

Tentative Syllabus
August 2018
Songs and Stories for All Ages
RAFT4XXX
Berkeley Immersion

Students will be sent a revised syllabus and Moodle information in Summer 18.

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Office Hours: By appointment, please arrange via email

Minimum 6 -- Limit: 12

Location: Fireside Room

Time: 8/20-24, hours as noted

I. Description:

This course is designed for MDiv students and worship leaders who prepare weekly services. With a combination of lectures, in class exercises, field trips and guest presenters, participants will develop a liturgical calendar filled with songs and stories drawn from folklore, sacred text, life experience and creative collaborations. Musical experimentation and vocalization exercises each day will include creating songs, playing with instruments and deepening an understanding of the role of music in creating mood, flow and resonance for spiritual growth. Readings will explore multi vocal worship leadership in Unitarian Universalist congregational settings. Sessions will include tools and techniques for religious leaders and lay led teams working with or without professional staff. The course will emphasize appropriate use of historic and contemporary resources in faith formation in changing times with a review of generational theory. No experience necessary however a willingness to take risks, engage with creative practices and experimentation will be expected. In class presentations and a final project (in congregation or school setting) will be determined in conversation with the instructor. Relates to particularly to Thresholds: 8, 7, 1 Relates to UUA MFC competencies 1, 3, 7

II. Course Aims and Learning Objectives:

Aims

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

Learning Objectives:

By the end of this course, students will:

- Understand the history and intentions of various liturgical forms and increase in their confidence and ability to lead congregations through familiar and new rites;

- Be able to adapt written material from a variety of sources with attention to the integrity of the original and the issues of appropriation and fair use;
- Increase an understanding of the promotion/communication aspects of building a worship/ritual program within community life;
- Understand the many roles stories and songs play in pastoral and prophetic leadership as well as worship and rites of passage.

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) online resources (items will be linked in our Moodle and instructions on how to respond/reflect will be included in course “pre-work” assignments)
“How About Worshipping Together” (chapter 13) *Today’s Children and Yesterday’s Heritage*
http://img.uua.org/mfc/Fahs_Todays_Children.pdf

“UUA Copyright Resources”
<https://www.uua.org/worship/copyright>
https://www.uua.org/sites/live-new.uua.org/files/music_in_worship.pdf

UUA Worship Web

3. Assignments

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

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

Examples for this assignment include:

1. Creating a ritual for the SKSM community (recruiting/organizing volunteers, writing liturgy, with a reflection conversation or paper to the instructor).
2. An in depth study of some historic or contemporary aspect of ritual leadership
3. Develop a resource for ritual leaders (at SKSM, in congregation, for online sharing with the world...)

(d) 300-500 word statement of “theology of multigenerational leadership” posted to Moodle and 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 a multigenerational ritual/worship setting.

(e) Participate in 2 of the optional field trips for the class and share brief reflections on Moodle (using sacred/secular evaluation model)

(f) Produce one (recorded) visual story or song suitable for congregational/community ritual space. Post to Class Moodle by September 10, 9 am.

4. 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.

VI. TENTATIVE Course Schedule

This course is designed as a community immersion and attendance at all sessions is required for completion of the 3 credit experience. Two field trips and participation in the online Moodle round out the contact hours for this course, which is designed with attention to personal sustainability while in intensive mode. Please make travel plans accordingly.

There will be a variety of field trips (open to students/families/friends) that may include additional travel and modest registration fees in the SF Bay area. (Note: one field trip will be Sunday, before the official start of class, Tuesday evening is part of the class schedule aka not optional)

Monday 10-3 Entering Liminal Space
 Coming to the Table
 Jamming with the Spirit
 Afternoon session – All That is Created
 Evening - optional field trip - open Mic Night

Tuesday 10-3 Story, Song and Spirit
 Sacred Stories (Guest Presenter 1)
 Generational Faith
 Evening - all class event with Special Guest

Wednesday 10-3 “Worship that Works” and leaders who learn
 Primal Patterns, Appropriate Attributions
 Story Sharing as Pastoral Care
 Evening - optional field trip - Berkeley Poetry Slam

Thursday 11-3
 (Guest Presenter 2)

Embodied Theologies in Digital Times
Evening - Optional Field Trip/Film

Friday 10-3

Street Communion (tentative site visit)

Rites of Passage

Everything is Holy Now

The Welcome Table: A Community Ritual