic point – that is easily identifiable, plausible, novel, compelling, insightful, and crystal clear
- 2) display a structure or organization of materials that is solid, evident, understandable, and appropriate to your thesis – in particular, transitions from point to point must be smooth, each paragraph must have its own topic sentence, and all paragraphs must somehow advance your thesis
- 3) make use of appropriate evidence to support your points – do not just make assertions, but offer your reader reasons why s/he should accept your assertions and, thereby, embrace your thesis (such evidence may come from other texts and artifacts, judiciously selected, as well as your own experience, carefully articulated)
- 4) reflect sound argumentation – all ideas should flow together smoothly, you might anticipate and answer counterarguments to your thesis, as well as making novel connections to other experiences and ideas
- 5) demonstrate good mechanics – sentence structure, grammar, punctuation, style of citation of sources, and spelling.

Papers should be “typed,” double-spaced, on standard 8 ½ x 11” paper. Use 1” margins all around (do not justify right margins); 12 pt. type. Staple the paper in the top left-hand corner. Please do not use plastic covers or binders. **Keep a hard copy of your work – other than the one you hand in!**

IX. COMPUTATION OF FINAL GRADE

Class Preparation and Participation (including in-class exercises, journaling, etc.)	33.3%
Worship Resources and Leadership (with self-, peer, and instructor assessment)	33.3%
<u>Paper</u>	<u>33.3%</u>

TOTAL

100.0%