THEO 20412 - CHRISTIAN INITIATION AND EUCHARIST

Tuesday/Thursday: 11:45-1:00pm

Professor Maxwell E. Johnson
Office: 432 Malloy Hall
Office Hours: TBA
Or by Appointment (#1-4118)

Course Description

The Rites of Christian Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation, and First Eucharist) and the Eucharistic Liturgy as the primary sacramental celebrations of and in the Church: their biblical and anthropological foundations, historical evolution, contemporary forms and pastoral effectiveness.

Goals and Objectives

Through this course students will demonstrate:

1. an understanding of the historical evolution of Initiation and Eucharist in the life of the Church;
2. a critical understanding of the theological interpretation(s) of these primary sacramental rites within both the Roman Catholic and other (selected) Christian traditions;
3. a thorough awareness of the contemporary forms of these rites especially within the Roman Catholic tradition;
4. the ability to participate actively in these rites (if so desired) with intelligence and understanding.

Course Requirements

The above goals and objectives will be met by:

1. Attendance at all class sessions. More than three unexcused absences will automatically lower the final grade.
2. Full, active, and conscious participation in class through preparation of assigned reading, discussion, Q/A, etc.
3. Three short papers assigned in the syllabus (due on the dates)
indicated).
4. Two Take-Home Unit Exams and a Final Exam as announced on the syllabus.
5. Occasional quizzes, announced or unannounced.

GRADING for this course is based on the successful completion of Numbers 1-5 above. The grade A is reserved for "exceptional work," (95 - 100%) a level significantly above what is required; A- (92-94%); B+ (89-91%) = very good work, the excellent completion of the necessary requirements; B (85-88%) = good work in successful completion of what was expected and required; B- (80-84%); C+ (77-79%); C (74-76%); C- (70-73%); D (65-69%); F (below 65%). Grades will be computed according to the following point system:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unit Exams</td>
<td>50 points each (100 points total)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>100 points total (comprehensive)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Papers</td>
<td>25 points each (75 points total)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes</td>
<td>10 points each (total points will vary)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class Participation</td>
<td>30 points total (30 points total)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CLASS RULES:

1) no lap tops
2) cell phones in off or vibrate settings – no texting, etc.
3) no reading of The Observer or other materials
4) no sleeping in class

REQUIRED TEXTS:


*Celebrating the Eucharist* (supplied gratis from The Liturgical Press, Collegeville, MN)


The Roman Catholic *Rites of Christian Initiation of Adults, The Baptism of Children, and the Rite of Confirmation* are available at: 
http://www.liturgyoffice.org.uk/Resources/Rites/RiteRitual.html

The World Council of Churches’ Faith and Order document, *Baptism, Eucharist and Ministry* is available at:

**THEO 445 - CHRISTIAN INITIATION AND EUCHARIST**

**TENTATIVE SCHEDULE AND CLASS TOPICS**

**INTRODUCTORY MATTERS**

W, Jan. 16: INTRODUCTION
   1. Introduction to the Course
   2. What is Liturgy? What are Sacraments?
   3. The Anthropological Roots of Initiation: Initiation as a "Rite of Passage"

**PART ONE: HISTORICAL EVOLUTION/INTERPRETATION OF INITIATION**

*Note:* Reading assignments are correlated with the topic(s) assigned to each class session and are to be prepared in advance.

M, Jan. 21: Christian Initiation Yesterday and Today

W, Jan. 23: The Biblical Roots of Christian Initiation:
   **Assigned Reading:** Mark 1, Matthew 3, Matthew 28, Luke 3, John 1, John 3, Romans 6, Titus 3; G. Austin, *Anointing with the Spirit*, pp. 3-10; and Johnson, *Rites*, Chapter 1.

M, Jan. 28:
   **Historical Evolution/Interpretation of Initiation I**: The *Didache* and the *Apologies* of Justin Martyr; Tertullian, and the *Apostolic Tradition*, etc.
Assigned Reading: G. Austin, *Anointing with the Spirit*, pp. 3-10; and Johnson, *Rites*, Chapters 2 and 3.

W, Jan. 30:  
**Historical Evolution/Interpretation of Initiation II**: Initiation in the Christian East during the Fourth and Fifth Centuries  
Assigned Reading: Johnson, *Rites*, Chapter 4.

M, Feb. 4:  
**Historical Evolution/Interpretation of Initiation III**: Initiation in the Christian West during the Fourth and Fifth Centuries  
Assigned Reading: Johnson, *Rites*, Chapter 5

W, Feb. 6:  
**Historical Evolution/Interpretation of Initiation IV**: Baptismal Controversies in the Early Church - Cyprian of Carthage and Augustine of Hippo  
Assigned Reading: Johnson, *Rites*, Chapter 3 (review section on Cyprian of Carthage) and Chapter 5 (materials on Augustine, Donatism, and Pelagianism)

M, Feb. 11:  
**Historical Evolution/Interpretation of Initiation V**: The Development of Easter Baptism and its Preparation Period  
Assigned Reading: Johnson, *Rites*, Excursus.

W, Feb. 13:  
**Historical Evolution/Interpretation of Initiation VI**: Initiation in the Medieval West  

M, Feb. 18: **Historical Evolution/Interpretation of Initiation VII**: Initiation in the Christian East  
Assigned Reading: G. Johnson, *Rites*, Chapter 7;

W, Feb. 20:  
**Historical Evolution/Interpretation of Initiation VII**: Initiation in the Sixteenth-Century Protestant and Catholic Reformations  
Assigned Reading: G. Austin, *Anointing*, pp. 11-37; Johnson, *Rites*, Chapter 8

Take-Home Exam #1 Distributed

PART TWO: MODERN RITES OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION
Short Essay Assignment #1: Describe an "initiation" rite, ceremony, or process you have been through and what it was for. OR: What does the RCIA mean by "conversion"? (No more than four double-spaced pages) - Due on Mar 3.

M, Feb. 25: The Roman Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) -
1. The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA):
   a. Anthropology of initiation processes
   b. RCIA: Its Structure and Dynamic

Assigning Reading: A Kavanagh, "Christian Initiation in Postconciliar Catholicism," (on reserve in Living Water, Sealing Spirit); Johnson, Rites, chapter 9

W, Feb. 27: RCIA: The Rites in Detail
1. Take-Home Exam #1 Due!
   Assigning Reading: same as above for Feb 21

M, March 4: Rite of Baptism for Children (RBC)

W, March 6: The Roman Rite of Confirmation
1. Assigning Reading: Austin, pp. 41-64; Johnson, Rites, chapter 9; Turner, “Confusion Over Confirmation” (supplied)

Short Essay #1 due!

Short Essay Assignment #2: Why I will (Not) Have My Children Baptized as Infants. OR: It is Right (Wrong) for churches to Baptize Babies. (4 page limit) -- Due on March 24

March 11-22 – Mid-Semester Break

M, March 18: Ecumenical Convergence in Initiation Theology and Celebration
1. a. Baptism, Eucharist, and Ministry (World Council of Churches)
   b. Selected Rites from Contemporary Protestant Traditions

Take-Home Exam #2 Distributed

**PART THREE: THE EUCHARISTIC LITURGY**

**W, March 20: Introduction to the Eucharistic Liturgy**

1. Anthropological Foundations for Eucharist
2. Biblical Roots of the Eucharist


**Short Essay Assignment #3:** Describe a Eucharist celebrated in a Christian tradition other than your own and say how it seemed to affect the assembly what effect it had on you (*4 page limit*) -- **Due on April 24.**

**M, March 25: Historical Development of the Eucharistic Liturgy I:** The Early Churches before Nicea

**Assigned Reading:** Bradshaw and Johnson, pp. 25-60; Cabié, pp. 21-46 (on reserve); Macy, *Banquet’s Wisdom*, pp. 37-66 (on reserve);

**W, March 27: Historical Development of the Eucharistic Liturgy II:** The Early Churches after Nicea

**Assigned Reading:** Bradshaw and Johnson, pp. 61-137; Cabié, pp. 21-46 (on reserve); Macy, *Banquet’s Wisdom*, pp. 37-66 (on reserve);

**Second Short Essay Due Today**

**M, April 1: Easter Monday – No Class**

**W, APR 3: Historical Development of the Eucharistic Liturgy III:** The Medieval Period in East and West

**Assigned Reading:** Bradshaw and Johnson, 137-232; Cabié, pp. 47-84; Macy, *Banquet’s Wisdom*, pp. 67-101;

**M, APR 8: Historical Development of the Eucharistic Liturgy IV:** Medieval Eucharistic Controversies

**Assigned Reading:** Review Bradshaw and Johnson, 193-232; Cabié, pp. 75-84; Macy, *Banquet’s Wisdom*, pp. 102-135;

**W, APR 10: Historical Development of the Eucharistic Liturgy IV:**

Reformation and Counter-Reform
Assigned Reading: Bradshaw and Johnson, 233-292; Cabié, pp. 85-99; Macy, pp. 135-188;

M, April 15: Eucharistic Liturgies Today
The Eucharistic Liturgy of Vatican II:
  a. Introductory Rites
  b. Liturgy of the Word
Assigned Reading: Bradshaw and Johnson, 293-357; Order of Mass from Celebrating the Eucharist (supplied); Cabié, pp. 101-147.

W, April 17:
The Eucharistic Liturgy of Vatican II:
  a. Preparation of the Gifts
  b. Eucharistic Prayer
Assigned Reading: Same as above

M, April 22:
The Eucharistic Liturgy of Vatican II:
  a. Communion Rite
  b. Concluding Rites
Assigned Reading: Same as above

W, April 24: Contemporary Eucharistic Theology/Ecumenical Convergence

Third Short Essay Due Today!

Assigned Reading: Bradshaw and Johnson, pp. 336-357; USCCB, The Real Presence of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist: Questions and Answers, United States Catholic Conference, 2001; Section on Eucharist in Baptism, Eucharist, and Ministry

M, April 29: Contemporary Protestant Eucharistic Rites I

Assigned Reading: Review Bradshaw and Johnson, pp. 318-336.

W, May 1: Final Class Session

FINAL EXAM AS SCHEDULED DURING FINALS WEEK