

ST. MARY'S ECUMENICAL INSTITUTE
Spring 2019

Thursday

6:00-8:30 pm

ES/PT718 Introduction to Christian Worship

Dr. Mark Gorman

Course Description:

This course introduces 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:

- **Reading:** Students should expect to read at most 800 pages of required reading and should come prepared to discuss readings in class.
- **Writing:** Required writing assignments:
 - A comparative worship analysis paper (8 pages total): 10%
 - A final paper proposal (2 pages): 5%
 - A final paper (12 pages): 35%
- **Other:** Other activities (including class participation) contributing to final grade (with percentages):
 - Midterm: 20%
 - 1 in-class presentations: 20%
 - Class participation: 10%

Required Texts:

1. Melva Wilson Costen, *African American Christian Worship*. 2nd Edition. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2007. 978-0687646227.
2. James White, *A Brief History of Christian Worship*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1993. 978-0687034147.