

POINT LOMA NAZARENE UNIVERSITY
CHU 395 The Christian Tradition
Spring 2016

Instructor: Sam Powell

Telephone: 849.2334

Website: www.samuelmpowell.com

Department assistant: 849.2234

Office hours: MWF 9:30-11:00 & 1:30-2:30 and TTH 9:30-10:30. Other times may be scheduled by appointment by calling the departmental assistant (x2234) or my office.

Office: Smee Hall 207

Email: spowell@pointloma.edu

This course is one of the components of the General Education Program at Point Loma Nazarene University, under the category of "Responding to the Sacred." By including this course in a common educational experience for undergraduates, the faculty supports the study of Scripture and Christian heritage as foundational in the pursuit of knowledge and the development of personal values.

LEARNING OUTCOMES: Students will be able to

- Explain the intellectual integrity, rich diversity, and coherence of the Christian tradition in its historical development.
- Explain the characteristic features of Wesleyan theology and the ways in which it embodies the central affirmations of the Christian tradition.
- Appreciate the importance of an ongoing, lifelong commitment to and participation in the Christian tradition and congregational life.

REQUIRED READING:

- Kenneth Collins, *A Real Christian* (ISBN 9780687082469)
- Mark Chaves, *American Religion: Contemporary Trends* (ISBN 9780691159669)
- Henry Chadwick, *Augustine of Hippo* (ISBN 9780199588060)
- Carol L. Flinders, *Enduring Grace: Living Portraits of Seven Women Mystics* (ISBN 9780060626457)
- Roland H. Bainton, *Here I Stand: A Life of Martin Luther* (ISBN 9780452011465)
- John Stott, *Your Mind Matters: The Place of the Mind in the Christian Life* (ISBN 9780830834082)
- Other articles as assigned

REQUIREMENTS:

1. Punctual attendance. Because it is important to build good habits and to help create and sustain a learning community, it is important for you to attend often and on time. You may miss up to four sessions without penalty. Every absence after the fourth will result in a deduction of ½% from your final grade. You will be allowed to be late twice; after the second occasion, arriving to class after roll is taken will result in a grade reduction of 1/4% per occasion. If you are late, you must bring it to my attention at the end of the class session. More than 9 absences may result in de-enrollment.

2. Exams: There will be three exams: February 24, March 30, and the final exam (May 2 for section 2 and May 6 for section 1). The final exam will be comprehensive. All exams will consist of multiple choice and matching questions.

3. A report on your visit to a worship service, described below. Due Mar 14.

4. A daily journal of your thoughts and responses to the assigned reading. There will be assigned reading for almost every session of the course. Prior to each session for which there is reading, submit a 1/2 record of your thoughts and responses to the assigned reading. Each daily entry should include at least two of the following points for consideration:

- Questions and issues needing clarification—what did you not understand about the reading?
- The most important take-away point.
- What in the reading most challenged you to think about the direction of your life?

5. Canvas reports on assigned articles. You will read some articles related to current issues and then submit responses via Canvas.

GRADING (points are approximate):

Report on worship	150
Exam #1	75
Exam #2	75
Final exam	150
Daily journal entries (27)	54 (2 points each)
6 Canvas reports on assigned articles	60 (10 points each)

OTHER MATTERS:

- Email is the official mode of communication in this course.
- The final exam may not be taken early. **MAKE HOLIDAY TRAVEL PLANS ACCORDINGLY.**
- Procrastination and denial: If you find yourself getting behind in assignments, it is important to communicate with me so that you don't get into a downward spiral of missing assignments.
- Inclusive language: The School of Theology and Christian Ministry 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 discussion, and in their writings.
- Academic honesty. Students who present the work of others as if their own commit plagiarism, which includes but is not limited to borrowing another student's work, buying a paper, or using the words or ideas of others without citation. Students will be held accountable for plagiarized material whether the material was plagiarized intentionally or unintentionally. Plagiarized work will result in a failing grade for the assignment and possibly for the course. Cheating on an exam will result in loss of all points for the exam. Additionally, plagiarism and cheating will result in a written report being filed with vice-provost for academic administration.

THE WORSHIP REPORT

This assignment is to write a paper of 6 double spaced pages (besides bibliography) about the worship service of a church that you will visit twice. There are some stipulations:

- You will be visiting a church different from your own. If you are a Protestant (or if Protestantism is the branch of Christianity with which you are most familiar), you will attend either a Roman Catholic or Orthodox church service. If your background is Roman Catholic or Orthodox, you will visit an evangelical Protestant service (including Charismatic and Pentecostal churches, Baptist churches, Nazarene, Wesleyan and Methodist churches and independent churches such as Calvary Chapel).
- You should visit the church's main worship service; this will normally be on Sunday. However, if your schedule does not permit a Sunday visit, large Roman Catholic congregations will have several services on Saturday and Sunday.

The assignment: After reading about the worship practices of the church you selected and visiting it's the worship service twice, write the report and include the following points:

- In what sense was worship liturgically oriented?
- Describe the use of physical media in its worship. This includes icons, statues, banners, decorations of all types, music, incense, stained-glass windows, etc.
- Determine the extent to which preaching was a central part of worship. Do not summarize the sermons, just comment on the role and importance of the sermons in relation to other parts of the worship service.
- Was there a confession of faith?
- Was there public confession of sin?
- Comment on the music: in which ways did the music contribute to the congregation's worship? What was the purpose of the music?
- Which sorts of prayer were offered? By whom? For what purpose(s)?
- To what extent and in which ways was the Bible used in the worship service?
- Which tasks were performed by ordained clergy and which were performed by lay people?

- What was the most important part of the worship service?

Caution: When visiting either a Roman Catholic or Orthodox service, do not participate in communion unless you have been confirmed in that church.

Evaluation of the paper: the following criteria will be used:

- Completeness: all stipulated items addressed
- Grammar and spelling
- Clarity of organization
- Insight: papers earning a grade of A will be characterized by a depth of insight into the services that you observe and will go beyond mere description by comprehending the reasons why the worship is conducted just as it is. It may be necessary for you to do some reading.

Recommended reading:

- Wainwright, Geoffrey, *Worship with One Accord : Where Liturgy and Ecumenism Embrace*, chapter 2 (The Church as Worshiping Community). Ebrary
- Webber, Robert E. "From Modern to Post-Modern: Worship Changes During the Twentieth Century." *Southwestern Journal Of Theology* 42, no. 3 (2000 2000): 4-21. ATLA Religion Database
- Bowler, Kate, and Wen Reagan. "Bigger, better, louder: the prosperity gospel's impact on contemporary Christian worship." *Religion And American Culture* 24, no. 2 (2014 2014): 186-230. ATLA Religion Database
- Description of the Roman Catholic liturgy, with links to specific parts:
<http://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/the-mass/order-of-mass/index.cfm>
- Introduction to Orthodox worship: <http://orthodoxinfo.com/general/doctrine3.aspx>
- Introduction to Episcopalian/Anglican worship:
<http://www.metanoia.org/martha/writing/worship.htm>