

COLLEGE OF THE HOLY CROSS
DEPARTMENT OF RELIGIOUS STUDIES
RELS 217: THE EUCHARIST: HISTORY AND THEOLOGY
SPRING 2003

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Office: Smith 421

Office Hours: M 11:00-11:55; T 2:00-2:55; W 2:00-2:55; and by appointment

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Course Description:

This course provides a detailed study of the historical development and theological significance of the Eucharist in Christian tradition. Underlying concepts in sacramental theology will also be covered in terms of Eucharistic ritual. Special attention will be paid to the Roman Catholic experience, but other Christian traditions will be discussed.

Course Objectives:

By the end of this course, students should be able to discuss their own experiences of the Eucharist in terms of the various historical and theological issues that have shaped present practice. They should be able to articulate clearly the main areas of historical controversy, and to analyze the constituent components of the Eucharistic action. Finally, students should be able to relate aspects of Eucharistic theology to wider theological and cultural issues under consideration at present.

Class Policies:

- A. Class material, a course calendar, and announcements will all be available on **Blackboard**. More details will be given in class.

- B. Class attendance is expected, and is especially important for a seminar course. If at all possible, please call my office and leave a message if you expect to be absent from a class. The student is responsible for making up work (class notes, hand-outs, etc.) if a class is missed. More than two unexcused absences may cause serious problems in understanding course material.

- C. Essays and papers are due on the day assigned; unexcused late work will receive grading penalties. All assignments are to be typed using standard margins and an 11 or 12 point font. Assignments may be turned in as e-files using the **Drop Box** feature of **Blackboard**.

Course Requirements:

- A. Readings: Several groups of readings will be assigned for each class meeting: some are background (secondary sources, like the Foley and Emminghaus textbooks), and others are primary (from primary sources written during the period under discussion, like the material in *Prayers of the Eucharist*). The background readings are assigned to clarify the primary source selections; you may find some parts more helpful or relevant than others. Try to skim or “sample” the primary and source readings until you come to one or two key ideas that interest you in some way (e.g. something you didn’t know before, something you agree/disagree with, something that seems especially striking or unusual). If you find one selection or section uninteresting, move on to another.

Readings assigned for a class must be read before the class meeting.

- B. Discussion sheets: Students will be asked to hand in short discussion sheets (2 full pages) for each class in preparation for class discussion. These discussion sheets will present what you see to be the one or two key issues or ideas covered in the reading assigned for that class. The discussion sheets should also include some of your own reflections on why these issues seems to be important. Each discussion sheet should conclude with a general question for further group discussion in class. These discussion sheets will serve as starting points for class discussion on the seminar topic for that day. There are eleven (11) discussion sheets assigned; the lowest grade will be dropped.
- C. There will be several times during the semester when students will have the opportunity to visit various Christian churches, to attend the celebration of the eucharist. Each student will be required to write a substantial reflection essay on **one** of these church visits (length: 8-12 pages). These will be discussed and planned once the course has begun.
- D. Each student will be asked to write a substantial bibliographic essay on a topic of his/her choice having to do with some aspect of the eucharist (length: 8-12 pages). Students should use primary source material when possible (in translation) as well as secondary sources. Students **must** consult with the professor on their choice of topic. Brief student presentations of bibliographic essays will take place during the last class/es. Further details will be given in class.

Grade Evaluation:

- 50% = Discussion sheets (average of 10)
25% = Church Visit Reflection Essay
25% = Final Essay

100% = Final Grade

Class participation will also have an influence on the final grade, especially in the case of borderline grades.

Required Texts:

J. Emminghaus, *The Eucharist: Essence, Form, Celebration*.

E. Foley. *From Age to Age: How Christians Have Celebrated the Eucharist*.

R.C.D. Jasper and G. Cuming, eds. *Prayers of the Eucharist, Early and Reformed*. (=PEER)

Recommended Texts:

R. Kevin Seasoltz, ed. *Living Bread, Saving Cup: Readings on the Eucharist*. (=LBSC)

J. Gonzalez. *Church History: An Essential Guide*.

On Reserve:

Caroline Walker Bynum. *Holy Feast and Holy Fast*.

Jan Michael Joncas, "Tasting the Kingdom of God: The Meal Ministry of Jesus and Its implications for Contemporary Worship and Life," *Worship* 74 (4/2000): 329-365.

G. Macy. *The Banquet's Wisdom*. [Optional reading]

Kenan Osborne, *Sacramental Theology: An Introduction*.

Joanne M. Pierce, "Early Medieval Liturgy: Some Implications for Contemporary Liturgical Practice," *Worship* 65 (6/1991): 509-522.

Miri Rubin, *Corpus Christi: The Eucharist in Late Medieval Culture*.

Additional material **will** be assigned and will be made available through hand-outs, or on reserve in the library. A copy of all of these texts will be available on reserve in the library. A list of suggested Web sites for selected topics will be distributed later.

Note: Materials on the Net are helpful, but these *must* be used with caution. *Always* check the source of a document (usually noted at the end of the document with a copyright). *Remember* that search engines will list all materials that refer in any way to the search term(s), and some of these may contain the sheer opinion of private individuals or groups (as opposed to newspaper articles, for example). *Never* reply or send comments to a person unknown to you, and be very wary of entering into chat room discussions.

Course Outline:

Class meeting:

Assignment

1) Jan. 15

Introduction to course
Sign, symbol, sacrament, myth
(For this class: Osborne, Chs. Two-Four; Rouillard in
LBSC, pp. 126-137. Optional: Macy, Ch. 1).

For next class: Discussion sheet #1 on Greco-Roman and Jewish Origins
Readings: PEER 1; Foley, Ch. One; Rouillard in LBSC, pp. 137-140;
and Joncas, pp., 329-345.

2) Jan. 22

Topic: Greco-Roman and Jewish Origins

For next class: Discussion sheet #2 on New
Testament evidence.
Readings: Emminghaus, Part I, Ch. 1; PEER 2, 3; Rouillard, pp. 140-
157; Joncas, p. 345-end; Legrand article in LBSC to p. 200. Optional:
Macy, Ch. 2, pp. 15-18.

3) Jan. 29

Topic: New Testament Evidence

For next class: Discussion sheet #3 on Early Church.
Readings: Emminghaus, Part I, Ch 2, to p. 50; PEER 4-6, 11, 13, 18;
Foley, Ch. Two; Legrand, pp. 201-215, 218-221. Optional: Macy, Ch.
2, pp. 18-36.

4) Feb. 5

Topic: The Early Church

For next class: Discussion sheet #4 on the Eucharist before 700 AD.
Readings: Emminghaus, Part I, Ch. 2, pp. 50-64; Foley, Ch. Three;
PEER 19-22. Optional: Macy, Ch. 3..

5) Feb. 12

Topic: The Shape of the Eucharist Before 700

For next class: Discussion sheet #5 on the Medieval Mass
in the West (I). Emminghaus, pp. 64-70; Foley, Ch. Four; PEER 23, 24;
Rubin, ch. 1; Pierce article. Optional: Macy, Ch, 4.

6) Feb. 19

Topic: The Medieval Mass in the West (I)

For next class: Discussion sheet #6 on the Medieval Mass

in the West (II). Readings: Emminghaus, pp. 70-82; Foley, Ch. Five; Walker Bynum, Chs, 2, 7-8; and Rubin, Ch. 2. Optional: Macy, Ch. 5.

7) Feb. 26

Topic: The Medieval Mass in the West (II)

For next class: Discussion sheet #7 on Protestant Reformation and Catholic Response.

Readings: Emminghaus, pp. 83-88; PEER 25, 26, 29, 32, 33, 34; Foley, Ch. Six; texts of Tridentine rite Mass on reserve. Optional: Macy, Chs. 6-7. [further reading TBA]

8) Mar. 5

[Spring Break]

9) Mar. 12

Topic: Protestant Reformation and Catholic Response

For next class: Discussion sheet #9 on Vatican II Reforms: Introductory Rites and Liturgy of the Word

Readings: Emminghaus, Part I, Chapter 2, section F; Part Two, Chapters 1 and 2; Foley, Ch. Seven; Smits (to p. 294) article in LBSC; Optional: Macy, Ch. 8. Review *Saint Joseph Sunday Missal*, on reserve.

10) Mar. 19

Topics: The Reforms of Vatican II: Introductory Rites and Liturgy of the Word.

For next class: Discussion sheet #10 on Reforms of Vatican II: Liturgy of the Eucharist, Communion, and Concluding Rites.

Readings: Emminghaus, Part II, Chs. 3 and 4; Smits (to p. 304) article in LBSC. Review *Saint Joseph Sunday Missal*, on reserve.

11) Mar. 26

Topics: Reforms of Vatican II: Liturgy of the Eucharist, Communion, and Concluding Rites.

For next class: Discussion sheet #11 on Eucharistic Prayers. Dallen article in LBSC [Optional: second Kavanagh article in LBSC.] Examine eucharistic prayers in *Saint Joseph Sunday Missal*. Other readings TBA.

12) Apr. 2

Topic: Eucharistic Prayers.

For next class: Discussion sheet #11 on The Presence of Christ in the Eucharist.
Readings: Power, Schillebeeckx, and Gray articles in LBSC.

- 13) Apr. 9 Theological Issue: The Presence of Christ in the Eucharist
- 14) Apr. 16 Class presentations of final paper topics [start with 6 students].
- 15) Apr. 23 Class presentations of final paper topics [finish with 10 students].
- [16) Apr. 30 Study Period]

Monday, May 5 -- *Final Papers due*

NOTE: The above schedule and procedures in this course are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances.