

31-815 Sacramental Theology
Fall 2014
Tuesdays 6:30-9:30

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Course Description

“Among Christians who observe a sacramental tradition there is agreement on at least this much: sacraments have something to do with God’s grace and human beings as recipients of that grace; the grace of the sacraments is meant for the body of Christ in the church and somehow binds that body together. All sacraments then require this much, God’s gracious action and individual human beings gathered together in the body of Christ that is the church.” [Natalie B. Van Kirk, “Christ present in the moment: The canon of sacraments” in William Abraham, Jason Vickers, and Natalie Van Kirk, eds., *Canonical Theism: A Proposal for Theology and the Church* (Grand Rapids: Eerdsman, 2008), 78.]

Van Kirk’s statement is helpful in thinking about the shape of the work for this course. Sacraments have “something to do with God’s grace” and “somehow bind” the body of Christ together. What is the “something” and how does the “somehow” happen? What is a sacrament? What does a sacrament do? For whom? How do sacramental theologies interact with or reflect other theological concerns, e.g., creation, Christology, pneumatology, and ecclesiology? We will attempt to answer these questions by exploring responses to them across several historical periods and theological traditions.

Course Objectives

1. Read and analyze formative and contemporary writings in the area of sacramental theology.
2. Develop a theological understanding of Christian sacraments and sacramentality.
3. Explore the practice of Christian sacraments in their theological context.

Required Texts and Readings

Texts:

- Boff, Leonardo. *Sacraments of Life, Life of the Sacraments* (Washington, DC: Pastoral Press, 1987). ISBN 978-0912405384. \$7.95.
- Bordeyne, Philippe and Bruce Morrill, eds. *Sacraments: Revelation of the Humanity of God* (Collegeville: Liturgical Press, 2008). ISBN 978-0814662182. \$29.95
- Chauvet, Louis-Marie. *The Sacraments: The Word of God at the Mercy of the Body* (Collegeville: Liturgical Press, 2001). ISBN 978-0814661437. \$34.95
- Jeanes, Gordon. *Signs of God's Promise: Thomas Cranmer's Sacramental Theology and the Book of Common Prayer* (T & T Clark, 2008). ISBN 978-0567031891 \$49.95 [Note: The assigned reading is approximately half the book.]
- Power, David N. *Sacrament: The Language of God's Giving* (Crossroad, 1999). ISBN 978-0824517984. \$34.95.
- Ross, Susan. *Extravagant Affections: A Feminist Sacramental Theology* (New York: Continuum, 1998) ISBN 978-0826413208. \$24.95.

Schillebeeckx, Edward. *Christ the Sacrament of the Encounter with God* (Kansas City: Sheed and Ward, 1963; reprint 1987). ISBN 978-0934134729. \$22.95.

Readings:

Those readings not available as weblinks are available as pdf files on Moodle. The weblinks are also provided there.

Ambrose of Milan, [“The Mysteries”](#)

Thomas Aquinas, [Summa Theologiae, Third Part, Qq. 60-64, 73-79](#)

John Baillie, *A Theology of the Sacraments* (New York: Charles Scribners’ Sons, 1957), 37-124.

John Calvin, [Institutes of the Christian Religion, Book IV.14 and 17.](#)

Cyril of Jerusalem, Mystagogical Lectures 4-5,

Lecture 4: [“On the Body and Blood of Christ”](#)

Lecture 5: [“On the Sacred Liturgy and Communion”](#)

Emmanuel J. Cutrone, “Sacraments” in Allen D. Fitzgerald, OSA, ed., *Augustine through the Ages* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1999), 741-747.

Gustavo Gutierrez, “The Church: Sacrament of History” in *Essential Writings*, James Nickoloff, ed. (Minneapolis: Fortress, 1996), 242-254.

Robert Jenson, *Visible Words* (Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1978), 3-60.

Peter Lombard, [The Four Books of the Sentences, Book IV “Doctrine of Signs”](#)

Martin Luther, “A Treatise on the New Testament, that is, the Holy Mass” in *Luther’s Works*, vol. 35, ed. E. Theodore Bachmann (Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1960), 77-111.

_____, [“The Babylonian Captivity of the Church”](#) in *Luther’s Works*, vol. 36, ed. E. Theodore Bachmann (Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1960), 11-126.

Herbert McCabe, “The Eucharist as Language,” *Modern Theology* 15 (April 1999): 131-141.

Catherine Pickstock, “Liturgy, Art and Politics,” *Modern Theology* 16.2 (April 2000): 159-180.

_____, “Thomas Aquinas and the Quest for the Eucharist,” *Modern Theology* 15 (April 1999): 159-180.

David Power, ed., “Sacramental Theology: A Review of Literature,” *Theological Studies* 55 (1994): 657-705.

Karl Rahner, “What is a sacrament” *Worship*, 47.5 (May 1973): 274-284.

_____, “Personal and Sacramental Piety” *Theological Investigations II: Man in the Church*, trans. Karl-H. Kruger (Baltimore: Helicon, 1963), 109-133.

Paul Tillich, “Nature and Sacrament” in *The Protestant Era*, trans. James Luther Adams (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1948), 94-112.

Rowan Williams, “The Nature of a Sacrament” and “Sacraments of the New Society” in *On Christian Theology* (Malden, MA: Blackwell, 2000), 197-221.

Ulrich Zwingli, “On the Lord’s Supper” in *Zwingli and Bullinger*, trans. G.W. Bromiley, *The Library of Christian Classics*, vol. 24 (Philadelphia: Westminster, 1953), 176-238. (NB: Because of size, this is divided into two parts as a pdf.)

Course Requirements

1. Prepare for and participate in class discussions by completion of all reading and writing assignments. Note the reading assignment in preparation for the **first** class session.
2. Each week one student will provide primary leadership in discussion of the assigned readings. The presenter(s) will provide written (approximately 5 pages) and verbal overviews of the primary issues addressed in the readings. Each PhD student is expected to provide such leadership in two class sessions, each masters student in one session. The following should serve as a guideline for your paper/presentation. (20%)
 - a. What does the author say? Summarize the main points in your own words.
 - b. What is her or his concern or the issue that she addresses? Is the stated concern the only one or is there another unstated, and perhaps more important, one?
 - c. Against what or whom does the author seem to be arguing?
 - d. What does the author say he or she will do in the text? What does he or she actually do?
 - e. What are the author's presuppositions, basic images, agenda?
 - f. What is the author's method? How does she or he actually proceed in the text? How does he or she identify data from the sources, correlate the data, and identify new insights?
 - g. Is what the author says adequate? Does it fit with the best understanding of the tradition and cultural knowledge?

(adapted from Patricia O'Connell Killen and John De Beer, *The Art of Theological Reflection*, Crossroad, 1994, 107-109.)

Conclude your presentation with one or two discussion questions. *Upload your paper to Moodle by noon on the day of class.*

3. Each PhD student is to identify and select one contemporary work in sacramental theology and prepare a book review of 750-1000 words. Masters students should prepare a review of one of the required texts. For assistance in this, see the following websites:
<http://www.indiana.edu/~wts/pamphlets/book_reviews.shtml> and
<http://subjectguides.uwaterloo.ca/find_book_reviews>. Due November 6. (10%)
4. PhD students write a 6500-7500 word research paper on a select topic in sacramental theology. The topic should be chosen in consultation with the instructor. The paper should demonstrate your acquaintance with and mastery of the core readings as well as additional research. Masters students write a 5000-6000 word research or integrative paper on a select topic in sacramental theology. The topic should be chosen in consultation with the instructor. The paper should demonstrate your acquaintance with and mastery of the core readings. The papers should also demonstrate your mastery and appropriate use of academic documentation/ citation mechanisms as found in Turabian, *A Manual for Writers*,

chapter 16.1 (note/bibliography format). Students will present a preliminary report to the class on December 2, the finished paper will be due the week following the final class, on December 12. (50%)

Schedule and Reading Assignments

- 1. September 2** **Beginnings**
Readings: Ambrose of Milan, "The Mysteries"
Cyril of Jerusalem, *Mystagogical Lectures* 4-5
Cutrone, "Sacraments" (and Augustine)
D. Power, *Sacrament*, Chaps. 1-2, 7

- 2. September 9** **Catholic Foundations**
Readings: Aquinas, *ST*, III, Qq. 60-64, 73-79
Lombard, *Sentences*, Book IV "Doctrine of Signs"

- 3. September 16** **Catholic Developments: Conciliar Period**
Readings: Schillebeeckx, *Christ the Sacrament of the Encounter with God*
Rahner, "What is a sacrament"
Rahner, "Personal and Sacramental Piety"

- 4. September 23** **Catholic Developments: Post-Conciliar Period**
Readings: Chauvet, *The Sacraments*

- 5. September 30** **Protests and Reforms (1): Luther and Zwingli**
Readings: (MA/MDiv choose Luther *or* Zwingli)
Luther, "A Treatise on the New Testament, that is, the Holy Mass," and "The Babylonian Captivity of the Church"
Zwingli, "On the Lord's Supper"

- 6. October 7** **Protests and Reforms (2): Calvin and Cranmer**
Readings: Calvin, *Institutes*, Book IV.14 and 17
Jeanes, *Signs of God's Promise*, 53-186

- 7. October 14** **Protestant Developments**
Readings: (MA/MDiv choose Baillie *or* Jenson; all read Tillich)
Baillie, *A Theology of the Sacraments*, 37-124.
Jenson, *Visible Words*, 3-60.
Tillich, "Nature and Sacrament"

- 8. October 21** **New Foundations**
Readings: Power, *Sacrament*, Chaps. 3-6, 8-10
Power, ed., "Sacramental Theology: A Review of Literature"

- 9. October 28** **New Perspectives (1)**
Readings: Boff, *Sacraments of Life*
Gutierrez, "The Church: Sacrament of History"

10. November 4 **New Perspectives (2)**
Readings: Ross, *Extravagant Affections*

Book Review Due

11. November 11 **New Perspectives (3)**
Readings: Bordeyne and Morrill, *Sacraments: Revelation of the Humanity of God*, chaps. 1-2, 4, 6, 9, 11-12

12. November 18 **New Perspectives (4)**
Readings: McCabe, "Eucharist as Language"
 Pickstock, "Liturgy, Art, and Politics"
 Pickstock, "Aquinas and the Quest for the Eucharist"
 Williams, "The Nature of a Sacrament" and
 "Sacraments of the New Society"

November 25 **Thanksgiving Break**

13. December 2 **Sacraments and Sacramentality**
 Report on Research

December 12: Research Paper due.