<div align="center">

COURSE SYLLABUS
Worship and Liturgy - Min 5102
Fall 2025 (3 Credit Course)
Instructor: Dr. Mika Deshotel
M.Deshotel@hji.edu
Office Hours Upon Request

</div>

DESCRIPTION:

The course explores the role of liturgy and worship in the life of the congregation, as a tool for pastoral care, for spiritual growth, for invoking God's mystery, and also as a pedagogical activity. The history of the development of Christian worship will be surveyed. Variety of style and content across a range of traditional and contemporary denominations will be discussed. The role of Eucharistic worship in some traditions will be explored. Specific Unification ceremonies will also be studied. The role of culture will also be noted, using case studies of different places where Christianity has spread, moving initially from its base in the Jerusalem Temple and in the Synagogue into numerous cultural contexts. What attracts and repels people will be identified. There will be an opportunity for students to create and present their own liturgies.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

1. **Recognize** the importance of leading worship thus enhancing the worship experience of the community (Knowledge)
2. **Distinguish** worship as a movement from the secular to the sacred (Comprehension)
3. **Interpret** different parts of worship as life affirming and faith building using examples from Scripture (Application)
4. **Design** liturgical practices appropriate for one's specific faith tradition (Synthesis)
5. **Critique and compare** different patterns of worship (liturgies) from different traditions from theological and liturgical perspective (Evaluation)

COURSE OBJECTIVES

- Developing one's personal definition of worship
- Theology of Worship (Motifs of worship)
- Liturgy and Prayer Book worship are considered
- Exploring the liturgical calendar
- Preaching in the setting of worship
- Music in worship – traditional and contemporary
- Sacramental theology - Theological and biblical studies on Baptism and the Eucharist

REQUIREMENTS:

A. Required Texts:

Castleman, Robbie. *Story-Shaped Worship: Following Patterns from the Bible and History*. InterVarsity Press, 2013. (ISBN 9780830839643)- Paperback $16.61

Ellis, Christopher J. *Approaching God: A Guide for Worship Leaders and Worshippers*. Canterbury Press, 2009. (ISBN 9781853118869)- Paperback $22.01

Steenwyk, Carrie T, and John D Witvliet, eds. *The Worship Sourcebook: Second Edition.* Faith Alive Christian Resources, 2013. (ISBN 9781592557974)- Hardcover $45

B. Weekly Assignments

Each week, students will be required to read and/or watch the posted content for a given module on Canvas. Assignments/ discussion posts should be completed by the given deadline posted on Canvas as well

    a. <u>Watch weekly lecture videos, read/watch assigned texts/videos</u>- Module content and assignments will be published every Monday, beginning August 25th
    b. <u>Written reflections based on content</u>- Personal reflections based on the modules' topic and content are due by Saturday evening (11:59PM ET). Reflections should be a minimum of 500 words, max 750
    c. <u>Discussion posts every other week</u>- Every other week, a question will be posted to the discussion board related to recent topics covered. Students will be required to post their response to the board by Saturday evening (11:59PM ET) and will be required to respond to at least two other posts by the time the next discussion question is posted (Monday of the following week)

C. Field work/ Experiencing a faith service

Students are required to attend <u>at least two</u> formal services within their own faith tradition or outside of their tradition as an exercise in examining the themes presented during the course. Two official written reflections will be due at different times during the semester. Specific instructions will be provided, along with an outline of questions to consider during the visitation

D. Final Project/ Paper

Students may choose between creating an Annotated Worship Service (Designed Liturgy) OR a Research Paper as their final assignment for the course (Adapted from a syllabus by Dr. Kevin Livingston)

    a. <u>Annotated Worship Service (Designed Liturgy)</u>- Choose a specific occasion or theme to base the service off of. Prepare a complete order of service that reflects the four-fold worship pattern, making use of the *Worship Sourcebook* and/or other resources. The

entire worship service should be written out (excluding the sermon). Material should be structured as follows: a. A written description of the setting and theme; b. A full "script" of the entire service, including prayers and musical elements (but not the text of the sermon); c. A rationale for the order and movement of the service, explaining the narrative shape of the service and how the various elements work together to reflect the nine normative characteristics of faithful worship, as detailed in *The Worship Sourcebook* pp. 16-17; d. A worship outline/bulletin, which would be presented to the congregation.

   b. Research Paper - A12-15 page (double-spaced) research paper may be written based on a topic of choice as it relates to any of the themes covered in the course. This assignment allows for exploration of an area of worship and liturgy that is of particular interest for present or future ministry in the church. This research paper should be a substantial piece of theological analysis and should not simply report, summarize or review class materials (although you are strongly encouraged to draw from the readings, class lectures, discussions and assignments). It should demonstrate thoughtful reflection and analysis of the selected subject matter. Topics must be approved by the instructor before writing or research is conducted.

METHODS OF EVALUATION

1. Students will watch/ read weekly presentations and supplemental materials
2. Weekly reflections (min. 500 words, max 750) will be submitted based on the module topic 20%
3. Field experience of visiting and writing about worship services 25%
4. Contributing to discussion posts (posted once every two weeks) 20%
5. Final project of liturgical outline OR Final research paper 35%

SCHEDULE*:
* This is a basic content outline. Specific readings and/or videos will be clarified within the published modules on Canvas

Session 1	Introduction to the course, course text and key terms; discussion of syllabus and assignments
Session 2	"Story-Shaped" Worship (Who and what is your object of worship)(Exploring the biblical and theological foundations) Part 1
Session 3	"Story-Shaped" Worship Part 2
Session 4	Honoring the Sabbath
Session 5	Worship as faith formation
Session 6	Intergenerational worship
Session 7	Sacramental worship- the role of including the Eucharist and Baptism
Session 8	Music as worship
Session 9	Prayer in worship
Session 10	Speaking (preaching) with "three eyes" (Addressing congregational needs and cultural influences on worship)
Session 11	Worship that Attracts or Repels

<table>
<tr><td>Session 12</td><td>Worship as a daily practice</td></tr>
<tr><td>Session 13</td><td>Liturgy and the sacraments</td></tr>
<tr><td>Session 14</td><td>Liturgical calendar</td></tr>
<tr><td>Session 15</td><td>Structure and Creativity in our worship and liturgy planning</td></tr>
</table>

Grading Rubric:

In calculating the final grade for the course, letter grades for assignments are converted into the following numerical equivalents, and the total is then converted back to a letter grade:

A	97	A-	91.5	B+	87
B	82	B-	77	C+	72.5
C	67.5	C-	62.5	D+	57.5
D	53	D-	50	F	0

This scale severely penalizes Fs. Therefore, it is better to hand in a poorly done assignment than not to hand one in at all.

In computing the cumulative grade point average (G.P.A.) the following quality point scale is used:

A 4.00	A- 3.67	B+ 3.33
B 3.00	B- 2.67	C+ 2.33
C 2.00	C- 1.67	D+ 1.33
D 1.00	D- 0.67	F 0.00

Incompletes are given only when there are compelling medical or personal reasons.

*See HJI catalog for a detailed grading policy.

Netiquette

When posting online or by email, you need to follow the same ethical standards and laws as you would in face-to-face communications. Your language should be respectful of faculty members and fellow students. Do not post private or confidential information about anyone, and do not provide personal information that could put yourself at risk. The Seminaries LMS has robust security measures to protect communication between teacher and student. Yet please be aware that anything that you post in discussions and groups in which other students participate can be retrieved by others and copied. Do not download and share course materials without permission of the instructor, as this may violate copyright. HJI reserves the right to delete postings on HJI maintained sites that are considered insensitive, harassing or illegal. Language that is illegal, obscene, defamatory, threatening, infringing of intellectual property rights, invasive of privacy, profane, libelous, threatening, harassing abusive, hateful or embarrassing to any person or entity, or otherwise, is a violation of the Student Code.

Academic Integrity

It is the college policy that "Each student's work shall be the product of his or her own effort. Plagiarism and other acts of academic dishonesty are serious violations of academic integrity. The penalty for a violation of this nature is suspension or dismissal."

Students will receive an "F" grade for plagiarism or academic dishonesty. What constitutes plagiarism and how to avoid it will be explained at the first class meeting. Paraphrasing, citation, quotation, and other writing methods of writing will be introduced. Incident of plagiarism or other dishonesty will be reported

to Academic Dean and penalized according to the college policy. All your works are checked by anti-plagiarism computer program.

Use of generative artificial intelligence (AI) tools like ChatGPT in assignments is permitted only with prior permission of the instructor. If the instructor permits students to use AI for research, students should know that it may give false results and its facts need to be checked and verified. Any passages generated by AI must be given proper citation, just as for citing other authors' works. In addition, students must append a paragraph at the end of their work explaining how and why they used ChatGPT, which includes what prompts were used and what measures were taken to verify its accuracy. Students may not use AI to produce the content for an assignment. If an AI tool is used without obtaining prior permission and/or without providing the required citation or explanation, it will be treated as plagiarism.

Faculty reserve the right to use plagiarism detection software, such as Turnitin, to find instances of AI-generated writing, as well as plagiarism from other sources, in student assignments.

Supplemental Texts
Mike Cosper, *Rhythms of Grace: How the Church's Worship tells the Story of the Gospel,* Crossway, 2013
Sallie Latkovich and Peter C. Phan, *Worship and Church: An Ecclesial Liturgy*, Paulist Press, 2019
James F. White*, Introduction to Christian Worship*, 3rd edition, Abington Press, 2000

James F. White, *A Brief History of Christian Worship*, Abingdon, 1993

Price, Charles &Weil, Louis, *Liturgy for Living*, The Church's Teaching Series Vol. 5; Seabury, 1979

Wright, Tim & Wright, Janet, *Contemporary Worship*, Abington Press, 1997
J.G. Davies, ed., *The New Westminster Dictionary of Liturgy and Worship*, Westminster/John Knox, 1986.
Senn, Frank, *Christian Worship and Its Cultural Setting,* Fortress Press, Philadelphia, 1983
D.A. Carson, ed., *Worship By the Book*, Zondervan, 2002

Thomas Long, *Beyond the Worship Wars,* Alban Institute, 2001

Michael Hawn, *One Bread, One Body,* Alban Institute, 2003

Paul Wadell, *Becoming Friends: Worship, Justice and the Practice of Christian Friendship,* Brazos Press, 2002

James B. Torrance, *Worship, Community and the Triune God of Grace,* InterVarsity Press, 1996

N.T. Wright, *For All God's Worth: True Worship and the Calling of the Church,* Eerdmans, 1997

Lukas Vischer, *Christian Worship in Reformed Churches Past and Present,* Eerdmans, 2003

Christine D. Pohl, *Making Room: Recovering Hospitality as a Christian Tradition,* Eerdmans, 1999

Richard Lischer ed., *The Company of Preachers: Wisdom on Preaching Augustine to the Present,* Eerdmans, 2002

Paul Tokunaga, *Invitation to Lead: Guidance for Emerging Asian American Leaders*, InterVarsity, 2003

Worship Planning and Leading Resources

Timothy Botts, *Sunday Doorposts,* Tyndale, 1998 (reproducible calligraphy of Bible verses; great for bulletin covers!)

Robert Webber, *Renew! A Hymnal for Blended Worship*, Accompaniment Edition, Hope Publishing

Leonard Vander Zee, *In Life and In Death*, Faith Alive Resources (resource for funerals)

Recent CRC Liturgical Forms Disk (very useful if you want to reprint forms in bulletins)

Harvey Smit, "So You've Been Asked to Read Scripture," Faith Alive Resources

John Witvliet, "So You've Been Asked to Plan a Worship Service," Faith Alive Resources

John Witvliet, "So You've Been Asked to Lead a Worship Service," Faith Alive Resources

Jessie Schut, "So You've Been Asked to Give a Children's Message," Faith Alive Resources

Hughes Oliphant Old, *Leading in Prayer*, Eerdmans, 1995 (a mix of teaching and sample prayers)

Songs for LiFE, CRC Publications (children's hymnal; Living in Faith Everyday curriculum resource)

Sunday Morning Live, CRC Publications (Youth Curriculum)

Ron Rienstra, *Ten Service Plans for Contemporary Worship,* Faith Alive Resources (worship plans with a contemporary flavor)

Reformed Worship, Faith Alive Resources (a quarterly publication with resources for planning and leading worship)

Book of Common Worship, Louisville: Westminster/John Knox Press, 1993.

Learning outcomes	Novice	Approaching	Proficient	Advanced	Score
1. Recognize: The importance of worship and leading worship thus enhancing the worship experience of the community	Limited understanding to recognize the importance of leading worship.	Recognition up to 30% of the role of leading worship and it importance.	60% of recognition and understand that worship has role to play in the life of the community.	80% of recognition of the importance of worship from scripture and tradition.	
2. Distinguish: The worship as movement from the secular to the sacred- worship has a bearing on the daily living of the community	Limited capability of distinguishing how the mundane is connected with worship.	Using Scripture and text books able to distinguish the connection between the secular and the sacred up to 30%.	Able to distinguish how the scared and the secular are connected to 60%	Distinguishes how daily life is connected to worship through the study of scripture and text books.	

3.Interpret: Difference parts of worship as life affirming and faith building using examples from Scripture	Limited ability to interpret worship as faith affirming.	30% ability to interpret worship as an activity of affirming faith.	60% ability to interpret the worship as life affirming and faith building.	80% ability to interpret the worship service and faith building and life affirming.	
4. Design liturgical practices appropriate for one's specific faith tradition (Synthesis)	Limited ability to design and create worship for different occasions.	30% ability to design and create worship services for different occasions.	With the help of Scripture and class experience, able to design and create different worship services up t0 60%.	Able to design and create worship using lectures, experience in the class and using Scripture and tradition.	
5.Critique and compare: Theology and Tradition (Liturgies) Different patterns of worship from different traditions.	Limited understanding of theology of worship thus not able to critique and compare different denominational patterns of worship.	30% understanding of the theology of worship.	Using text books on worship and class experience, able to critique and compare different patterns of worship.	80% understanding of the theology of worship and critique and compare the theological emphasis of different denominations.	

Worship and Liturgy – Fall 2025   Course Learning Outcomes Rubric
Grading Rubric This explains how papers are evaluated, points for different levels of proficiency. To earn a good grade, study this rubric. Make sure that your paper includes all its elements and meets all the criteria.

	Outstanding	Proficient	Needs Improvement	Not evident	Value
Main Elements					60 total
1.Theological content	Theology of congregations	Biblical understanding	Unclear discussion	Coherent flow of thought	15
2. Challenges of congregational	Description of the context (Diversity)	The understanding of	Description of common ground	No understanding of "Spirituality"	15

practice of worship		vision and mission			
3. Application of theological principles in Worship	Challenges in creating a context to teaching/practicing in worship	Problems are discussed but analysis is weak	Practical, innovative ways of creating awareness of crisis	Analysis of your willingness to form worship Groups	20
4. Your personal analysis	Your opinion backed by your theological and scriptural understanding.	Rationale behind your understanding	Your view is weakly argued	Lack of documentation for your opinion.	10
General Criteria					40 total
Critical thinking	Insightful analysis and conclusions supported with evidence	Logical analysis but evidence is thin.	No coherent flow of defense with evidence	No evidence presented	15
Research and citations	Six or more different scholarly sources used and correctly cited.	Six or more different scholarly sources but deficient citations.	Fewer than six sources. Deficient citations	No evidence of research	15
Writing	Grammar, spelling, and use of quotations are satisfactory	Weakness in grammar, spelling, paragraphing or quotations	Weakness in two areas	Weakness in three or more areas	10
				Total	**100**