

First Draft– Tentative Syllabus

January 2017

LS4103

Liturgy and Learning: Embodied Ritual

Berkeley Immersion

Students will be sent a revised syllabus and preparatory reading packet in early December.

Class will begin at 5pm on January 22 at SKSM.

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Phone: (510) 549-4722

Office Hours: By appointment

Minimum 6 -- Limit: 15

Location: Fireside Room

Time: Sunday - Wednesday, January 22-25, with hours as noted

I. Description:

In this 1.5-credit course, we will explore the theory and practice of congregational worship in the framework of religious identity formation. From the selection of texts and music to the development of lay worship leaders and volunteers, the implicit curriculum of the church is shaped by the leadership choices that are made in the preparation of rituals and liturgies. With attention to multicultural and multigenerational arts and ministries of inclusion, this course will focus on Unitarian Universalist community life.

II. Course Aims and Learning Objectives:

Aims

Each session will include reflection, study and preparations for participation in communal spiritual leadership roles. The class will take on leadership for daily community rituals and develop skills as leaders of embodied spiritual practices.

Learning Objectives:

Students in the course will be immersed in learning activities that support the goal of developing competence in Worship and Leading the Faith into the Future

By the end of this course, students will have familiarity with:

- preparing holistic, inclusive worship and rituals.
- multicultural and multigenerational approaches to worship.
- collaborative team work with professional colleagues and lay worship leaders.
- the use of arts to create multisensory worship.
- integration of theological theory and practice.

- experimental uses of emerging media technology.

III. Format and Procedures:

Sessions will typically weave three strands of experience:

1. Reflecting on experiences as participants in worship/ritual;
2. Discussion of theological and historical themes in leadership;
3. Involvement in planning vespers/chapel/seasonal celebrations as ritual leader, speaker or participants and/or spiritual care practices for worship leaders

IV. Assumptions

With a context of Unitarian Universalist congregational settings and the practicalities of the SKSM community, we will seek to be a leadership laboratory. Students who seek to follow vocations as (ordained/professional) religious leaders the chance to speak, design, manage, reflect and evaluate the arts of worship, the power and authority of the leader and the will dialogue/creative interchange of the community in building a worship/ritual experience.

V. Course Requirements:

1. Daily class attendance and participation in exercises, conversation and assignments

2. Course readings:

- (a) Required text to read in advance:

Worship That Works: Theory and Practice for Unitarian Universalists

Wayne B. Arnason, Kathleen Rolenz

Publisher: Skinner House Books

ISBN: 1558965262 Edition: Paperback; 2007-10-26

Price: \$16.00

The Power of Stories: A Guide for Leading Multi-Racial and Multi-Cultural Congregations

Jacqueline Lewis

Publisher: Abingdon Press

ISBN: 0687650690

Price: \$16.99

- (b) Suggested texts – these are good resources to have – please note we will have copies of *Singing the Living Tradition* and *Singing the Journey* available in our classroom:

Singing the Living Tradition Hymnal: Pew Edition

ISBN: 9781558962606

Publisher: UUA

Publication Date: 3/1/94

\$28

Singing the Journey: Supplement to Singing the Living Tradition

ISBN: 9781558964990

Publisher: UUA

Publication Date: 6/13/05

\$18

(c) Required web resources:

- Leading Congregations in Worship: A Guide

<http://www.uua.org/worship/theory/leadingcongregations/index.shtml>

- Ted Talks:

1. Body language: Amy Cuddy http://www.ted.com/talks/amy_cuddy_your_body_language_shapes_who_you_are.html
2. Creativity and Technology: John Maeda http://www.ted.com/talks/john_maeda_how_art_technology_and_design_inform_creative_leaders.html

3. Assignments

(a) Prepare an embodied “creation story” to share in class during the Monday session.

You are invited to draw from the stories, narratives and tales from around the world and across time, or to tap into your mythic imagination. Your story can introduce us to any creation, and you are encouraged to use the wholeness of your being in the telling over 2-5 minutes.

(b) work as part of a team to prepare one of the daily class rituals

(c) Research paper or chapel leadership project designed in discussion with instructor

Examples for this assignment include:

1. Taking on leadership for a spring semester Tuesday Chapel service (recruiting/organizing volunteers, writing liturgy, with a reflection conversation or paper to the instructor).
2. Creating a ritual for the SKSM community (recruiting/organizing volunteers, writing liturgy, with a reflection conversation or paper to the instructor).
3. A study of some historic or contemporary aspect of ritual leadership
4. Develop a resource for ritual leaders (at SKSM, in congregation, for online sharing with the world...)

(d) 300-500 word statement of “theology of ritual leadership” due at the first session

For this assignment, you are asked to write about how your tradition/personal experience and religious/spiritual philosophy or theology inform the way you do – or will – practice leadership in ritual/worship.

V. Grading Procedures

It is expected that students will be following the SKSM student handbook guidelines and elect the P/F option. Narrative forms will be completed following the course.

VIII. Tentative Course Schedule

This course is designed as a community immersion and attendance at all sessions is required for completion of the 1.5 credit experience. Please make travel plans accordingly. There will be two required field trips that include additional travel/registration fees. Contact instructor for details.

Sunday, January 22

Gathered by the Fire

Session 1 - 5pm-9:30pm

Shared Meal

Entering Liminal Space: Required Field Trip

8th Street Studios, 2525 8th St, at Dwight, in Berkeley, CA

See: <http://sfbarefootboogie.com/index.html> \$5 entry fee

Monday, January 23

Immersed in Holy Waters

Session 2 – 10am-1pm

Story Telling

Session 3 – 2:00-4:00

Issues in Community Leadership: Mixed Metaphors

Session 4 - Evening Field Trip (options noted in December packet)

Tuesday, January 15

Breathe in Peace

Session 5 – 10am-1pm

Sound Body

Session 6 – 2pm-4:00 pm

“Worship that Works” and leaders who learn

Session 7 - Evening Field Trip (options noted in December packet)

Wednesday, January 16

There was the Word...

Free time (for group work, reflective practices, rest, writing, optional* field trip)

Session 8 - 1-5pm

Issues in Digital, Visual, Visceral Embodiment

Session 9 - 6-10 pm

Vespers and Evening Field Trip