

Fall 2026 Perkins Course of Study

Pre-Class Assignment 223 Worship and Sacraments

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223 Worship and Sacraments

This course is designed to examine the significance of Christian worship, especially in the context of the Methodist tradition. The course engages with liturgy, the sacraments, and other services included in the worship life of congregations. Special attention is given to the role of leadership, pastoral and otherwise, involved in the liturgy of Christian worship.

Students are expected to:

1. Articulate a theology of worship consistent with liturgical practices connected to the Wesleyan tradition;
2. Verbalize a Wesleyan theology of the sacraments and demonstrate knowledge of how to administer these sacraments.
3. Theologically interpret the rites of matrimony and death/resurrection, and demonstrate knowledge of how to administer these rites;
4. Prepare a worship service that theologically exhibits engagement with congregational repertoires, audio-visual components, and participation of the laity.

Required texts (all of the resources not available online can be located in SMU's library system):

1. "Nairobi Statement on Worship and Culture Full Text." <https://worship.calvin.edu/resources/resource-library/nairobi-statement-on-worship-and-culture-full-text/>.
2. Discipleship Ministries. "Book of Worship." <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/book-of-worship>. *You can also use the hard copy of the UBW; we will refer to the website for the most up-to-date version of these documents.*
3. Discipleship Ministries. "CCLI Top 100." <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/articles/ccli-top-100>. *We will utilize both the list and the rubric document in our work.*
4. Hawn, C. Michael. *One Bread, One Body: Exploring Cultural Diversity in Worship*. Bethesda, MD: Alban Institute, 2003.
5. Stookey, Dr Laurence Hull. *Let the Whole Church Say Amen!: A Guide for Those Who Pray in Public*. Abingdon Press, 2010.
6. United Methodist Church. *The United Methodist Hymnal: Book of United Methodist Worship*. Nashville, Tenn.: United Methodist Pub. House, 1989.
7. Wallace, Robin Knowles. *The Christian Year: A Guide for Worship and Preaching*. Abingdon Press, 2011.

8. Westerfield Tucker, Karen B. *American Methodist Worship*. Religion in America Series. New York: Oxford University Press, 2001.

Pre-Class Assignments (due at the beginning of the first day of class)

1. Carefully read the Nairobi Statement on Worship and Culture and write a short personal response of approximately 1000 words (3 pages) to that statement. Include a brief summary of the key points of the Nairobi Statement and your personal perspective on its claims.
2. Without consulting the bibliography, write a short essay of approximately 1000 words (3 pages) summarizing your understanding of baptism and communion within the context of the Wesleyan tradition. **The goal of this assignment is not to verify if you are “right or wrong” in your understanding of these sacraments, but to assess the depth of your theological engagement with them.**
3. Write a short essay of approximately 1000 words (3 pages) explaining your critical understanding of the basic order of worship included at the beginning of the *United Methodist Hymnal* and expressed through the suggested four outlines of Word and Table (pp. 2-31).

Grading policy:

This course’s pre-class assignments must be submitted, either through Canvas or by directly emailing the instructor, by the beginning of our in-person session. It is the instructor’s prerogative to reduce a student’s grade due to late submission of written work. In order to participate in in-person sessions, students must have submitted their pre-class assignments.

Pre-class assignments constitute 150 points, or 15% of your total grade for this class.

Instructions for written work:

1. Read all assigned literature. Take notes; this will help you complete your written assignments and participate actively in class discussion. Answer all written prompts in your own words.
2. Written work should be submitted electronically in either PDF or Word format. Follow either the author/date or footnotes/bibliography guidelines of the Chicago Manual of Style 18 (available online to students through the SMU library system). Remember to include your name and the title/number of the course in your header.