

ECUMENICAL INSTITUTE OF THEOLOGY
Spring 2016

Thursday

6:00-8:30

PT 718 Introduction to Christian Worship

Dr. Mark Gorman

Course Description:

This course provides an introduction to the Christian practice of worship. Like all Christian practices, worship is a dynamic, social, human activity that responds to the eternally prior activity of the God who brought Israel out of Egypt and raised Jesus Christ from the dead (Robert Jenson). Over the length of this course, then, we will grapple with many diverse aspects of Christian worship, including the relationship between worship and theology, the history of worship, contemporary matters, and basic considerations for planning public worship.

Course Requirements:

- Students should expect to read *at most* 1,000 pages of required reading.
- Students should expect to write *at most* 20 double-spaced pages. These will be comprised of the following:
 1. A book review (2 pages): grade included in class presentation
 2. Two reflection papers (6 pages total): 10% (5% each)
 3. A final paper (12 pages): 35%
- In addition to reading, writing and class participation, students should expect to produce or participate in these additional graded learning activities:
 1. 3 quizzes: 30% (10% each)
 2. 1 or 2 in-class presentations (depending on enrollment): 15%
 3. Class participation: 10%

Required Texts:

1. Melva Wilson Costen, *African American Christian Worship*. 2nd Edition. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2007. 978-0687646227.
2. Maxwell Johnson, ed. *Sacraments and Worship: The Sources of Christian Theology*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2012. 978-0664231576.
3. James White, *A Brief History of Christian Worship*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1993. 978-0687034147.