

Sacraments and Globalization
PW3053 – Spring 2008
Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary
Tuesday & Thursday 3:00 - 4:20 pm
Fellowship Hall

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This online syllabus should be used to gain a better understanding of the content and focus of a course. The syllabus given out in the class may differ from this online version and its content supersedes that of the online syllabus.

Course Description:

This course seeks to help students to become aware of philosophical, social, political, racial, class, and sexual references that mark the Christian faith but usually go unnoticed in the theological thinking and the liturgical practices of the sacraments. In order to do that, this course intends to offer tools for the students to make connections between the sacraments of Baptism and Eucharist and historical processes of globalization, under the rubrics of hospitality. Questions such as “What does the rite of baptism have to do with issues of health, ecology, inclusion, justice and the poor?” and “How the celebration of the Eucharist is associated with notions of international power, race, land/food, world migration and non-documented immigrants in US?” will be engaged. Students will study some aspects of the relation between globalization in the Christian faith, and try to create practices of hospitality in local churches. The usual format for class sessions will be discussion, with all students expected to participate in an informed and energetic way and to lead on one occasion; the instructor will from time to time provide overview and summary. This class will have several guests and will engage in practical celebrations of the sacraments in different locations.

Intended Major Learning Outcomes:

At the end of the course, students will:

1. Gain familiarity with the concept of globalization and relate it with the borders of theological-liturgical thinking and practices.
2. Have an expanded notion of the meaning of *sacrament* in different historical and theological perspectives.
2. Be able to think the sacraments in relation to global issues such as world migration, ecology, labor, land/territory, hunger, citizenship, the poor, etc.
3. Leave with a critical sense that the sacraments must have inextricable relations to space and the theme of hospitality.

4. Students will be able to redraw the lines of baptismal/eucharistic hospitality through global theologies and local practices of rituals/liturgies in various communities in the United States.

Course Requirements:

1. Conscientious attendance and participation in discussion. Students must come to class prepared with all the readings done. Lack of preparation and lack of attendance will adversely affect your course grade. Please inform the instructor ahead of time if you have to miss class. Missing more than 4 classes puts you in danger of failing the course. (20%)
2. Every student will lead discussion in class regarding the assigned readings at least once during the semester. Students will prepare questions ahead of time to guide the class. (10%)
3. Write a *final paper* engaging one or more themes and/or authors studied in class. Resources and literature not studied in the class are also welcome if in conversation with the literature given in class. Along with the paper, students will write a *Baptismal and/or Eucharistic liturgy* that shows somewhat how the connections between the issues discussed in the paper can be related to sacramental practices. Students have to make an appointment with the instructor to talk about their ideas. These conversations must happen by April 30. Length: 8-12 pages for the paper and 4-6 pages for the liturgy (double space, 12 point font). Please hand in two copies of each paper. Due date for the paper: May 16. (Please consult the Academic Support Center for help with your writing if needed.) (50%)
4. Students will be divided into groups. Each group will be asked to prepare a worship service that will develop an eucharistic liturgy to be presented in chapel during the months of April or May. Each group will meet as many times as they want/need and report their decisions to the instructor who can also help with the process if needed. No ritual/worship service can be done without the final word from the instructor. Dates for worship services will be given in class. (20%)

Academic honesty:

All work you submit in this class is expected to be yours. Any quotation of the words of others must be clearly indicated, and all direct indebtedness must be acknowledged by citation of author and source. Students unfamiliar with issues relating to academic honesty can find help from the staff in the Academic Support Center and should make use of the available resources at an early date, since violations of Seminary policy on academic honesty can lead to a failing grade for the course.

Inclusive Language:

In your writing and in your worship services, avoid language for people that leave out part of the population or perpetuate stereotypes. Avoid gender specific pronouns when gender is unknown. Gender specific pronouns should be avoided

when referring to God unless you are quoting from a theological text or a translation of the Bible that uses them.

*** Please turn off cell phones before class begins.**

*** It is forbidden the use of internet during class.**

Required Books:*

- ✓ *Globalization: A Very Short Introduction* by Manfred B. Steger
- ✓ *The Eucharist. Bodies, Bread & Resurrection*, by Andrea Bieler and Luise Schottroff.
- ✓ *Darfur Diaries: Stories of Survival* by Jen Marlowe, Aisha Bain, Adam Shapiro, Paul Rusesabagina
- ✓ *Mountains Beyond Mountains: The Quest of Dr. Paul Farmer, a Man Who Would Cure the World*, Paul Farmer
- ✓ *Of Hospitality*, by Jacques Derrida, Anne Dufourmantelle, and Rachel Bowlby,
- ✓ *Where We Stand: Class Matters* by Bell Hooks
- ✓ *The Art of the Commonplace. The Agrarian Essays of Wendell Berry*, by Wendell Berry and Norman Wirzba

* The bookstore will have all the required books available if you want to buy them. All of the books/videos required and/or recommended are on reserve at the library.

** Classes can meet in different places around the city, depending on the availability of students.

Course Outline (please note that this syllabus is subject to change)

February 07 - General Introduction, and Lecture

Guest Speaker: John C.B. Webster

February 12 – Globalization I (division in Groups + choose a topic)

Readings: *Globalization: A Very Short Introduction* by Manfred B. Steger

Watch the movie: *Crash*

February 14 – Globalization II

Readings: *The Case for Contamination*, by Kwame Anthony
<http://www.nytimes.com/2006/01/01/magazine/01cosmopolitan.html?sq=kwame%20anthony%20appiah&st=nyt&scp=7&pagewanted=all>
Between the Nation, the World, and God, in “God Needs No Passport,”
 by Peggy Levitt, chapter 3

Watch the movie: *Babel*

February 19 – International Migration and Problems for International Peace

Readings: Global Commission on International Migration, *Migration in an Interconnected World: New Directions for Action*, Report of Global Commission on International Migration, United Nations, 2005.
www.gcim.org (we will divide the chapters in class)

February 21 – Borders

Readings: *Borderlands/La Frontera*, by Gloria Anzaldua, pp. 23-45
Homeland as Borderland. Territories of Christian Subjectivity, by Michael Nausner in “Postcolonial Theologies. Divinity and Empire,” pp. 118-132.

Strongly suggested: *The New World Border, Prophecies for the End of the Century*, Guillermo Gómez-Pena, pp. 21-48

February 26 – Hospitality

Readings: *Of Hospitality*, by Jacques Derrida, Anne Dufourmantelle, and Rachel Bowlby, odd pages.

Suggestion: “*Globalization and the Borders of Liturgical Practices. Redrawing the Lines of Eucharistic Hospitality*,” by Cláudio Carvalhaes

February 28 – Hospitality II

Readings: *The Weakness of God: A Theology of the Event*, John Caputo pp. 259-278.

March 04 – No Class / Festival of Theology

* Participation in the festival of theology will count as class attendance.

March 06 –Baptism in the New Testament

Readings: *Early And Medieval Rituals And Theologies of Baptism: From the New Testament to the Council of Trent*, by Bryan D. Spinks, pp. 3-37.

March 11 –Eucharist in the New Testament

Readings: *The Eucharist. Bodies, Bread & Resurrection*, by Andrea Bieler and Luise Schottroff, especially pp 1-48, but please read more if you can, we will discuss the entire book in class.

March 13 – Calvin’s Eucharist

Readings: *The Body Broken*, by Christopher Elwood, pp. 56-76 and 145-162.

Guest Speaker: Christopher Elwood

March 18 – Calvin’s Baptism

Readings: *Infant Baptism in Reformation Geneva*, by Karen E. Spierling, pp. 1-60
Suggested reading: if you can, also read chapter 5, pp. 158-192.

Guest speaker: Karen E. Spierling

March 20 – No Class – Easter Recess

March 24-28 – Spring Break – Research and Study

April 1 – Class, Race and Sacraments

Reading: *Where We Stand: Class Matters* by bell hooks
We will divide the chapters of the book in class.

April 3 – World Health Systems and Sacraments

Reading: *Mountains Beyond Mountains: The Quest of Dr. Paul Farmer, a Man Who Would Cure the World*, by Tracy Kidder
Please read as much as you can.

Video: *Sicko*, by Michael Moore

April 8 – Natural and Human Ecological Disasters: Tsunami in Asia, Mountaintop Removal in Kentucky and Sacraments

Suggestions: Book – *Coal River, How a few brave Americans took on a powerful company – and the federal government – to save the land they love*, by Michael Shnayerson.

Movie - *Tsunami the Aftermath*, HBO

- * We are going to visit one mountain in Kentucky together with Rev. John Rausch, learn about the situation, celebrate a Eucharistic service and talk about all these things together. This visit will require almost the entire day. Perhaps from 11 am to 6 pm.

Guest Speaker: Rev. John S. Rausch, Glenmary, Coordinator, Peace and Justice Office.
Director, Catholic Committee of Appalachia

April 10 – Water, Native American Wisdom and Sacraments

Readings: *After God*, by Mark C. Taylor, pp. 531-556

Guest Lecturer: Sallie Cuaresma (yet to be confirmed)

April 15 – Food/Land/Social Justice and Sacraments in Latin America

Readings: *To Inherit the Earth: The Landless Movement and the Struggle for a New Brazil* by Angus Lindsay Wright and Wendy Wolford, pp. 263-339.

April 17 – “Agrarian Religion” – Economics, Farming, Community and Sacraments

Readings: *The Art of the Commonplace. The Agrarian Essays of Wendell Berry*, pp. 207-235; 249-261; 278-327;

Suggested Reading: *Citizenship Papers*, pp. 63-76; 143-152; 181-189.

Guest Speaker: Wendell Berry

April 22 – Immigration and the Sacraments

Readings: * “Women Crossing the Borders” Daisy Machado, in *A Reader in Latina Feminist Theology. Religion and Justice*, pp. 161-176
 * *Community Without Borders*, by David Bacon pp. 37-67
 * *No One Is Illegal: Fighting Violence and State Repression on the U.S.-Mexico Border*, by Justin A. Chacon, Mike Davis, Julian Cardona, pp. 89-122
 * *Alienhood: Citizenship, Exile, And The Logic Of Difference* by Katarzyna Marciniak, pp. xi-xvii

Suggested: Movie - *Alambrista* OR *The Gatekeeper*

Guest Speaker: Julie Thorne

* The instructor might be in class this day but Judie Thorne will lead class for us.

April 24 – Refugees and the Sacraments

Readings: *Darfur Diaries: Stories of Survival* by Jen Marlowe, Aisha Bain, Adam Shapiro, Paul Rusesabagina, Choose 3 chapters to read.

Watch the Movie: *God Grew Tired of Us*

Guest speaker: Carol Young, Director Kentucky Refugee Ministries
<http://www.kyrm.org/>

April 29 – Sacrament – Feminist and Liberation Theology Perspectives

Readings: * *Sacrament*, by Janet R. Walton (Dictionary of Feminist Theologies)

* *Feminist's Liturgies, Borders and Hospitality*, Cláudio Carvalhaes

* *Latin American Hospitality and Sacraments*, Cláudio Carvalhaes

May 1 – Theorizing Sacrament and Ritual

Readings: *Beyond Ritual: Sacramental Theology After Habermas*, by Siobhan

Garrigan, pp. v1-68 and pp. 194-208

Guest Speaker: Paul Galbreath

May 6 – Eucharist, Globalization, Borders and Hospitality in Local Churches

Readings: * *Performing Hospitable Eucharistic Borderless Borders*, Cláudio Carvalhaes

May 8 – Globalization, Hospitality, the Sacraments and Prophetic Resistance

Readings: * "Habits of Resistance," by Si Kahn in *Preserving and Strengthening.*

Small Town and Rural Communities, pp.369-380

* "God Needs No Passport," by Peggy Levitt, chapter 1

* "Transnational Relations and World Politics: an Introduction," by Joseph S. Nye, Jr and Robert O. Keohane, in *Transnational Studies Reader: Interdisciplinary Intersections and Innovations*, Edited by Sanjeev Khagram and Peggy Levitt, pp. 23-35.

May 13 – Due Date for Written Liturgy and Final Paper