

Point Loma Nazarene
University

School of Theology and Christian Ministry
CMI400
Christian Worship
3 Units

Fall 2014

Meeting days: TTh	Instructor: John W. Wright
Meeting times: 9:30-10:45	Phone: 849-2254
Meeting location: RLC106	E-mail: jwright@pointloma.edu
Additional info: Best Contacted by email. I will check email twice a day during week; once around noon, once in the evening; once daily on weekends, if possible	Office hours: by appointment made after class or via email.
Final Exam: Thurs, December 18, 10:30 am -1:00 pm	Additional info:

PLNU Mission

To Teach ~ To Shape ~ To Send

Point Loma Nazarene University exists to provide higher education in a vital Christian community where minds are engaged and challenged, character is modeled and formed, and service becomes an expression of faith. Being of Wesleyan heritage, we aspire to be a learning community where grace is foundational, truth is pursued, and holiness is a way of life.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

A study of the practice of worship and its biblical, historical, and theological foundations in relation to its contemporary expressions, with special attention to the sacraments, Christian rituals, and the liturgical year.

The course will look at Christian worship as a central practice to the formation and sustaining of the assemblage called the church, the body of Christ. We will approach worship as a fundamentally political task of the church amid and intertwined with other historical assemblages. We will study historically two distinct traditions of Christian worship: the catholicity of the early Christian gathering around words of the prophets and apostles and the participation in the Lord's Supper into which one was admitted through formation and baptism and the locality of the "awakening gathering" marked by the church's subordination to the liberal democratic political order and more recently, its seamless integration with the rise of consumer, late capitalism. The student will learn how to officiate appropriately as the overseer of worship and the practices of baptism, the Lord's Supper, Christian marriage, the Christian funeral, and structure worship according to the Christian year. Finally, the student will formulate a pastoral plan to oversee the worship of a congregation amid the expressivist individualism of the late capitalism of the dominant North American assemblage.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon the completion of this class the student will be able to:

1. Articulate the difference in history and practice between the tradition of contemporary evangelical/American worship practices and historical practices from the tradition spanning from earliest Christian records in reading Scripture and participation in the Lord's Supper entered into through baptism.
2. Articulate the difference in political and character formation that results from the two traditions of Christian worship.
3. Practice, if authorized, oversight of the church in its worship and the Sacramental care of its congregation in baptism, the Lord's supper, Christian Marriage, and the Christian funeral.
4. Synthesize class materials into a general plan for the oversight of a year of worship within a local congregational setting.

COURSE CREDIT HOUR INFORMATION

In the interest of providing sufficient time to accomplish the stated Course Learning Outcomes, this class meets the PLNU credit hour policy for a 3 unit class delivered over 14 weeks. Specific details about how the class meets the credit hour requirement can be provided upon request.

REQUIRED TEXTS

James K. A. Smith, Desiring the Kingdom: Worship, Worldview, and Cultural Formation. Cultural Liturgies, vol. 1. BakerAcademic, 2009

Henri Cardinal de Lubac, Corpus Mysticum: The Eucharist and the Church in the Middle Ages. Translated by Gemma Simmonds, CJ, with Richard Price and Christopher Stephens. Edited and Preface by Laurence Paul Hemming and Susan Frank Parsons. University of Notre Dame Press, 2006.

Brent D. Peterson, Created to Worship: God's Invitation to Become Fully Human. Beacon Hill Press of Kansas City, 2012.

William T. Cavanaugh, Torture and Eucharist: Theology, Politics, and the Body of Christ. Blackwell Publishing, 1998.

ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION

Regular and punctual attendance at all classes is considered essential to optimum academic achievement. If the student is absent from more than 10 percent of class meetings, the faculty member has the option of filing a written report which may result in de-enrollment. If the absences exceed 20 percent, the student may be de-enrolled without notice. If the date of de-enrollment is past the last date to withdraw from a class, the student will be assigned a grade of W or WF consistent with university policy in the grading section of the catalog. See [Academic Policies](#) in the undergrad student catalog.

INCOMPLETES AND LATE ASSIGNMENTS

All assignments are to be submitted on Canvas by the beginning of the class session when they are due.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

Students should demonstrate academic honesty by doing original work and by giving appropriate credit to the ideas of others. As explained in the university catalog, academic dishonesty is the act of presenting

information, ideas, and/or concepts as one's own when in reality they are the results of another person's creativity and effort. Violations of university academic honesty include cheating, plagiarism, falsification, aiding the academic dishonesty of others, or malicious misuse of university resources. A faculty member who believes a situation involving academic dishonesty has been detected may assign a failing grade for a) that particular assignment or examination, and/or b) the course following the procedure in the university catalog. Students may appeal also using the procedure in the university catalog. See [Academic Policies](#) for further information.

If this policy is not sufficient to deter dishonesty, the professor reserves the right, if he so chooses, to invoke the following policy. Cheating defeats the whole good end of our classroom work and demeans the professor, the student, and one's fellow students. In an academic context, it constitutes a mortal sin. Therefore any student caught cheating will be sent to Rev. Dr. Mary Paul for a Confession of Sins; if repentance and acts of repentance are not forthcoming, upon approval by Kerry Fulcher, Provost, Rev. Dr. Paul will administer Last Rites to the student if he/she so desires. Barring a letter of pardon from President Bob Brower, the student will face a lethal injection simultaneously injected by your classmates; upon execution, the student's body will be chopped into bite size bits and fed to the dolphins at Sea World by class members. The professor will pack your remaining goods and send them home to any surviving family members with a letter of explanation.

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS

While all students are expected to meet the minimum academic standards for completion of this course as established by the instructor, students with disabilities may require academic accommodations. At Point Loma Nazarene University, students requesting academic accommodations must file documentation with the [Disability Resource Center](#)(DRC), located in the Bond Academic Center. Once the student files documentation, the Disability Resource Center will contact the student's instructors and provide written recommendations for reasonable and appropriate accommodations to meet the individual needs of the student. See [Academic Policies](#) in the undergrad student catalog.

FERPA POLICY

In compliance with federal law, neither PLNU student ID nor social security number should be used in publically posted grades or returned sets of assignments without student written permission. This class will meet the federal requirements by (each faculty member choose one strategy to use: distributing all grades and papers individually; requesting and filing written student permission; or assigning each student a unique class ID number not identifiable on the alphabetic roster.). Also in compliance with FERPA, you will be the only person given information about your progress in this class unless you have designated others to receive it in the "Information Release" section of the student portal. See [Policy Statements](#) in the undergrad student catalog.

FINAL EXAMINATION POLICY

Successful completion of this class requires taking the final examination **on its scheduled day**. The final examination schedule is Thurs, December 18, 10:30 am -1:00 pm. No requests for early examinations or alternative days will be approved.

INCLUSIVE LANGUAGE STATEMENT

The Department of Philosophy and Religion is committed to the equality of women and men. Recognizing that people have often used the English language in ways that imply the exclusion or inferiority of women, the

department urges students, faculty, and staff to avoid sexist language in public discourse, in classroom discussions, and in their writings.

USE OF TECHNOLOGY

Point Loma Nazarene University encourages the use of technology for learning, communication, and collaboration. It is possible that I will make some of the class available to students only through eclass. The student is responsible to have access and participate in class, not only in our meetings, but through assigned on line exercises.

ASSESSMENT AND GRADING SCALE

ASSIGNMENT	POINTS	Date and Time Due	GRADE
3-4 page response to prompt in response to Smith’s book.	100 possible points	September 18, 9:30 am	
4-5 pp. response to prompt over material in Unit II A and B	150 possible points	Oct 25, 9:30 am	
Online Test on Unit IV Lectures	100 possible points	November 20 -- accessible 9:30 am - 8:30 pm	
4-5 page plan for oversight of Christian worship in a local congregation	100 possible points	November 20, 9:30 am	
3-4 pages essay analyzing the relationship between deLubac and Cavanaugh	250 possible points	December 6, 9:30 am	
Final Exam	300 possible points	December 18, 10:30 am – 1:00 pm	

Grading Scale:

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|----------------|-------------------|
| 1000 - 930 = A | 799-770 = C+ |
| 929-900 = A- | 769-730 = C |
| 899-870 = B+ | 729-700 = C- |
| 869- 830 = B | 699 - 600 = D |
| 829-800 = B- | 599 and below = F |

Notes on Grading Scale: PLNU requires a minimum of a C average to remain in academically good standing. A C grade therefore shows that you have achieved the minimal academic mastery in the assignment to remain a PLNU student making progress toward your degree. Anything below a C suggests that improvement is needed. I encourage you to contact me if you receive an assessment below a C so that we might work together for the increase in your skills. Between a B and B- represents the “average” level of mastery for a PLNU student. Grades that ascend beyond a B into higher levels witness an standard deviation leap in the mastery and skills witnessed to in the assignment. Such a grading scale protects students from grade inflation, a phenomenon that hurts all students and the institution. At the same time, students compete only against levels of mastery and full accomplishment of the outcomes – not against each other. Although the occasion has never arisen, I have no philosophical objections to the whole class receiving As – if each person’s work achieved an A level of achievement of course outcomes.

Students do not compete against the professor, either, for the “scarce commodity” of good grades. A good professor requires good students. It is my job to make you good students, even as it is your job to make me a good professor. Our goods are not in competition, but together participate in the same good which we find together in the achievement of the outcomes of the class.

COPYRIGHT POLICY

Point Loma Nazarene University, as a non-profit educational institution, is entitled by law to use materials protected by the US Copyright Act for classroom education. Any use of those materials outside the class may violate the law.