

CH 330- Presbyterian Church (USA) History, Worship and Polity
United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities
Spring 2010

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DESCRIPTION

This course is designed to equip students to become effective presbyters as ordained ministers of Word and Sacrament. It addresses Presbyterian Church (USA) history, worship, polity, and contemporary issues affecting the life of the Church. Students are expected to enroll during the year prior to taking ordination examinations.

OBJECTIVES

By the end of this course, students

- will have begun to develop an overview of the history and character of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), in a way that deepens understanding of the present state of the denomination
- will have a basic grounding in the three parts of the *Book of Order*
- will have developed an appreciation for the *Book of Common Worship*
- will have worked with the material needed for ordination examinations in Polity and Worship

APPOINTMENTS

Barbara Anne is available for appointments in three modes. You may set a time to meet with her in person or by telephone. If you are unable to be on campus but would like to meet face-to-face, she is also experimenting with meeting by Skype at **professorkeely**. She will post possible meeting times each week.

TEXTBOOKS

- The Theology and Worship Ministry Unit. *Book of Common Worship*. Louisville: Westminster/John Knox Press, 1993.
- *The Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)*. Part II: Book of Order, 2007-2009. Louisville: Office of the General Assembly, PCUSA Item # OGA07001
- Gray, Joan S. and Joyce C. Tucker. *Presbyterian Polity for Church Officers*. Third edition. Louisville: Geneva Press, 1999. ISBN-13: 9780664500184
- Smylie, James H. *A Brief History of the Presbyterians*. Louisville: Geneva Press, 1996.
- *Parliamentary Procedures* (This explains *Roberts Rules of Order* for Presbyterians. Barbara Anne will order them from OGA and will have them available for \$2.50)

ASSIGNMENTS

- The course will meet on campus two times: February 12 and May 21; attendance for on-campus classes is required. The course requires on-line work during each week of the term. This will include readings, posting responses to questions regarding the readings, and responding to classmates' postings.
- If you have any problems working on-line, email both bakeely@unitedseminary.edu and computersupport@unitedseminary.edu. Responses to your concerns will be made during office hours of computer support staff.

- There will be scheduled opportunities to be live on-line with Barbara Anne and other students. Each student is required to participate in these; they will be times of reflection and integration of course material.

Assignments that are part of the course (as seen on Moodle):

- A 4-5 page paper offering a critique of a Service of Worship for the Lord's Day which you attended recently. (If possible, select a service where one of the sacraments is being celebrated.) The basis for the critique will be the "Directory for Worship".
- Attend the meeting of the Presbytery of the Twin Cities area on Saturday, March 13, 2010 at North Como Presbyterian Church OR a meeting of your Presbytery,
- Attend a meeting of a particular congregation's Session, noting how the Session met the constitutional requirements of the "Form of Government" as well as other observations, such as the work of the moderator, the ethos of the meeting, and the use of Robert's Rules.
- Final project: Choose a topic for Session training and prepare a 2 hour workshop.

COURSE SCHEDULE:

February 12th **Class will meet; getting acquainted; the on-line process and schedule**
Introducing Presbyterian Polity

The week of

February 15 **Church Polity and Theology**
Book of Order G-1 (Preliminary Principles), G-2 (Church and Its Confessions),
 G-3 (Church and Its Mission), G-4 (Church And Its Unity)
 Gray and Tucker: Forward, chapters 1 & 9

February 22 **Membership and Leadership**
Book of Order G-5 (membership), G-6 (officers), G-14 (ordination)
 Gray & Tucker, chapters 2, 3, 4, 5, 7

March 1 **Congregational Life and Leadership**
Book of Order G-7 (particular church), G-8 (property) G-9 (governing bodies'
 structure), G-10 (Session),
 Gray and Tucker, chapter 6, 8, 11

March 8 **Presbytery, Synod, General Assembly, Ecumenical Relationships,
 Amendments**
Book of Order G-11, G-12, G-13 G-15, G-16, G-17, G-18
 Gray & Tucker, chapters 10 and 12

March 15 **Practice Ordination Exams: *Form of Government***

March 22 Reading week

March 29 (Two weeks, including Easter vacation, which is April 1-6)
 to April 9 **Worship: Service for the Lord's Day**

Book of Order W-1 through 3
Gray & Tucker, chapter 14 (171-181)
Book of Common Worship (sections)

On-line chats with Barbara Anne: observations of Presbytery meetings

April 12 **Worship throughout the life of the Church**
Book of Order W-4 through 7
Gray & Tucker, chapter 14 (181-187)
Book of Common Worship (sections)

April 19 **Worship and personal spiritual life**
Book of Common Worship (sections)
Due: paper analyzing Worship Service

April 26 **Practice Ordination Exams: *Directory for Worship***
On-line chats with Barbara Anne: observations of Session meetings

May 3 **Church Discipline & Trials**
Rules of Discipline (all)
Gray & Tucker, chapter 13

May 10 **Presbyterian History**
Smylie, *A Brief History of the Presbyterians* (all)

May 17 **PCUSA Today:** working with current issues

May 21 Class will meet: Final Project due and course evaluations

