

Department of Theology
Summer Session, 2014
July 7 – July 25

University of Notre Dame
Malloy 320
12:30 – 3:00 pm

THEO 60421 – LITURGICAL YEAR

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Office Hours: TBA
Or by Appointment (#1-6758)

Course Description:

The Church measures time and lives not by the civic calendar but according to its own cycle of feasts and seasons. This course will explore the relationship between the liturgy and a lived experience of time in the contemporary world. It will examine the origins, evolution, and theological meaning of the central feasts and seasons of what is called the liturgical or Church year: the original Christian feast of Sunday; Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany; Lent, Easter, and Pentecost; and with some attention to the feasts of the saints. What do we celebrate on such occasions and how might we celebrate these feasts and seasons "fully," "consciously," and "actively?" Of special interest to those who work with the liturgical year in a variety of ways and for all who seek to understand the way in which the Church expresses itself theologically by means of a particular calendar, as well as for theology majors and interested graduate students in theology.

Goals and Objectives:

This course is about the acquisition of **knowledge** with a view toward the critical **evaluation** of the liturgical year especially within the Roman Catholic Church and in a variety of contemporary churches today. While pastoral issues may certainly be considered, the course is **neither** a "how-to-do-the rites" course **nor** is it concerned with offering **blueprints** for pastoral practice in the variety of settings from which students come or to which they are going. Rather, this course takes as its premise that studying the Liturgical Year as it actually appears within the various strata of the Christian tradition is the way to **know** the meaning and function of the Liturgical Year. This involves a knowledge of both the **history** of the Liturgical Year and the history of its **theological interpretation**. Only then can one adequately **evaluate** its current shape(s).

More specifically, this course intends to assist students in acquiring:

1. A thorough knowledge of the history and theology of the liturgical year;
2. An ability to articulate the central *foci* of the various feasts and seasons in the life of the Church; and
3. An ability to celebrate "fully, actively, and consciously" the One Mystery of Christ as it is expressed and reflected in the Sundays, feasts, and seasons of the liturgical year.

Course Requirements:

The above goals and objectives will be met by:

1. Attendance at and participation (discussion, dialogue, etc.) in all class sessions;
2. Keeping up with the assigned reading;
3. Three Unit Take-Home Written Examinations (as indicated below);

GRADING:

Grades will be determined on the basis of "full, active, and conscious participation," as well as the take-home exams.

NOTE: The grade **A** is reserved for what is considered to be **exceptional** work; an **A-** or **B+** means that work is at a level of solid and high quality, a level above what is necessary to successfully complete the requirements for the course; a **B** is good solid work; a **C+** is a passing grade meaning that an assignment was completed but in need of improvement and/or further development or clarification; and a **C**, although a passing grade, indicates some serious problems.

REQUIRED TEXTS AND READING

- P. Bradshaw and M. Johnson, *The Origins of Feasts, Fasts, and Seasons in Early Christianity*. London: SPCK; Collegeville: The Liturgical Press, 2011. **(OFFS)**
- R. Brown, *A Crucified Christ in Holy Week*. Collegeville 1986.
- R. Brown, *An Adult Christ at Christmas*. Collegeville 1978.
- M. Johnson (ed.), *Between Memory and Hope: Readings on the Liturgical Year*. Collegeville, 2000. **(BMH)**

NOTE: Some "required reading" for discussion purposes will be expected from texts as indicated in the syllabus!

RECOMMENDED READING

- Adolph Adam, *The Liturgical Year: Its History and Meaning after the Reform of the Liturgy*. New York/Collegeville: Pueblo, 1981.
- M. Connell. *Eternity Today: On the Liturgical Year*. 2 vols. Vol. 1, *On God and Time, Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Candlemas*; vol. 2, *Sunday, Lent, The Three Days, The Easter Season, Ordinary Time*. New York: Continuum, 2006

R. Brown. *A Risen Christ in Eastertime: Essays on the Gospel Narratives of the Resurrection*. Collegeville: Liturgical Press, 1991.

R. Brown. *A Coming Christ in Advent: Essays on the Gospel Narratives Preparing for the Birth of Jesus – Matthew I and Luke I*. Collegeville: Liturgical Press, 1988.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF CLASSES AND TOPICS

INTRODUCTORY UNIT: THEOLOGICAL FOUNDATIONS FOR FEASTS AND SEASONS

General Reading for Introductory Unit –

Required

BMH, Introduction

Taft, “The Liturgical Year: Studies, Prospects, Reflections,” in **BMH**, pp. 3-23

Talley, “Liturgical Time in the Ancient Church: The State of Research,” in **BMH**, pp. 25-46

Recommended: Adam, Chapters I-III, and X; Connell, Vol. 1, 1-54

M, JULY 7: Introduction to the Course, Liturgy and Time

T, JULY 8: Theological Foundations

W, JULY 9: Feasts and Seasons

The Liturgical Year: An Overview of its Historical Evolution and Meaning
Competing Calendars

Unit I: FROM SABBATH TO SUNDAY

General Reading for Unit I –

Required

OFFS, pp. 3-36;

Essays by Porter, “Day of the Lord,”

Searle, “Sunday: The Heart of the Liturgical Year,” and

Taft, “The Frequency of the Eucharist,” in **BMH**, pp. 49-96.

Recommended: Adam, chapter IV; Connell, vol. 2, chapter 1;

Th, JULY 10: From Sabbath to Sunday I

Origins of Sunday Celebration; Evolution of Sunday; Evolution and Contemporary Reform;

F, JULY 11: From Sabbath to Sunday II

Continued: Origins of Sunday Celebration; Evolution of Sunday; Evolution and Contemporary Reform;

Take-Home Exam #1 Distributed

UNIT II: FROM PASSOVER TO PASCHA

General Reading for Unit II –

Required

OFFS, pp. 39-69;

"Talley, "History and Eschatology in the Primitive Pascha", in **BMH**, pp. 99-109;

Bradshaw, "The Origins of Easter," in **BMH**, pp. 111-124;

Regan, "The Three Days and the Forty Days" in **BMH**, pp. 125-141;

Regan, "Veneration of the Cross" in **BMH**, pp. 143-153;

Taft, "Holy Week in the Byzantine Tradition," in **BMH**, pp. 155-181;

Talley, "The Origin of Lent at Alexandria"; in **BMH**, pp. 183-206;

Johnson, "Preparation for Pascha?" in **BMH**, pp. 207- 222;

Regan, "The Fifty Days" in **BMH**, pp. 223-246;

R. Brown, *Crucified Christ and Risen Christ*;

LaCugna, "Making the Most of Trinity Sunday," in **BMH**, pp. 247-261.

LaSalle, "Devotion Searching for a Place in the Liturgy: The Development of the Good Friday Veneration of the Cross in the West," *Worship* 88 (March 2014): 98-118.

Recommended: Adam, V; Connell, Vol. 2, Chapters 2, 3, and 4; Brown, *Risen Christ*.

M, JULY 14: From Passover to Pascha I

Origins and Controversies; Evolution of Easter

Paschal Triduum and Holy Week

T, JULY 15: From Passover to Pascha II:

Includes Discussion of R. Brown, *A Crucified Christ in Holy Week*

W, JULY 16: From Passover to Pascha III

Origins, Development, and Meaning of Lent

Take-Home Exam #2 Due

Take-Home Exam #3 (Over Pascha) distributed

TH, JULY 17: From Passover to Pascha IV

The Easter Season, Pentecost, and Ascension

UNIT III: FROM PASCHA TO PAROUSIA

Reading for Unit III –

Required

OFFS, pp. 123-168;

Brown, *Adult Christ*;

Talley, "Constantine and Christmas," in **BMH**, pp. 265-272;

Roll, "The Origins of Christmas: The State of the Question," in **BMH**, pp. 273-290;

Winkler, "The Appearance of the Light," in **BMH**, pp. 291-347;

Connell, "The Origins and Evolution of Advent in the West," in **BMH**, pp. 349-371.

Recommended: Adam, VI; Connell, Vol. 1, pp. 55-239; Brown, *Coming Christ*.

F, JULY 18: From Pascha to Parousia I:

Christmas and Epiphany

Evolution and Theology of Advent

M, JULY 21: From Pascha to Parousia II:

Incarnation and the Paschal Mystery

Discussion of R. Brown, *An Adult Christ at Christmas*

UNIT IV: FROM PASCHA TO PERSONS

Reading for Unit IV –

Required

OFFS, pp. 171-214;

Baldovin, "On Feasting the Saints" in **BMH**, pp. 375-383;

McDonnell, "Marian Liturgical Tradition" in **BMH**, pp. 385-400;

White, "Forgetting and Remembering," in **BMH**, pp. 401-414;

Johnson, "The One Mediator...," in **BMH**, pp. 415-427.

Recommended: Adam, 159-271

T, JULY 22: From Pascha to Persons I:

Origins and Evolution of the *Sanctorale*

W, JULY 23: From Pascha to Persons II:

Origins and Evolution of the Cult and Feasts of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Mary and the Saints in the Christian (Byzantine) East

Th, JULY 24: From Pascha to Persons III:

Reformation Critique of the *Sanctorale*

Current Roman Reform; Ecumenical Dialogue and Convergence

Models of Holiness Today

The Liturgical Year – Where do we go from here?

Reading: Baldovin, “The Liturgical Year: Calendar for a Just Community,” in Johnson, pp. 429-444.

F, JULY 25: The Liturgical Year: Where do we go from here?

Take-Home Exam 3 due!