



CM513 Trinitarian Worship

Short Syllabus

Instructor: Lance McKinnon

(Instructor may be contacted through GCS course website)

Course description

CM513 addresses the corporate (public) worship that is conducted by local churches. It does so by exploring how doxology (worship) flows from and is informed by incarnational Trinitarian theology. The course also looks at the history of the development of the church's liturgy of worship and other related issues. The aim of the course is to equip pastors, worship leaders, and others responsible for planning and conducting worship with a theological-historical framework along with useful tools to assist them in this vital aspect of Jesus Christ's work in and through the church.

Estimated workload: For a student to do well in this course, the student will need to invest a total of 150 hours, or about 13 hours per week of reading, participating on the website, and writing papers.

Required textbooks

Navarro, Kevin J. *Trinitarian Doxology: T.F and J.B. Torrance's Theology of Worship as Participation by the Spirit in the Son's Communion with the Father*. Eugene, OR: Wipf and Stock Publishers, 2020. ISBN: 978-1-7252-5098-7, 197 pages. Approximate price: \$28.

Gross, Bobby. *Living the Christian Year: Time to Inhabit the Story of God*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 2009. ISBN: 978-1-7252-5098-7, 322 pages. Approximate price: \$15.

Cosper, Mike. *Rhythms of Grace: How the Church's Worship Tells the Story of the Gospel*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2013. ISBN: 978-1-4335-3344-0, 189 pages. Approximate price: \$17.

Navarro, Kevin J. *The Complete Worship Service: Creating a Taste of Heaven on Earth*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2005. ISBN: 0-8010-9183-7, 164 pages. Approximate price: \$15.

Please obtain these books before the class begins. To find the lowest prices on these books, you may find it helpful to use www.bookfinder.com.

Recommended textbooks

Chapell, Bryan. *Christ-Centered Worship: Letting the Gospel Shape Our Practice*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2009.

Student learning outcomes

This course fits primarily into the fourth GCS student learning outcome: Conduct the work of pastoral ministry in witness to and representation of Jesus Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Through this course, students will be able to:

- Explain the incarnational Trinitarian theological and biblical/historical foundations of the church's liturgy worship, both weekly and annual.
- Explain how the church's worship when Christ-centered and gospel-shaped is real sharing by the Spirit in the work of our High Priest Jesus Christ in his service as our Supreme Worship Leader.
- Explain how to conduct the primary elements of a Christ-centered and gospel-shaped liturgy of worship, including Communion, preaching, music, offerings, etc.
- Explain the importance of worship in forming the people of God for their calling to be worshipers of God. Relate that formation process to the work of the worship team and their own spiritual formation.

Requirements and assignments

1. **Read the lectures.** Lectures will be posted each Monday for the first ten weeks. See the *Academic Catalog* for study suggestions. You should look up any scripture references in the lectures.
1. **Participate.** In most courses, part of the learning that occurs comes through discussion and interaction with other students. In an online class, this is done through comments posted on a discussion forum. This counts for 40 percent of the final grade.
2. **Read the textbooks.** They total about 645 pages, or about 65 pages each week.
3. **Midterm reflection paper.** This counts for 15 percent of the final grade. We estimate that you will need about 13 hours to work on this paper.
4. **Final integrative paper.** This counts for 45 percent of the final grade. We estimate that you will need about 45 hours to work on this paper.

(For a guide to formatting your papers, see “How to Format a GCS Paper,” posted at <http://www.gcs.edu/course/view.php?id=23>.)

Assignments, estimated hours, and grade weighting

Assignment	Hours *	Percentage of grade
Reading the syllabus and lectures	13	
Watching video and listening to audio	4	
Reading the textbooks	48	
Reading discussions and making responses	27	40
Writing midterm reflection paper	13	15
Writing final integrative paper	45	45
Total – about 13 hours each week	150	100

* Some students will complete the course requirements in less total time, and some will take more time. A student who reads quickly may be slow in writing papers, and vice versa.

Weekly topics and assignments (tentative)

Week	Topic	Assignments to be done during the week
1	Course Overview & Foundations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read lecture 1 • Read <i>Trinitarian Doxology</i> through chapter 3 • Watch the video “On Three Meanings of the Term Worship” • Post a short biography on the discussion forum
2	Christ-Centered Worship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read lecture 2 • Read <i>Trinitarian Doxology</i> chapters 4 & 5 • Read <i>Living the Christian Year</i> pp. 9-32 • Post on the discussion forum
3	The History of Christian Worship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read lecture 3 • Read <i>Trinitarian Doxology</i> chapter 7 • Read <i>Rhythms of Grace</i> chapters 1-4 • Post on the discussion forum
4	Gospel-Shaped Worship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read lecture 4 • Read <i>Rhythms of Grace</i> chapters 8 and Appendix A • Read <i>The Complete Worship Service</i> chapters 1-3 • Post on the discussion forum
5	Worship Calendar & Lectionary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read lecture 5 • Read <i>Living the Christian Year</i> pp. 35-48, 61-74, 81-94, 125-139, 162-175, 185-199, 223-237, 319-322 • Watch “The Story of God” video • Post on the discussion forum
6	Worship Elements:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read lecture 6

	The Service of the Word	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read <i>Trinitarian Doxology</i> chapter 6 • Read <i>The Complete Worship Service</i> chapter 11 • Watch two videos illustrating worship services • Post on the discussion forum • Submit mid-term paper
7	Worship Elements: The Service of the Table	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read lecture 7 • Read <i>Rhythms of Grace</i> chapters 5-7 • Read <i>The Complete Worship Service</i> chapter 12 • Read “Evangelistic Worship” paper by Tim Keller • Post on the discussion form
8	Worship Service Enhancements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read lecture 8 • Read <i>Rhythms of Grace</i> chapter 9 and Appendix C • Read <i>The Complete Worship Service</i> chapters 4 and 10 • Read the paper “Building a Successful Digital Ministry” • Post on the discussion form
9	Developing a Worship Ministry Team	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read lecture 9 • Read <i>Rhythms of Grace</i> chapter 10 • Read <i>The Complete Worship Service</i> chapters 5-9 • Post on the discussion form
10	Worship Ministry Team Spiritual Formation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read lecture 10 • Read <i>Trinitarian Doxology</i> conclusion • Read <i>The Complete Worship Service</i> chapter 13 • Read <i>Living the Christian Year</i> Epilogue • Post on the discussion form

11-12	Final paper	Submit a final paper that sets forth and explains/defends all elements of a weekly worship service. Upload it to the GCS website by no later than the end of the Sunday ending week 12.
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