

MS 1A03
MINISTRY PRACTICE AND FORMATION
Wednesday, 8:30 – 10:20 a.m.
Location: **TBD**

Dr. Michael Knowles
Office: DC 214
(905) 525-9140 x27088
knowlesm@mcmaster.ca



Course Statement

This course assists students to develop their understanding and practice of personal and corporate leadership for the Christian community, particularly in the context of worship, balancing attention to biblical and theological foundations with development of practical skills.

Course Objectives

Cognitive:

[*knowing*]

- ▶ To explore the theological foundations of congregational worship as rooted in, responsive to, and reflective of the character and nature of God.
- ▶ To assess the relevance for corporate worship of the sanctification of time and space, and to examine such Christian practices as baptism, prayer, preaching, the Lord's Supper, weddings, and funerals, as means of orientation to the principle of grace.

Affective/Experiential:

[*being*]

- ▶ To develop awareness of spiritual identity and personal spiritual formation as foundational aspects of ministerial leadership.
- ▶ To identify and help students appropriate core models of spirituality that inform discipleship and ministry.
- ▶ To develop and function as a community of learning.

Practical:

[*doing*]

- ▶ To provide students with practical experience in planning, leading, and evaluating various aspects of public worship.
- ▶ In association with their Field Education placements, to help students identify and begin to acquire foundational skills relevant to pastoral ministry and congregational leadership.
- ▶ To offer interactive instruction in the conduct of pastoral responsibilities such as baptisms, weddings, funerals, the Lord's Supper, and church administration.

Lecture Outline and Schedule

September 16 Reading: White, *Introduction to Christian Worship*, 17–46
Annie Dillard, “An Expedition to the Pole,” in *Teaching a Stone to Talk: Expeditions and Encounters* (New York: Harper & Row, 1983)
MILLS QH 81 .D563 1983 (Reserve)

I. Why Worship? A Rationale for Celebration

- A. Setting Learning Goals
- B. Worship and the Vision of God
- C. Jewish Worship and the Presence of God
- D. Worship in the New Testament Church
- E. A Taxonomy of Worship

September 23 Reading: White, *Introduction to Christian Worship*, 175–201

II. Order and Chaos: Reflections of Grace

- A. Agency, Testimony, and Effective Sign

September 30 Reading: White, *Introduction to Christian Worship*, 47–80
Book Review Due

- B. The Ordering of Time
 - 1. The Christian Calendar
- C. The Redemption of Time

October 7 Reading: White, *Introduction to Christian Worship*, 81–109

- D. The Architecture of Sanctification (the Ordering of Space)
 - 1. Inductive analysis of McMaster chapel
 - 2. Historical antecedents, theological issues, practical components

October 14 Reading: White, *Introduction to Christian Worship*, 203–28

III. Forms and Elements of Worship

- A. Entry and Affirmation: Baptism and Ministry
 - 1. Baptismal Theology
 - 2. Praxis (Guest lecturer: Rev. Merv Budd)

October 21 Reading: White, *Introduction to Christian Worship*, 151–73

B. Pilgrimage

1. Preaching

October 28 Reading: White, *Introduction to Christian Worship*, 131–49
Worship Evaluation Due

2. Public Prayer and Worship

3. Ministries of Music (Guest lecturer: Dr. Wendy Porter)

November 4 Reading: White, *Introduction to Christian Worship*, 229–62

4. The Lord's Supper

a. Theology: Worshipping at the Lord's Table

b. Praxis (Guest lecturer: Rev. Elaine Poproski)

November 11

5. Marriage and the Wedding Ceremony

November 18

C. Stewardship

1. Faith and Finances: Money, Budgets, and Fund-Raising (Guest lecturer: Bill Marshall)

2. "Redeem the time, for the days are evil": Time management and organizational skills

3. "Are We There Yet?": Developing a Congregational Vision Statement

November 25 Final Essay due

D. Departure: Funerals and memorial services

1. Theology

2. Praxis

December 2 Reading: Richard Foster, *Streams of Living Water: The Great Traditions of the Christian Faith* (New York: Harper SanFrancisco, 1998)

IV. Spirituality and Worship: Why We Don't All Worship The Same Way...

December 4 Final Date for Late Assignments

Course Requirements

Textbooks

Foster, Richard. *Streams of Living Water: The Great Traditions of the Christian Faith*. New York: Harper SanFrancisco, 1998. MILLS BV 4501.2 .F6546 1998

White, James F. *Introduction to Christian Worship*. Third edition, revised and expanded. Nashville: Abingdon, 2000. MILLS BV 176.3 .W48 2000

All required textbooks for this class are available from the College's book service, READ On Bookstore, Room 218, McMaster Divinity College. Texts may be purchased on the first day of class. Other book services may also carry the texts. For advance purchase, you may contact:

READ On Bookstore	E-mail: books@readon.ca
304 The East Mall, Suite 100	http://www.readon.ca
Etobicoke, ON	Tel: (416) 620-2934
M9B 6E2	FAX: (416) 622-2308

Additional reading available on reserve at Mills Memorial Library

Dillard, Annie. "An Expedition to the Pole," in *Teaching a Stone to Talk: Expeditions and Encounters*. New York: Harper & Row, 1983. MILLS QH 81 .D563 1983

White, James F. *Protestant Worship: Traditions in Transition*. Louisville: Westminster/John Knox, 1989. MILLS BV 10.2 .W449 1989

Assignments	% of Final Grade
-------------	------------------

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------|
| 1. Completion of all assigned reading | |
| 2. <i>Worship Leadership</i> | [not graded] |

In cooperation with one other student, conduct a ten-minute service of worship for the class. Although style and format are the responsibility of the leaders, this is intended primarily as a service of prayer and worship: homilies are optional, but must be limited to a maximum of two minutes. Worship commences at 8:30 a.m. sharp, and must conclude no later than 8:40.

Date: [various]

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----|
| 3. <i>Book Review</i> | 35% |
|-----------------------|-----|

Provide a critical evaluation of one recent major work (minimum 200 pages) from the course bibliography (but not from the required reading or reserve lists), assessing — amongst other relevant issues — its theological and biblical foundations, its understanding of the practical

components of worship, and the applicability of its concepts to your own congregation, tradition, or confessional constituency. Specifically, what changes does this work suggest for the worship practice of your congregation, denomination, or confessional tradition?

Length: 1500 words

Due Date: September 30

4. *Worship Evaluation*

25%

In the course of the semester, attend a worship service in a Christian tradition with which you are *not* familiar (e.g. Assyrian, Catholic, Coptic, Lutheran, Nazarene, Orthodox, Quaker, etc.; see the attached list of local options). Evaluate the service (using the attached form as a guideline if necessary), and submit your evaluation together with a minimum 1000 word (four-page) commentary on significant aspects of the service, and insights you have gained (whether positive or negative) into the nature and conduct of Christian worship. In particular, how does this service function *as worship*? That is, what does worship in general, and this worship service in particular, say about God and who we are as worshippers in relation to God? *Please note that this assignment must not conflict with Field Education responsibilities.*

Length: 4 pages/1000+ words

Due Date: October 28

5. *Final Essay*

40%

Building on insights you that have gained from (for example) Scripture; church history and tradition; contemporary culture; course lectures, readings, and assignments; personal experience, and supplementary research, provide an in-depth examination of one of the following:

- a. Theological and practical aspects of one component of contemporary worship (e.g. ritual, architecture, baptism, preaching, prayer, music, weddings, funerals, language for God, ordination, the rôle of the leader, etc.); *or*
- b. One source for, or influence upon, contemporary Christian worship (e.g. the influence of Old Testament, New Testament, or early church practices; the use of lectionaries; the rôle of the Liturgical Renewal movement; “Charismatic” worship; etc.).

Articulate your own theological and practical vision of worship, how it should be conducted, and how your chosen feature or historical/denominational influence contributes to that vision. Explain the background and rationale for your choices and how your understanding of worship could be implemented in the congregational setting within which you expect to conduct your ministry. Outline the practical implications of your theological assessment, whether in a congregational setting or elsewhere. In short, explain *why* and *how* you intend to lead or participate in worship as an expression of your own Christian identity and ministry, the church’s mission, and the *missio Dei*.

This study should also make use of a *minimum* of 6 books and articles from the course bibliography and/or the reserve reading list (not including the assigned texts). Note the following sources (also listed on the course bibliography) for additional resource material:

- Davies, J. G. *A New Dictionary of Liturgy & Worship*. London: SCM Press, 1986.
MILLS Reference BV 173 .N46 1986 (Non-Circulating)
- Thompson, Bard. *A Bibliography of Christian Worship*. [Philadelphia]: American Theological Library Association; Metuchen, N.J.: Scarecrow Press, 1989.
MILLS Bibliography ZBV 176 .B5 (Non-Circulating)

Length: 10-12 pages/2,500 – 3,000 words

Due Date: November 27

D. Style

All assignments are to be typed in double-spaced format, with footnotes and bibliographic references conforming to the *McMaster Divinity College Style Guidelines for Essays and Theses* (<http://www.macdiv.ca/students/documents/MacStyleGuide.pdf>). Failure to observe appropriate format will result in grade reductions. See also “CRITERIA FOR GRADING OF WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS,” below. Electronic submission of assignments will not be accepted.

E. Academic Dishonesty

Academic dishonesty is a serious offence that may take any number of forms, including plagiarism, the submission of work that is not one’s own or for which previous credit has been obtained, and/or unauthorized collaboration with other students. Academic dishonesty can result in severe consequences, e.g., failure of the assignment, failure of the course, a notation on one’s academic transcript, and/or suspension or expulsion from the College. Students are responsible for understanding what constitutes academic dishonesty. Please refer to the Divinity College Statement on Academic Honesty: www.macdiv.ca/regs/honesty.php

F. Inclusive Language

McMaster Divinity College is committed to employing inclusive language for human beings in worship services, written materials, and all publications. With regard to biblical texts, the integrity of original expressions (including references to God) should be respected; the NRSV and TNIV provide appropriate examples of the use of inclusive language for human subjects. With the exception of direct quotations from historical documents, inclusive language is to be used in chapel services and in all assignments submitted for academic credit.

G. Late Submission Penalty

Assignments are due at the beginning of the class session on the due date. The penalty for late submission of assignments is 1% per calendar day (without limit). Electronic submission of assignments will not be accepted.

***The final date for submission of all course assignments is the last day of classes, December 4
Assignments received after this date will not be accepted for grading or credit***

Disclaimer:

This syllabus is the property of the instructor and is prepared with currently available information. The instructor reserves the right to make changes and revisions up to and including the first day of class.

Draft