

## LTRGY 810 Seminar in Liturgical Theology Spring 2025

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### Course Purpose and Objectives

The purpose of this course is to provide a context for the investigation of contemporary liturgy theology through works of Protestant, Catholic, and Orthodox scholars, with an emphasis on foundational work in the theories, methodologies, and practices of liturgical theology.

### Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, you will be able to:

1. articulate a historically informed understanding of *lex orandi lex credendi*;
2. describe and analyze formative, contemporary, and critical proposals regarding the work and methodologies of liturgical theology;
3. categorize and assess the liturgical practices of one worshiping community;
4. select, describe, and analyze appropriate sources that enable you to construct, in written form, an exploration of or proposal for a particular concern in liturgical theology.

### Required Texts and Readings

(Prices from Amazon as of April 8, 2025)

#### Texts:

Stephen Bevans, *Models of Contextual Theology*, rev. ed. (Maryknoll, NY: Orbis, 2002) ISBN 978-1-57075-438-8. \$27.52.

Bryan Cones, *This Assembly of Believers* (London: SCM Press, 2020). ISBN 978-0-334-05971. \$37.94

Aidan Kavanagh, *On Liturgical Theology* (Collegeville: Liturgical Press, 1992) ISBN 0814660673. \$18.57.

Gordon Lathrop, *Holy Things: A Liturgical Theology* (Augsburg Fortress, 1995) ISBN 0800631315. \$17.80.

Nathan Mitchell, *Liturgy and the Social Sciences* (Collegeville: Liturgical Press, 1999) ISBN 9780814625118. \$11.55.

Bruce Morrill, *Divine Worship and Human Healing* (Collegeville: Liturgical Press, 2009). ISBN 978-0-8146-6217-5. \$20.55.

Marjorie Procter-Smith, *In Her Own Rite: Constructing Feminist Liturgical Tradition* (Akron: OSL Publications, 2000) ISBN 1-878009-40-0. \$19.95.

Melanie Ross, *Evangelical versus Liturgical: Defying a Dichotomy* (Grand Rapids: Wm. Eerdmans, 2014) ISBN 978-0-8028-6991-3. \$17.86.

Alexander Schmemmann, *Introduction to Liturgical Theology*, 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. (New York: St. Vladimir's Seminary Press, 1997) ISBN 0913836184. \$22.00.

Edward Yarnold, *The Awe-Inspiring Rites of Initiation*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. (Collegeville: Liturgical Press, 1994) ISBN 081462281X. \$21.95. (May be out of print)  
Joyce Ann Zimmerman, *Liturgy and Hermeneutics* (Collegeville: Liturgical Press, 1999) ISBN 9780814624975. \$27.84.

### **Other Required Readings:**

*The following readings are available as pdf documents on Moodle.*

- Michael Aune, "Liturgy and Theology: Rethinking the Relationship, Pt. 1 Setting the Stage," *Worship* 81.1 (January 2007): 46-68.
- Michael Aune, "Liturgy and Theology: Rethinking the Relationship, Pt. 2 A Different Starting Place," *Worship* 81.2 (March 2007): 141-169.
- Teresa Berger, "Feminist Ritual" in Mary McClintock Fulkerson and Sheila Briggs, eds., *The Oxford Handbook of Feminist Theology* (New York: Oxford, 2012), 525-543.
- Michael Church, "The law of begging: Prosper at the end of the day," *Worship* 73.5 (September 1999): 442-453.
- Mary Margaret Kelleher, "Liturgical Theology: A Task and a Method," *Worship* 62.1 (January 1988): 2-25.
- Lester Ruth, "Divine, Human, or Devilish: The State of the Question on the Writing of the History of Contemporary Worship," *Worship* 88.4 (July 2014): 290-310.
- Mark Searle, "New Tasks, New Methods: The Emergence of Pastoral Liturgical Studies," *Worship* 57.4 (July 1983): 291-308.

### **Course Requirements**

*Note:* All papers must be submitted on Moodle and formatted as follows: 12-point Times New Roman font, 1" margins top and bottom, 1 or 1 ¼" margins on each side. All quotations should follow the Turabian / [Chicago Manual of Style](#) "Notes and Bibliography" format. With appropriate footnotes, a bibliography is not required. All papers must be appropriately formatted for style and citations. Final papers are submitted through the *Turnitin* link on the course Moodle page.

1. Attendance is expected; a student who misses more than 2 class sessions will not pass the course.
2. Prepare for and participate in class discussions by completing all reading and writing assignments. Note the reading assignment in preparation for the **first** class session. *With all readings, you should be able to identify the author's thesis, who or what he/she is arguing for or against, the assumptions he or she makes, and how the work in question undertakes the work of liturgical theology.*
3. Depending on class size, in weeks 2-3, 6-7, and 9-12, one student will provide primary leadership in discussion of the assigned readings. Presenters are to provide written (500-750 words) and verbal overviews of the primary liturgical and theological issues addressed in the readings. The verbal and written presentations should provide a summary of the work, attend to the author's thesis, who or what he/she is arguing for or against, the assumptions he or she makes, and how the work in question undertakes the work of liturgical theology.

- Presentation papers should be completed *no later than 9 am on the Thursday morning preceding class* to enable posting to the course Moodle site prior to class. [15%]
4. For weeks 9 and 13, students will prepare case studies in liturgical theology for presentation to the class. These will be collaborative projects. Specific guidelines for each case study and the grading rubric are posted on Moodle and at the following links [30%]:  
[Case Study 1](#)  
[Case Study 2](#)  
[Case Study Rubric](#)
  5. Write a research paper on a select topic (PhD 6000-7000 words, MA 5000-6000 words). The topic should be chosen in consultation with the instructor. PhD papers should demonstrate acquaintance with and mastery of the core readings as well as additional research. MA papers should demonstrate acquaintance with and mastery of the core readings. [55%]

### Schedule and Assignments

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|------------------------------------|--|
| <b>1. September 4</b><br>Readings: | <b>Foundations 1: <i>Lex orandi, lex credendi</i></b><br>Aune, "Liturgy and Theology" Parts 1-2<br>Church, "The law of begging"  |
| <b>2. September 11</b><br>Reading: | <b>Foundations 2: What is liturgical theology?</b><br>Schmemmann, <i>Introduction to Liturgical Theology</i>   |
| <b>3. September 18</b><br>Reading: | <b>Foundations 3: What is primary liturgical theology?</b><br>Kavanagh, <i>On Liturgical Theology</i>  |
| <b>4. September 25</b><br>Reading: | <b>Foundations 4: Pastoral Liturgical Theology</b><br>Lathrop, <i>Holy Things</i>  |
| <b>5. October 2</b><br>Reading:    | <b>Excursus: Mystagogy as Liturgical Theology</b><br>Yarnold, <i>Awe-Inspiring Rites</i> , pp. 67-250 (introductory sections optional)   |
| <b>6. October 9</b><br>Readings:   | <b>Questions of Method 1</b><br>Kelleher, "Liturgical Theology: A Task and a Method"<br>Mitchell, <i>Liturgy and the Social Sciences</i><br>Searle, "New Tasks, New Methods"<br>Zimmerman, <i>Liturgy and Hermeneutics</i> |
| <b>October 16</b>                  | <b>Reading Day</b>   |
| <b>7. October 23</b><br>Reading:   | <b>Questions of Method 2</b><br>Bevans, <i>Models of Contextual Theology</i>   |

- 8. October 30**                      **Case Study 1: Liturgy Performed**
- 9. November 6**                      **Development and Critique 1**  
    Reading:                      Cones, *This Assembly of Believers*
- 10. November 13**                      **Development and Critique 2**  
    Reading:                      Berger, "Feminist Ritual"  
    Procter-Smith, *In Her Own Rite*
- 11. November 20**                      **Development and Critique 3**  
    Readings:                      Ross, *Evangelical vs. Liturgical*  
    Ruth, "Divine, Human, or Devilish"
- November 24**                      **Thanksgiving Break**
- 12. December 4**                      **Development and Critique 4**  
    Readings:                      Morrill, *Divine Worship and Human Healing*
- 13. December 11**                      **Case Study 2: Liturgy and Text**
- December 22: Final paper due**