

Worship Practicum
PW 443-1 – Spring 2007
Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary
Mondays 6:00 - 8:00 pm
Fellowship Hall and Chapel

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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:

During six classes, students will be able to understand the centrality of the body in religious rituals, gain a certain understanding about rites of passage, practice several movements that pertain to worship services and perform the major rites of the Christian tradition. The six classes will be divided as follows: rites of passage, leading worship service (talking, reading, walking, touching, moving, listening, improvising), baptism, eucharist, wedding and funeral.

Objectives:

1. Gain familiarity with the worshipping “stage.”
2. Relate our bodies with our practices.
3. Learn how to lead Christian rites.

Course Requirements:

1. Conscientious attendance, participation in discussion and practices. Students who do not participate in the practices done in class will not pass this class. Missing one class will incur in failing the course. (70%)
2. Every student will visit two Christian rituals anywhere they want and write a 2 page report. The two rituals can be chosen from baptism, wedding, eucharist and/or funeral. Each report must answer the following questions: How do you describe the order of the rite? How did people (leader and people) participate and moved around the space? What were the most important parts of the rite? What would you change in this rite? (30%)

Inclusive Language:

In your writing, avoid language for people that leaves out part of the population or perpetuates 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.**

Required Book:

I believe in the Resurrection of the Body by Rubem Alves

Course Outline (please note that this syllabus is subject to change)**February 18 – Rites of Passage**

Reading: *Deeply into the Bone, Re-Inventing Rites of Passage*, Ronald L. Grimes,
pp. 1-14; 285-346

✚ Bring to class an object that is special for you (picture, necklace, stuffed animal, ring, etc)

Meet in Fellowship hall

March 17 – Leading Worship Service: talking, reading, walking, touching, moving, listening, improvising.

Reading: *I believe in the Resurrection of the Body* by Rubem Alves

Suggested: “What is Performance” pp. 22-44, by Richard Schechner in *Performance Studies. An Introduction*.

Meet in chapel

March 31 - Baptism

Reading: Invitation to Christ, by Theology and Worship Office, PC-USA
<http://www.pcusa.org/theologyandworship/worship/invitationtochrist.pdf>

Bring a baptism liturgical order from your denomination

Meet in Chapel

Guest: David Gambrell, from “Theology and Worship Office, PC-USA”

April 14 – Eucharist

Reading: *Eucharist as sacrament of Initiation*, by Nathan D. Mitchell, pp. 46-104

Bring an Eucharistic liturgical order from your denomination

Meet in Chapel

April 28 - Wedding

Reading: Happily Ever After, by Dani Shapiro, in "Altared," pp 349-357.

Bring a Wedding liturgical order from your denomination

Meet in Chapel

May 5 – Funeral

Reading: Death in Due Time: Construction of Self and Culture in Ritual Drama, in "Reading in Ritual Studies," by Barbara G. Myerhoff, pp. 393-412.

Bring a liturgical order from your denomination

Meet in Chapel