

**LTRGY 811 Sacramental Theology**  
**Spring 2025**  
**Thursdays 2:30-5:30 / In-person**

Ron Anderson  
[Ron.Anderson@garrett.edu](mailto:Ron.Anderson@garrett.edu)  
847-866-3875

**Course Description**

“Among Christians who observe a sacramental tradition there is agreement on a least this much: sacraments have something to do with God’s grace and human beings as recipients of that grace; the grace of the sacraments is meant for the body of Christ in the church and somehow binds that body together. All sacraments then require this much, God’s gracious action and individual human beings gathered together in the body of Christ that is the church.” [Natalie B. Van Kirk, “Christ present in the moment: The canon of sacraments” in William Abraham, Jason Vickers, and Natalie Van Kirk, eds., *Canonical Theism: A Proposal for Theology and the Church* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2008), 78.]

Van Kirk’s statement is helpful in thinking about the shape of the work for this course. Sacraments have “something to do with God’s grace” and “somehow bind” the body of Christ together. What is the “something” and how does the “somehow” happen? What is a sacrament? What does a sacrament do? For whom? How do sacramental theologies interact with or reflect other theological concerns, e.g., creation, Christology, pneumatology, ecclesiology, technology? We will attempt to answer these questions by exploring responses to them across several historical periods and theological traditions.

**Student Learning Outcomes**

By the end of this course students will be able to:

1. define “sacrament” ecumenically and for a particular theological context;
2. accurately analyze and interpret historical and contemporary writings in sacramental theology, with particular attention to preparing for PhD qualifying exams; and
3. demonstrate scholarly aptitude by examining a particular question/topic in sacramental theology and constructing an appropriate response to that question/topic.

**Required Texts and Readings**

**Texts (prices reflect Amazon paperback prices October 2024):**

- Bordeyne, Philippe and Bruce Morrill, eds. *Sacraments: Revelation of the Humanity of God* (Collegeville: Liturgical Press, 2008). ISBN 978-0814662182. \$18.10
- Chauvet, Louis-Marie. *The Sacraments: The Word of God at the Mercy of the Body* (Collegeville: Liturgical Press, 2001). ISBN 978-0814661437. \$22.49
- Hughes, Graham. *Reformed Sacramentality* (Collegeville: Liturgical Press, 2017). ISBN 978-0814663547. \$31.49
- Power, David N. *Sacrament: The Language of God’s Giving* (Crossroad, 1999). ISBN 978-0824517984. \$28.74.

Ross, Susan. *Extravagant Affections: A Feminist Sacramental Theology* (New York: Continuum, 1998) ISBN 978-0826413208. \$29.79.

Schillebeeckx, Edward. *Christ the Sacrament of the Encounter with God* (Kansas City: Sheed and Ward, 1963; reprint 1987). ISBN 978-0934134729. \$22.95.

Suna-Koro, Kristine. *In Counterpoint: Diaspora, Postcoloniality, and Sacramental Theology* (Eugene, OR: Pickwick, 2017). ISBN 978-1625647108. \$33.52.

### Readings:

*Those readings not available as weblinks are available as .pdf files on Moodle. The weblinks provided below are also on the course Moodle page.*

Ambrose of Milan, [“The Mysteries”](#)

Thomas Aquinas, [Summa Theologiae, Third Part, Qq. 60-64, 73-80](#)

Brown, David. “A Sacramental World: Why It Matters” in *The Oxford Handbook of Sacramental Theology*, ed. David Brown, Hans Boersma, and Matthew Levering (New York: Oxford University Press, 2015).

<https://doi.org/10.1093/oxfordhb/9780199659067.013.11>.

Buchanan, Colin, *What did Cranmer think he was doing* (Bramcote, Notts.: Grove Books, 1976).

John Calvin, [Institutes of the Christian Religion, Book IV.14 and 17.](#)

Cyril of Jerusalem, Mystagogical Lectures 4-5,

Lecture 4: [“On the Body and Blood of Christ”](#)

Lecture 5: [“On the Sacred Liturgy and Communion”](#)

Emmanuel J. Cutrone, “Sacraments” in Allen D. Fitzgerald, OSA, ed., *Augustine through the Ages* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1999), 741-747.

Edward Foley, “Sacramentality, Chaos Theory and Decoloniality” in *Sacramental Theology: Theory and Practice from Multiple Perspectives*, ed. Bruce T. Morrill (Basel: MDPI, 2019), 44-53. <https://www.mdpi.com/2077-1444/10/7/418/htm>.

Christina M. Gschwandtner, “Mystery Manifested: Toward a Phenomenology of the Eucharist in Its Liturgical Context” in *Sacramental Theology: Theory and Practice from Multiple Perspectives*, ed. Bruce T. Morrill (Basel: MDPI, 2019), 1-18. <https://www.mdpi.com/2077-1444/10/5/315/htm>.

Hans Gustafson, “Pansacramentalism, Interreligious Theology, and Lived Religion” in *Sacramental Theology: Theory and Practice from Multiple Perspectives*, ed. Bruce T. Morrill (Basel: MDPI, 2019), 54-68. <https://www.mdpi.com/2077-1444/10/7/408/htm>.

Martha L. Moore-Keish and George Hunsinger. “Twentieth-Century and Contemporary Protestant Sacramental Theology” in *The Oxford Handbook of Sacramental Theology* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2015).

<https://doi.org/10.1093/oxfordhb/9780199659067.013.4>.

Peter Lombard, *The Four Books of the Sentences*, Book IV “Doctrine of Signs”

Martin Luther, “A Treatise on the New Testament, that is, the Holy Mass” in *Luther’s Works*, vol. 35, ed. E. Theodore Bachmann (Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1960), 77-111.

\_\_\_\_\_, [“The Babylonian Captivity of the Church”](#) in *Luther’s Works*, vol. 36, ed. E. Theodore Bachmann (Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1960), 11-126.

Herbert McCabe, “The Eucharist as Language,” *Modern Theology* 15 (April 1999): 131-141.

- David Power, ed., "Sacramental Theology: A Review of Literature," *Theological Studies* 55 (1994): 657-705.
- Karl Rahner, "What is a sacrament" *Worship*, 47.5 (May 1973): 274-284.
- \_\_\_\_\_, "Personal and Sacramental Piety" *Theological Investigations II: Man in the Church*, trans. Karl-H. Kruger (Baltimore: Helicon, 1963), 109-133.
- Paul Tillich, "Nature and Sacrament" in *The Protestant Era*, trans. James Luther Adams (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1948), 94-112.
- Rowan Williams, "The Nature of a Sacrament" and "Sacraments of the New Society" in *On Christian Theology* (Malden, MA: Blackwell, 2000), 197-221.
- Ulrich Zwingli, "On the Lord's Supper" in *Zwingli and Bullinger*, trans. G.W. Bromiley, *The Library of Christian Classics*, vol. 24 (Philadelphia: Westminster, 1953), 176-238. (NB: Because of size, this is divided into two parts as a pdf.)

### Course Requirements

1. As this is a graduate seminar rather than a lecture course, you must prepare for and participate in class discussions by completing all reading assignments. Note the reading assignment in preparation for the **first** class session.
2. As you read and take notes, answer the following questions. Although not required, you will find it helpful to prepare a written summary of your answers to facilitate your participation in the class discussion.
  - a. What does the author say? Summarize the main points in your own words.
  - b. What is her or his concern or the issue that she addresses? Is the stated concern the only one or is there another unstated, and perhaps more important, one?
  - c. Against what or whom does the author seem to be arguing?
  - d. What does the author say he or she will do in the text? What does he or she actually do?
  - e. What are the author's presuppositions, basic images, agenda?
  - f. What is the author's method? How does she or he actually proceed in the text? How does he or she identify data from the sources, correlate the data, and identify new insights?
  - g. Is what the author says adequate? Does it fit with the best understanding of the tradition and cultural knowledge? (How do you know?)

[Guideline adapted from Patricia O'Connell Killen and John De Beer, *The Art of Theological Reflection* (New York: Crossroad, 1994), 107-109.]
3. At the end of weeks 4 (Catholic Perspectives), 7 (Protestant Perspectives), and 12 (New Perspectives), prepare a brief (1500 words) written overview of the readings for each unit. The overview should identify the key themes, questions, developments, and problems that emerge from these readings. (45%)
4. Each PhD student will identify and select one contemporary work (written after 2000) in sacramental theology and prepare a book review of 750-1000 words. Masters students should prepare a review of one of the required texts. Due October 27. (10%)

For guidance in writing a book review, see the following websites:

- <https://www.insidehighered.com/advice/2015/03/27/essay-writing-academic-book-reviews>
- <https://libguides.usc.edu/c.php?g=235208&p=1560694>

These reviews will be shared with the class on the course Moodle page.

5. *PhD students* will write a 6500-7500 word research paper on a select topic or question in sacramental theology. The topic should be chosen in consultation with the instructor. The paper should demonstrate not only your mastery of the core readings but also appropriate additional research. *Masters students* will write a 5000-6000 word research or integrative paper on a select topic in sacramental theology. The topic should be chosen in consultation with the instructor. The paper should demonstrate your acquaintance with and mastery of the core readings. The papers should also demonstrate your mastery and appropriate use of academic documentation/ citation mechanisms as found in Turabian, *A Manual for Writers*, chapter 16.1 (note/bibliography format). Students will present a preliminary report to the class on December 15, the finished paper will be due the week following the final class, on December 23. (45%)

### Schedule and Reading Assignments

- 1. January 30**      **Beginnings**  
Readings: Ambrose of Milan, “The Mysteries”  
Cyril of Jerusalem, *Mystagogical Lectures* 4-5  
Cutrone, “Sacraments” (and Augustine)  
D. Power, *Sacrament*, Chaps. 1-2, 7
- 2. February 6**      **Catholic Foundations**  
Readings: Aquinas, *ST*, III, Qq. 60-64, 73-80  
Lombard, *Sentences*, Book IV “Doctrine of Signs”
- 3. February 13**      **Catholic Developments: Conciliar Period**  
Readings: Schillebeeckx, *Christ the Sacrament of the Encounter with God*  
Rahner, “What is a sacrament”  
Rahner, “Personal and Sacramental Piety”
- 4. February 20**      **Catholic Developments: Post-Conciliar Period**  
Readings: Chauvet, *The Sacraments*
- 5. February 27**      **Protests and Reforms (1): Luther and Zwingli**  
Readings: (MA/MDiv choose Luther *or* Zwingli)  
Luther, “A Treatise on the New Testament, that is, the Holy Mass,” and “The Babylonian Captivity of the Church” [through the section on Penance]  
Zwingli, “On the Lord’s Supper”  
  
**Due: Catholic Developments overview.**
- 6. March 6**      **Protests and Reforms (2): Calvin and Cranmer**  
Readings: Calvin, *Institutes*, Book IV.14 and 17

- Buchanan, *What did Cranmer think he was doing?*
- 7. March 13**  
 Readings: **Protestant Developments**  
 Hughes, *Reformed Sacramentality* (Introduction optional)  
 Moore-Keish and Hunsinger, "Twentieth-Century and Contemporary Protestant Sacramental Theology"  
 Tillich, "Nature and Sacrament"  
**Due: Book Review**
- 8. March 20**  
 Readings: **New Foundations**  
 Power, *Sacrament*, Chaps. 3-6, 8-10  
 Power, ed., "Sacramental Theology: A Review of Literature"  
**Due: Protestant Developments overview.**
- March 24-28**  
**Spring Break / No class**
- 9. April 3**  
 Readings: **New Perspectives (1)**  
 Ross, *Extravagant Affections*
- 10. April 10**  
 Readings: **New Perspectives (2)**  
 Bordeyne and Morrill, *Sacraments: Revelation of the Humanity of God*, chaps. 1-2, 4, 6, 9, 11-12
- April 17**  
**Maundy Thursday / No class**
- 11. April 24**  
 Reading: **New Perspectives (3)**  
 Suna-Koro, *In Counterpoint*
- 12. May 1**  
 Readings: **New Perspectives (4)**  
 Brown, "A Sacramental World"  
 Edward Foley, "Sacramentality, Chaos Theory and Decoloniality"  
 Gschwandtner, "Mystery Manifested"  
 Gustafson, "Pansacramentalism, Interreligious Theology, and Lived Religion"  
 Williams, "The Nature of a Sacrament" and "Sacraments of the New Society"
- 13. May 6**  
**Sacraments and Sacramentality**  
 Report on Research plan  
**Due: New Perspectives overview**
- May 29**  
**Research Paper due.**

**Commented [RA1]:** Or, use Jeanes, chap. 4 (136-186)