

THE CONTENT OF THIS DESCRIPTION IS NOT A LEARNING CONTRACT AND THE INSTRUCTOR IS NOT BOUND TO IT. IT IS OFFERED IN GOOD FAITH AND INTENDED AS A HELPFUL GUIDE TO THE STUDENT.

TITLE: Exploring Christian Worship

TERM: Fall 2025-2026

PROFESSOR: Jerome Creach

CREDIT HOURS: 3

REGISTRATION: LIMITED TO: _____
AUDITORS: _____

UNLIMITED X
NO AUDITORS X

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

An introduction to the study of the practices of Christian worship with attention to the ways the Bible, theology, tradition, and context shape what Christian communities do when they gather to worship God. Led by faculty representing a variety of theological disciplines and perspectives, each section of WS 110 considers particular dimensions of Christian worship, promoting theological reflection, historical and socio-cultural awareness, intellectual curiosity, and participation in the worship life of the seminary community and the wider church. The course is also designed to introduce the resources, tools, and skills that contribute to effective written communication at the Master's level. This particular section will highlight the role of scripture in shaping worship practices, schedules, and rituals and the vision scripture casts for righteousness and justice as rehearsed in worship.

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES:

By the completion of this course, students will be able to:

- 1) Articulate a theology of worship, with attention to its formative power, informed by one's "home" liturgical tradition.
- 2) Describe and discuss the liturgical traditions of others with critical generosity.
- 3) Offer evidence of participation in and theological reflection on the practices of Christian worship
- 4) Use basic participant-observer skills in exploring a local worship practice.
- 5) Draw on biblical, theological, and historical resources when assessing a liturgical activity, text, or object, with attention to the role of social and cultural context.
- 6) Exhibit intellectual curiosity, as demonstrated through close readings of texts, raising relevant critical questions, and identifying areas for future exploration.
- 7) Effectively draw on library resources (catalog, media and print databases, and other online sources) for the completion of writing assignments and presentations, and skillfully communicate findings in both written and oral form.
- 8) Successfully research, develop, and write a short paper on a practice, text, or object related to Christian worship, demonstrating the ability to identify an appropriate thesis statement or research question, offer supporting evidence, make effective use of resources, sustain an argument, and synthesize course materials.

PREREQUISITES: None

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS/READING:

- Smith, J. K. A., *You Are What You Love: The Spiritual Power of Habit* (Brazos, 2016), ISBN: 978-1587433801, \$14.65
- Balentine, Samuel E. *Leviticus*. Interpretation: A Bible Commentary for Teaching and Preaching (Westminster John Knox, 2002), ISBN: 978-0664238803, \$23.49
- The Holy Bible (New Revised Standard Version). Recommended: Either the HarperCollins Study Bible (978-0061228407), \$37.95 or The SBL Study Bible (978-0-06-296943-9), \$50.00.
- Additional required readings related to the focus of each section.

ASSIGNMENTS & GRADING:

Reading Reflections 25%; Worship Journal 15%; Biblical Analysis Paper 15%; Hymn Paper 20%; Final Paper 25%

ATTENDANCE: Required.