

BAPTISM AND CHRISTIAN INITIATION **Syllabus-LTRGY 812**

Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary Spring Semester 2020
Class meets on Tuesdays from 8:00-11:00 a.m.

Affiliate Professor Dr. Frank Senn: phone: 847-328-5918; e-mail: fcsenn70@gmail.com

Course Description

This course explores the history, theology, and practice of liturgies of baptism and the rites of Christian initiation, including the catechumenate, baptism, confirmation/reaffirmation of baptism, and first communion, in the context of the ritual process from preparation for baptism to the baptismal liturgy to sacramental incorporation into the life of the church and the continual renewal of baptism in the life and spirituality of Christians. Topics include (1) texts, rituals, and symbols of baptismal liturgies; (2) confirmation and renewal of baptism; and (3) return to baptism in rites of confession and forgiveness.

Course Objectives

Students will explore the theology and practices of baptism and Christian initiation in the context of developments in the church in different times and places, engaging some of the major controversies about baptismal practice. They will be able to analyze the structure and content of baptism and related rites, develop methods of preparing people for these rites, and reflect on the role of baptism in Christian life and ministry.

Course requirements

This course will be treated as a graduate student seminar in which the students must

- 1. Complete all readings as assigned;**
- 2. Write and present seminar papers;**
- 3. Attend class and participate in class discussions.**
- 4. Prepare an annotated bibliography of studies of Baptism and Christian Initiation**

Seminar papers. Each student will prepare a 5-page presentation related to the topics and readings for each class session. The paper will be distributed and read in class and serve as the basis of discussion.

Annotated Bibliographies. Note: Ph.D. and D.Min. students are expected to read 1200 pages, including required readings and more specialized readings. The annotated bibliography about baptism and Christian initiation will draw on the list of required readings, resources, and recommended readings. The purpose of this assignment is to focus your remarks on your research interests as well as your preparation for your comprehensive exams (and for some, the dissertation), so that you will know where to go back and look for information. Make it as useful to you as possible.

Updated 11/18/19

Probably you've read more than 1200 pages, including all assignments. The number of entries is the number of books and articles you have consulted for this class. Each entry should be about 5-7 lines, or longer if helpful to you.

Advice: make your entries throughout the term. Don't do it all at the end.

Grading

Grades will be based on the seminar papers (9 papers = 90%) and the annotated bibliography (10% of grade). Seminar papers are due on the day of the topic since your paper is the basis of class discussion. The annotated bibliography is due on the last CLASS day of the semester. We will meet on the last class date for a final discussion and sharing of bibliographies.

Notes

- a. To receive credit for this class, students must complete all assignments.
- b. Missing more than one class session will affect one's grade.
- c. No extensions are possible on the seminar papers because the seminar is based on them.
- d. All sources for papers must be documented by footnotes and bibliography or reference notes.
- e. Plagiarism is taken seriously and reported to the academic dean.

Note the following policy statement on accommodations -

Garrett-Evangelical is committed to providing a quality theological education and will provide reasonable accommodations for documented conditions. Students requiring specific assistance such as classroom changes, alternative ways of note-taking, different classroom procedures, or alternative testing formats are urged to request the appropriate accommodations from the director of academic studies/registrar. The director of academic studies/registrar can advise students on other support services and resources, for example, diagnostic testing. Students must complete a request for accommodations using the form available from the director of academic studies/registrar or through MyGETS documenting their condition(s) through appropriate verification methods.

READING IN COMMON

Recommend for purchase

Prices per Amazon.com on November 15, 2019

Armstrong, John H. *Understanding Four Views of Baptism*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2007. ISBN 978-0-310-26267-1. Pb \$12.27; kindle \$5.49.

Eliade, Mircea. *Rites and Symbols of Initiation: The Mysteries of Birth and Rebirth*. Translated by Willard R. Trask. New York: Harper Torchbooks, 1958. Library of Congress 58-10374. Pb \$10.99; kindle \$9.99.

Fisher, J.D.C. *Christian Initiation: Baptism in the Medieval West*. Chicago: Hillenbrand Books, 2004. Originally published by the Alcuin Club, 1965. ISBN1-59525-001-8. Hardcover used \$8.52; Pb \$29.28.

Fisher, J.D.C. *Christian Initiation: The Reformation Period*. Chicago, IL: Hillenbrand Books, 2007. Originally published by the Alcuin Club, 1970. SBN-281-02433-2. Hardcover used \$6.83; Pb \$6.65.

Updated 11/18/19

Johnson, Maxwell. *The Rites of Christian Initiation: Their Evolution and Interpretation*. Revised and expanded edition. Collegeville: MN: The Liturgical Press, 2007. ISBN 978-0814662151. Pb. \$42.78.

Kavanagh, Aidan. *The Shape of Baptism: The Rite of Christian Initiation*. New York: Pueblo Publishing Company, 1978. ISBN 0-916134-36-9. Pb \$29.95; Kindle \$14.38.

Senn, Frank C. *Embodied Liturgy: Lessons in Christian Ritual*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2016. ISBN: 978-1-4514-9627-7 (print); ISBN; 978-1-5064-0846-0 (ebook). Pb \$29.77; Kindle \$31.99.

Whitaker, E.C. Revised and expanded by Maxwell E. Johnson. *Documents of the Baptismal Liturgy*. Collegeville, Minn.: Liturgical Press, 2003. ISBN 978-0814662007. Pb \$39.95; Kindle \$31.99.

Resources

(You may not need to buy these, if you have access to them for your research.)

Edward Yarnold. *The Awe-Inspiring Rites of Initiation: Baptismal Homilies of the Fourth Century*. Collegeville, MN: Liturgical Press, 1994. ISBN 978-0-8146-2281-0. Hardcover used \$8.20; Pb \$56.95.

Everett Ferguson. *Baptism in the Early Church: History, Theology, and Baptism in the First Five Centuries*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2009. ISBN 978-0-8028-2748-7. Hardcover \$39.57; Pb \$39.91; Kindle \$39.88.

See the review essays by Carl R. Holladay, Robin M. Jensen, J. Patout Burns, Frank C. Senn, and David Bentley Hart, with a Response by Everett Ferguson in the “Special Issue: Everett Ferguson’s *Baptism in the First Five Centuries*,” edited by Jeffrey Peterson. *Journal of Early Christian Studies* 20/3 (2012).

Recommended Readings

*Will be discussed in class. Prices provided in case you want to buy

Aland, Kurt. *Did the Early Church Baptize Infants?* London: SCM Press, 1963.

Austin, Gerard. *The Rite of Confirmation: Anointing with the Spirit*. New York: Pueblo, 1985.

Beasley-Murray, G. R. *Baptism in the New Testament*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1973.

Best, Thomas F., editor. *Baptism Today: Understanding, Practice, Ecumenical Implications*. Faith and Order Commission. Geneva: World Council of Churches, 2008.

*Brown, Peter. *The Body and Society: Men, Women, and Sexual Renunciation in Early Christianity*. Twentieth Anniversary Edition and a new Introduction. New York: Columbia University Press, , 1988, 2008. ISBN 978-0-231-14406-3 (Cloth); ISBN 978-0-231-14407-0 (Pb). Pb \$31.99.

Browning, Robert L. and Roy A. Reed. *Models of Confirmation and Baptismal Affirmation: Liturgical and Educational Designs*. Birmingham, Ala.: Religious Education Press, 1995.

Campbell, Ted. “Conversion and Baptism in Wesleyan Spirituality.” *Conversion in the Wesleyan Tradition*. Edited by Kenneth J. Collins and John H. Tyson, 161–74. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2001.

Calvin, John. *Institutes of the Christian Religion*. Translated by Henry Beveridge. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans, 1957, II: 512-54 (Baptism), 625-32 (Confirmation).

Canons and Decrees of the Council of Trent, The. Translated with an Introduction by H. J. Schroeder, O.P. Rockford, IL: Tan Books and Publishers, 1978. Originally published by B. Herder Book Co., 1941. "Decree Concerning Original Sin", 21-23; "Canons on Baptism," 53-54; "Canons on Confirmation," 54-55.

Chupungco, Anscar. "Baptism in the Early Church and Its Cultural Settings." *Worship and Culture in Dialogue*, edited by S. Anita Stauffer, 39–56. Geneva: Lutheran World Federation, 1994.

Costen, Melva. "African Roots of Afro-American Baptismal Practices." *The Black Christian Worship Experience: A Consultation*. Special issue of *The Journal of the Interdenominational Theological Center XIV* (Fall 1986 and Spring 1987): 23-42.

Deibert, Richard. "Jürgen Moltmann and the Lord's Open Supper." *Reformed Liturgy and Music* 34/4 (2000): 9-14.

Duck, Ruth C. "Expansive Language in the Baptized Community." *Primary Sources of Liturgical Theology*. Edited by Dwight W. Vogel, 286–94. Collegeville: Liturgical Press, 2000.

_____, *Gender and the Name of God: the Trinitarian Baptismal Formula*. New York, N.Y.: Pilgrim Press, 1991.

Eastman, A. Theodore. *The Baptizing Community*. Revised edition, New York: Morehouse, 1991.

*Eliade, Mircea. *Patterns in Comparative Religion*. Trans. Rosemary Sheed. Cleveland and New York: World Publishing Co., 1963. Library of Congress 58-5885. Pb \$27.61. Other options for purchase.

Episcopal Church, The. Office of Evangelism Ministries. *The Catechumenal Process: Adult Initiation & Formation for Christian Life and Ministry*. Church Hymnal Corporation, 1990.

*Fagan, Garrett G. *Bathing in Public in the Roman World*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan, 1999. ISBN 0-472-08865-3. Hardcover \$60.32; Pb \$44.95.

Fisher, J.D.C. *Confirmation, Then and Now*. Alcuin Club: S.P.C.K., 1978.

Fabian, Richard. "Patterning the Sacraments after Christ." *Open* (Fall 1994): 1-4.

Gibson, Paul. "Who May Eat and Drink?" *Open* (Fall 1997): 6-8.

Holeton, David R., editor. *Growing in Newness of Life: Christian Initiation in Anglicanism Today*. Anglican Book Centre, 1993.

*Johnson, Mark. *The Meaning of the Body: Aesthetics of Human Understanding*. Chicago and London: University of Chicago Press, 2007, Chapter 12. ISBN 13: 978-0-226-40193-5. Hardcover \$42.54; Pb \$27.56; Kindle \$15.66.

Johnson, Maxwell E. *Images of Baptism. Forum Essays 6*. Liturgy Training Publications, 2001. _____, editor. *Living Water, Sealing Spirit: Readings on Christian Initiation*. Liturgical Press, 1995.

Jones, Cheslyn, and Geoffrey Wainwright, Edward Yarnold S.J., and Paul Bradshaw. *The Study of Liturgy*, revised edition. New York: Oxford University Press, 1992, 111-183.

Kavanagh, Aidan. *Confirmation, Origins and Reform*. New York: Pueblo Publishing Co., 1988.

Lathrop, Gordon. "Baptism in the New Testament and Its Cultural Settings." *Worship and Culture in Dialogue*, edited by S. Anita Stauffer, 17-38. Geneva: Lutheran World Federation, 1994.

*Luther, Martin. "The Holy and Blessed Sacrament of Baptism," 1519. *Luther's Works: Word and Sacrament* 1. Translated by Charles M. Jacobs, revised by E. Theodore Bachman. Philadelphia: Fortress, 1960, 35: 29-43.

- * _____ . “The Babylonian Captivity of the Church,” 1520. *Luther’s Works: Word and Sacrament 2*. Translated by A. T. W. Steinhäuser, revised by Frederick C. Ahrens and Abdel Ross Wentz. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1959, 36:57-91 (Baptism), 91-92 (Confirmation).
- * _____ . “The Small Catechism” and “The Large Catechism.” *The Book of Concord*. Ed. Robert Kolb and Timothy J. Wengert. (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2000), 359-60, 456-67 (on Baptism).
- McLendon, James. “Why Baptists Do Not Baptize Infants.” *Concilium* 24 (1966):7-15.
- Merriman, Michael W., editor. *The Baptismal Mystery and the Catechumenate*. New York: Church Hymnal Corporation, 1990.
- Meyers, Ruth A., editor. *Baptism & Ministry. Liturgical Studies 1*. Church Hymnal Corporation, 1994.
- Meyers, Ruth A. *Children at the Table*. Church Hymnal Corporation, 1995.
- _____. *Continuing the Reformation*. New York: Church Publishing, 1997.
- Micks, Marianne. *Deep Waters: An Introduction to Baptism*. Cowley, 1996.
- Mitchell, Leonel L. *Baptismal Anointing*. London: SPCK, 1966; Notre Dame, IN: University of Notre Dame Press, 1978.
- _____. *Worship: Initiation and the Churches*. Washington: Pastoral Press, 1991.
- _____. “Should the Unbaptized Be Welcomed to the Lord’s Table?” *Open* (Fall 1994) 5-6.
- Monkres, Peter, and R. Kenneth Ostermiller. *The Rite of Confirmation*. Cleveland: United Church Press, 1995.
- Moore-Keish, Martha L. “Washing Before Supper.” *Reformed Liturgy and Music* 34/4 (2000): 15-21.
- Murphy Center for Liturgical Research. *Made, Not Born: New Perspectives on Christian Initiation and the Catechumenate*. University of Notre Dame Press, 1976.
- Poschmann, Bernhard. *Penance and the Anointing of the Sick*. Translated and revised by Francis Courtney, SJ. New York: Herder and Herder, 1964.
- Quinn, Frank. “Confirmation Reconsidered: Rite and Meaning.” In *Living Water, Sealing Spirit*, ed. Maxwell E. Johnson. Collegeville, MN: Liturgical Press, 1995. 219-237.
- Schlink, Edmund. *The Doctrine of Baptism*. Translated by Herbert J. A. Bouman. St. Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 1972.
- Schmeiser, James, editor. *Initiation Theology*. Anglican Book Centre, 1978.
- Schmemmann, Alexander. *Of Water and the Spirit: A Liturgical Study of Baptism*. Crestwood, N.Y.: St. Vladimir’s Seminary Press, 1974.
- Searle, Mark, Ed. *Alternative Futures for Worship: Vol. 2: Baptism and Confirmation*. General Editor, Bernard J. Lee. Collegeville, MN: Liturgical Press, 1987.
- Serra, Dominic. “Syrian Prebaptismal Anointing and Western Postbaptismal Chrismation.” *Worship* 79/4 (July 2005), 328-341.
- Simons, Menno. *Foundations of Christian Doctrine*. 120-142.
- Spinks, Bryan D. *Reformation and Modern Rituals and Theologies of Baptism*. Hants, England: Ashgate Publishing, 2006.
- Stauffer, Anita. “Cultural Settings of Architecture for Baptism.” In *Worship and Culture in Dialogue*, ed. S. Anita Stauffer, 57–65. Geneva: Lutheran World Federation, 1994.
- _____. *On Baptismal Fonts: Ancient and Modern*. Bramcote/Nottingham, England: Grove Books, Ltd., 1994.
- Stein, K. James. “Baptismal Regeneration: Is It an Option for United Methodists?” *Quarterly*

Updated 11/18/19

Review (Spring 1993): 39-58.

Stevick, Daniel. *Baptismal Moments, Baptismal Meanings*. New York: Church Hymnal Corporation, 1987.

Stevick, Daniel. *By Water and the Word: The Scripture of Baptism*. New York: Church Publishing, 1997.

Truscott, Jeffrey A. *The Reform of Baptism and Confirmation in American Lutheranism*. Lanham, MD: The Scarecrow Press, 2003.

Stookey, Laurence Hull. *Baptism, Christ's Act in the Church*. Nashville: Abingdon, 1982.

Truscott, Jeffrey A. *The Sacraments. A Practical Guide*. New Delhi: Christian World Imprints, 2016, Chapters 1-9.

*Turner, Victor. *The Ritual Process. Structure and Anti-Structure*. Chicago: Aldine, 1969. ISBN 0-202-01043-0. Pb \$42.94; Kindle \$37.69.

Turner, Paul. *Confirmation: The Baby in Solomon's Court*. Mahwah, NJ and New York: Paulist Press, 1993.

_____. *The Hallelujah Highway: A History of the Catechumenate*. Chicago: Liturgy Training Publications, 2000.

Turner, Timothy. *Welcoming the Baptized: Anglican Hospitality within the Ecumenical Enterprise*. Alcuin/GROW Joint Liturgical Studies 34. Grove Books, 1996.

*Van Gennep, Arnold. *The Rites of Passage*. Second Edition. Translated by Monika B. Vizedom and Gabrielle L. Caffee. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1960. Library of Congress 59-14321. Pb \$25.00.

Vincie, Catherine. "Gender Analysis and Christian Initiation." *Worship* 69 (1995): 505-530.

Vogel, Dwight W. *By Water and the Spirit: a United Methodist Understanding of Baptism*. Nashville: Cokesbury, 1993.

_____. "The Baptismal Covenant: A Spirituality for Discipleship in the Church." *Doxology* 11 (1994): 44-66.

_____. *Food for Pilgrims*. Cleveland, Ohio: Order of St. Luke Publications, 1996.

Wesley, John. "The New Birth," *The Works of John Wesley: Sermons II*, 34-70. Nashville: Abingdon, 1985. 186-201.

White, James F. *The Sacraments in Protestant Practice and Faith*. Nashville: Abingdon, 1999.

_____. *Sacraments as God's Self Giving*. Nashville: Abingdon, 1988.

*Wills, Garry. *Font of Life: Ambrose, Augustine, and the Mystery of Baptism*. Oxford and New York: Oxford University Press, 2012. ISBN 978-0-976851-6. Hardcover \$15.99; Kindle \$9.99.

Winkler, Gabriele. "The Original Meaning of the Prebaptismal Anointing and Its Implications." *Worship* 52/1 (1978):24-45.

World Council of Churches. *Baptism, Eucharist, Ministry*. Geneva: World Council of Churches, 1992. Section on Baptism.

Course Agenda

Feb. 4 PATTERNS AND MEANINGS OF INITIATION AND PURIFICATION

Readings (ahead of class meeting): *Eliade, *Patterns*, ch. V; Eliade, *Rites of Initiation*, chs. I, II, VI; Ferguson, 25-37, 60-96; *Victor Turner, chapters 3 and 4; *Van Gennep, chapters I, II, VI. *See bibliographic information in "Recommended Readings."

This class session is a prelude to the study of Holy Baptism and the rites of Christian initiation.

Take notes on your readings for the purpose of class discussion (for your use).

1. List symbolic uses and meanings of water (Eliade, *Patterns*).
2. List meanings of initiation in traditional societies and the Hellenistic mystery rites (Eliade, *Rites of Initiation*).
3. List types of Jewish rites of purification (Ferguson).
4. Give the structure of rites of passage from the analogy of a journey (Van Gennep)
5. Explain the meanings of liminality and communitas in Victor Turner, *The Ritual Process*.

Discussion: Water as the sacramental means. How does Paul Tillich's discussion of nature and sacrament in *The Protestant Era* show the theological appropriateness of the use of water and other natural elements in sacraments?

At the end of the class session we will negotiate topics for seminar paper for the coming weeks. Look over the list of choices of topics for the ones you prefer to work on.

Feb. 11 THE BAPTISM OF JESUS AND BAPTISM IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

Readings: Ferguson, 99-198; Johnson, Ch. 1; Whitaker/Johnson, Documents, xiii-xxi, 1-21; Senn, 1-17.

Please bring a Bible to class today.

Seminar paper 1: Choices: the Baptism of Jesus in the Gospels, Baptism in the Letters of St. Paul, or Baptism in the Book of Acts

Discussion: The body as the subject of Baptism. How do you envision the five meanings of the body in Mark Johnson, *The Meaning of the Body*, relating to bathing? (biology, ecology, phenomenology, social rules, cultural expressions).

Feb. 18 BAPTISM IN EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITERS AND CHURCH ORDERS

Readings: Johnson, Ch. 2; Whitaker/Johnson, look at texts of documents discussed by Johnson in *The Rites of Christian Initiation*; Senn, 45-52.

Seminar paper 2: Choices: Baptism/Christian initiation in Justin Martyr, Tertullian, or *The Apostolic Tradition*

Discussion: The ritual process. How does VanGennep's/Turner's understanding of ritual process relate to what these documents describe?

Updated 11/18/19

Feb. 25 BAPTISM/CHRISTIAN INITIATION IN THE EASTERN CHURCH FATHERS

Readings: Johnson, Ch. 3; Senn, 53-73.

Seminar paper 2: Choices: Christian Initiation in the Catecheses of Cyril of Jerusalem or John Chrysostom or Theodore of Mopsuestia (Sources in Yarnold)

Discussion: Cultural backdrop of Christian initiation. How does the ritual structure of public bathing provide a cultural setting for Christian initiation? Reference: Fagan, *Bathing in Public in the Roman World*.

Mar. 3 BAPTISM/CHRISTIAN INITIATION IN THE WESTERN CHURCH FATHERS

Readings: Johnson, Ch. 4; Ferguson, 776-816; Whitaker/Johnson, Chs. 6, 8; Senn, 79-87.

Seminar paper 3: Choices: Baptism in the Catecheses of Ambrose of Milan (source: Yarnold) or in Augustine of Hippo (summarize Ferguson's discussion of Augustine).

Discussion: Archaeology of baptisteries and pools. References: Wills, *Font of Life*; Robin Jensen.

Mar. 10 BAPTISM AND CHRISTIAN INITIATION IN THE ROMAN RITE

Readings: Johnson, Ch. 5; Fisher, *Baptism in the Medieval West*, Ch. I, Whitaker/Johnson, Ch. 6; Senn, 149-178.

Seminar paper 4: Reconstruct the process of Christian initiation in the Gelasian Sacramentary and Ordo XI

Discussion: Penance as a return to/renewal of Baptism. The process of canonical public penance related to the catechumenal process. Reference: Senn on fasting and penance.

Mar. 17 DISINTEGRATION OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION IN THE MEDIEVAL WEST

Readings: Johnson, Ch. 6; Fisher, *Baptism in the Medieval West*, Chs. VI, VII, VIII.

Seminar paper 5: Choice: Trace the separation of confirmation from baptism or the separation of first communion from Baptism or describe the process of Christian initiation in the Eastern Churches.

Spring Break March 23-27

Mar. 31 MARTIN LUTHER'S THEOLOGY OF BAPTISM

No paper due because of Spring Break.

Bring to class copies of *Luther's Works*, American Edition, vols. 35, 36 and *The Book of Concord*, ed. Robert Kolb and Timothy J. Wengert (Minneapolis: Fortress, 2000) for texts of Luther's Small and Large Catechisms. We will read and discuss Luther's writings on Baptism.

Apr. 7 BAPTISM, CONFIRMATION, FIRST COMMUNION IN THE REFORMATION CHURCHES

Readings: Armstrong, Chs. 3 and 2 (in that order); Johnson, Ch. 8

Seminar paper 6: Choice of papers on Baptism and Confirmation in one of the Reformation traditions: Lutheran, Reformed, or Anglican.

Updated 11/18/19

Apr. 14 BELIEVERS BAPTISM TRADITIONS AND PRACTICES

Readings: Armstrong, Chs. 1 and 4 (in that order); Senn, 179-202 (Baptism and Confirmation); Johnson, 375-391

Seminar paper 7: Research choice: find a Baptist, evangelical free church, or Church of Christ order of Baptism to report on or report on a mainline denomination order of Baptism in a current worship book.

Discussion of the Baptist/believer's model of Baptism

Apr. 21 RENEWAL OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION IN THE TWENTIETH CENTURY

Reading: Johnson, 391-450; Kavanagh, *The Shape of Baptism*, Chapters 3-6.

Seminar paper 8: Choice of papers on R.C.I.A. or Catechumenal process in another tradition (e.g. Episcopal Church)

Discussion of the role of Confirmation/Renewal of Baptism today

Apr. 28. ANALYSIS AND CRITIQUE OF CURRENT BAPTISMAL PRACTICES

Reading: Johnson, Ch. 10

Seminar paper 9: Report on Baptism and Christian Initiation Practices in Your Own Church. Critique it in the light of anthropological, historical, and theological issues we have discussed in this course. How adequate is it for making Christians in your missionary context? What might be done differently?

May 5 Annotated bibliography due. Share it with the class. Share a major learning from this course that might change the way Baptism and Christian Initiation is done in your context.