PAST 207/307
Liturgical Theology
Semester 2 2015
Course Outline

Department of Theology and Religion
University of Otago
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PAST207/307  Liturgical Theology

Introduction

In this course, you will:

1. Explore the meaning and implications of liturgical theology as the study of Christian worship;
2. Reflect theologically on your own experiences and tradition of worship;
3. Trace the main periods of development in Christian worship;

Teaching Objectives and Learning Outcomes

At the end of this course it is expected that you will be able to:

1. Describe what scholars mean by “liturgical theology” and “primary theology”;
2. Demonstrate an understanding of key texts in liturgical theology;
3. Have a basic grasp of the main periods of development in Christian worship;
4. Understand the catholicity and “norms” of Christian worship;
5. Demonstrate the necessary tools and skills to reflect theologically on your own experience and tradition of worship;
6. Understand, and demonstrate an ability to engage with, current trends, challenges, influences and contextual realities in worship.

Lecturer

Your lecturer for this paper is the Very Rev Dr Graham Redding. Graham is Master of Knox College, a former Principal of the Knox Centre for Ministry and Leadership, and a former Moderator of the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand. He has written extensively in the area of Christian worship. His book Prayer and the Priesthood of Christ in the Reformed Tradition was published in 2003. He can be contacted by email on master@knoxcollege.ac.nz.

The Course Coordinator is Dr Tim Cooper, who should be contacted for any matters outside of the teaching material, or when the Lecturer is unavailable. He can be reached by phone on 03 479 5760 and by email at: tim.cooper@otago.ac.nz

For enquiries regarding Distance Learning, please contact Katherine Rae, Administrative Assistant, Department of Theology and Religion: katherine.rae@otago.ac.nz
Teaching Methodology

The course revolves around four audio conferences and a teaching day in Dunedin, Wellington and Auckland. We get the most out of teaching days and audio conferences when we use them for interaction rather than mere input (lecturing) – that is, student-to-teacher interaction and student-to-student interaction. So it is vital that you do the set reading in advance of the audio conferences and teaching day, since the main emphasis at those sessions will be on informed discussions, not on the presentation of material.

Assessment

The course is assessed by three written assignments, worth 30%, 30% and 40% respectively. There is no final examination for this course.

Course Resources

Students will be posted a Course Book, which includes a Study Guide and Readings section. This will also be available on Blackboard and the readings are on the Library’s e-reserve, should you wish to download and read them electronically.

The ‘Essential Information’ web page for helpful information and resources: This is important!

http://www.otago.ac.nz/theology/study/studentresources/

We require you to read this web page carefully as it contains all you need to know about audioconferences, teaching days and online learning (though you might note that not all papers contain all of those elements of our blended-learning model). It also provides detailed information on assessment and student support. In particular, it contains guidance on the topics of plagiarism and deadlines, both of which can incur penalties if not heeded. So it is very important you make yourself familiar with this material. Our assumption is that you have read it. We will make reference to information on the website in the following pages, so do take the time to follow the links and absorb the material. It will save you from making costly mistakes and help to make the practical experience of distance study a straightforward one.

Blackboard, the online learning environment used by the University of Otago. The Blackboard site provides additional resources, recordings of the audioconferences, as well as facilities for assignment submission. Please see the ‘Essential Information' webpage for instructions on accessing and using the features of Blackboard.
The handbook: *Distance Learning Information and Support 2015*, which can be downloaded from this page: [http://www.otago.ac.nz/courses/distance_study/](http://www.otago.ac.nz/courses/distance_study/)

The Department’s *Study and Style Guide* which is available here: [http://www.otago.ac.nz/theology/study/studentresources/](http://www.otago.ac.nz/theology/study/studentresources/)

**Essential Text Books**


*Simon Chan is Professor of Systematic Theology at Trinity Theological College in Singapore.*


*James Torrance was a Church of Scotland minister and Professor of Systematic Theology at the University of Aberdeen.*

Textbooks may be purchased from the University Bookshop:

378 Great King Street

Dunedin 9016

T: 64 3 477 6976

F: 64 3 477 5671

E: ubs@unibooks.co.nz

**Teaching Day**

Although it is not compulsory to do so, students are strongly encouraged to attend ONE of the following teaching days. The same content will be repeated in each of the three venues. Students who are unable to attend one of the teaching days will be able to access a summary on Blackboard of the key issues covered in the teaching day. Students should prepare for the teaching day by doing the reading for the material to be covered, as indicated on page 5 of this Outline.

**Please contact your lecturer as soon as you have decided on which venue you will attend.**
Dunedin

Date: Thursday 16 July 2015

Venue: To be confirmed: either Knox Centre for Ministry and Leadership, Hewitson Building, 3 Arden Street, or the University of Otago

Parking available

Timetable for Dunedin Teaching Evening

3:30-6:00 Session 1
6:00-7:00 Dinner (Please provide your own meal)
7:00-9:00 Session 2

Auckland

Date: Thursday 23 July 2015

Time: 9.30-4.00 pm

Venue: College of St John the Evangelist, 202-210 St Johns Road, Meadowbank, Auckland

Lunch as well as tea and coffee will be provided, but please bring your own food if you have any special requirements.

Parking available onsite

Wellington

Date: Friday 24 July 2015

Time: 9.30-4.00 pm

Venue: The Boardroom, Elim International Church, 22 Tennyson St.

Students are responsible for arranging their own lunch. Tea and coffee provided.

Audioconferences

On the 'Essential Information' webpage you will find instructions to help you prepare for the audioconferences and Teaching Days. These underline the importance of completing the reading before
you come, because the discussion will focus on the readings. You will also find helpful information there about the audioconferences, which should be accessed from home using your landline phone. Students based in Auckland are welcome to attend audioconferences at St John’s College - please contact the Department to arrange this.

The access PIN for this course is **237996**. (Please see the attached Memo for the phone number.)

**Schedule of Audioconferences and Teaching Day**

*Audioconference 1: Monday 6 July, 7:10 to 8:00 pm*

This is a 50-minute audioconference, during which we will briefly introduce ourselves to each other and discuss the paper as a whole. This is the time for any questions you may have about the content of the paper, the readings, the assignments, the teaching day, future audioconferences, and so on.

Required pre-reading: None.

*Teaching Day: 16 July (Dn), 23 July (Auck), 24 July (Wellgtn)*

**Theme:** An Introduction to Liturgical Theology

**Pre-reading:**

1. Sections 1 to 8 of the Study Guide

*Audioconference 2: 10 August, 7:10 - 9:00 pm*

**Theme:** The history, catholicity and norms of Christian worship

**Pre-reading:**

1. Sections 11 to 14 of the Study Guide.

*Audioconference 3: 31 August, 7:10 - 9:00 pm*

**Theme:** Engaging with: current trends, challenges, influences and contextual realities in worship

**Pre-reading:**

Sections 9, 10 and 15 of the Study Guide.

*Audioconference 4: 28 September, 7:10 - 9:00 pm*
Theme: To whom, and for what, do we pray ... and does it matter?

Pre-reading:

1. Section 16 of the Study Guide. Select two of the songs or hymns included therein and come to the audioconference prepared to talk about them.
2. Choose two hymns, worship songs or prayers that are not included in Section 16 of the Study Guide – one which, you think, is strong theologically, and one which, you think, is questionable. Come to the audioconference prepared to talk about your choices to the rest of the class.

Assignments

Assignment One (40%)

Attend and observe three worship services of different styles, preferably in different churches but including your own. Take with you a copy of the checklist of customary components of a worship service found in Section 12 of the Reader in Liturgical Theology.

1. Compare that checklist with what you observe in each situation.
2. Comment upon the main similarities and differences in relation to the order in which things happen.
3. Reflect on the positive and negative effects of those changes in terms of the flow and focus of the worship event.
4. What did the style and structure of each service suggest to you about the underlying theology of worship?
5. How did the architecture, physical layout and adornment of the worship space influence what took place?

Word limit: 2,500 words.

Due Date: Thursday August 13th, Midnight (11.59 pm)

Assignment Two (30%)

According to James B. Torrance, much worship today “is in practice Unitarian, has no doctrine of the mediator or sole priesthood of Christ, is human-centred, has no proper doctrine of the Holy Spirit, is too often non-sacramental, and can engender weariness.”

What did Torrance mean by that statement? Elaborate on it, and discuss it with reference to your own reading, observations and reflections.

Word limit: 1,500 words (200-level), 2,000 words (300-level)

Due Date: Thursday September 3rd, Midnight (11.59 pm)
Assignment Three (30%)

It could be said that Christian worship should hold in creative tension the following elements:

• catholicity and contextuality
• the transcendence (holy otherness) and immanence (closeness) of God
• form and freedom
• divine revelation and human expression

Why are those creative tensions important? What happens when some or all of the tensions are lost and worship becomes about either one side or the other? Discuss with reference to particular examples.

Word limit: 1,500 words (200-level), 2,000 words (300-level)

Due Date: Thursday 1 October, Midnight (11.59 pm)

Library Resources and Student Support

Please refer to the Department’s 'Essential Information' web page for information about Library resources and specifically those available to distance students enrolled at the University of Otago, as well as information on support services for students, including Disability Support:

http://www.otago.ac.nz/theology/study/studentresources/

We recommend that you contact the Department as soon as possible if you have any problems participating in the course or accessing resources. Please remember to check your University email account regularly for updates and announcements.