

BAPTISM AND CHRISTIAN INITIATION
Syllabus-LTRGY 812

Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary Spring Term 2022
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 Baptism and the rites of Christian initiation. Rites of Christian Initiation include the catechumenate, water baptism, anointing, confirmation/reaffirmation of baptism, and first communion. 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 and engage 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. Attend class and participate in discussion;**
- 3. Write and present seminar papers.**

Seminar papers. Each student will prepare a 5-6 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. The paper will include references and bibliography.

Grading

Grades will be based on the seminar papers. Seminar papers are due on the day of the topic since your paper is the basis of class discussion.

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

Prices per Amazon.com on November 15, 2019

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 \$22.00; Kindle \$9.99.

Ferguson, Everett. *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 \$35.84; Kindle \$34.04.

See the review essays on Ferguson's book 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).

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. Find used.

Fisher, J.D.C. *Christian Initiation: The Reformation Period*. Chicago, IL: Hillenbrand, 2007. Originally published by the Alcuin Club, 1970. SBN-281-02433-2. Pb \$18.58.

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. \$40.78, Kindle \$29.99

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 \$34.00; Kindle \$23.99.

Senn, Frank C. *The Witness of the Worshiping Community: Liturgy and the Practice of Evangelism*. (New York/Mahwah, NJ: Paulist, 1993. You will receive a free copy from the author.

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

Turner, Victor. *The Ritual Process. Structure and Anti-Structure*. Chicago: Aldine, 1969. ISBN 0-202-01043-0. Pb \$37.94.

Van Gennep, Arnold. *The Rites of Passage*. Second Edition. Translated by Monika B. Vizedom and Gabrielle L. Caffee. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1960. ISBN 0-226-84848. Pb \$25.00, Kindl \$18.99.

Wills, Garry. *Font of Life: Ambrose, Augustine, and the Mystery of Baptism*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2012. ISBN 978-0-19-976851-6. Pb \$11.65, Kindle \$9.99

Yarnold, Edward. *The Awe-Inspiring Rites of Initiation: Baptismal Homilies of the Fourth Century*. Collegeville, MN: Liturgical Press, 1994. ISBN978-0-8146-2281-0. Hardcover used \$8.20; Pb \$56.95.

Bibliography

*Will be referred to in the course

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 9978-0-211-144070-0 (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.

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.

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

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.

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.

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.
- 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.
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- Stein, K. James. "Baptismal Regeneration: Is It an Option for United Methodists?" *Quarterly Review* (Spring 1993): 39-58.
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- _____. *The Sacraments. A Practical Guide*. New Delhi: Christian World Imprints, 2016, Chapters 1-9.
- Turner, Paul. *Confirmation: The Baby in Solomon's Court*. Mahwah, NJ and New York: Paulist Press, 1993.
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- Turner, Timothy. *Welcoming the Baptized: Anglican Hospitality within the Ecumenical Enterprise*. Alcuin/GROW Joint Liturgical Studies 34. Grove Books, 1996.
- Vincie, Catherine. "Gender Analysis and Christian Initiation." *Worship* 69 (1995): 505-530.
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- _____. "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.

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Wilkey, Gláucia Vasconcelos. Editor. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2014. *Worship and Culture: Foreign Country or Homeland*. Part III: Baptism, Rites of Passage, and Culture, 293—368.

*Wills, Garry. *Font of Life: Ambrose, Augustine, and the Mystery of Baptism*. Oxford and New York: Oxford University Press, 2012.

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. 1 THE BODY AND SACRAMENTS

Readings (ahead of class meeting): Senn, ix—89; Eliade, *Patterns*, Chapter V; Johnson, *The Meaning of the Body*, 273—83.

Class topics: The Meanings of the Body, Water as a Sacramental Means

For class everyone: make a list of symbolic uses and meanings of water (Eliade, *Patterns*, V).

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

Feb. 8 PATTERNS AND MEANINGS OF INITIATION AND PURIFICATION

Readings (ahead of class meeting): 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.

For class everyone:

1. List types of Jewish rites of purification (Ferguson).
2. Outline the structure of rites of passage from the analogy of a journey (Van Gennep)
3. Explain the meanings of liminality and *communitas* in Victor Turner, *The Ritual Process*.

Feb. 15 BAPTISM IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

Readings: Ferguson, 99-198; Johnson, Ch. 1

Please bring a Bible to class today.

Choice of papers:

Baptism of Jesus in the Gospels

Baptism in Pauline Epistles

Baptism in Acts

Baptism in Other NT Texts

Feb. 22 EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITINGS AND CHURCH ORDER

Readings: Johnson, Ch. 2; Whitaker/Johnson, Introduction, documents for your paper

Choice of papers:

Baptism in the Didache

Baptism in Justin Martyr's Apology

Baptism in Tertullian

Baptism in Cyprian

Class study of The Apostolic Tradition

Mar. 1 CHRISTIAN INITIATION IN THE MYSTAGOGIA OF THE CHURCH FATHERS

Readings: Sources: Whitaker/Johnson 26-33, 40-51, 176-183; Yarnold; Johnson, Chs 3-4.;

Choice of papers:

Baptism in Cyril of Jerusalem

Baptism in John Chrysostom

Baptism Theodore of Mopsuestia

Baptism in Ambrose of Milan

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 8. BAPTISM IN AUGUSTINE OF HIPPO

Readings: Ferguson, 776—816 (on Augustine of Hippo); 819—52 (on Baptisteries); Garry Wills, *Font of Life*

Choice of Papers:

Augustine's Experiences of Baptism

The Donatist Controversy

Evidence of Baptismal Pools

Doctrine of Original Sin and the Emerging Norm of Infant Baptism

Mar. 15 BAPTISM AND CHRISTIAN INITIATION IN THE WESTERN RITES

Readings: Sources: Whitaker/Johnson, 204-251; Fisher, *Baptism in the Medieval West*, Ch. I; Johnson, Chs. 5-6; Senn, Ch. 6.

Choice of Papers:

The Letter of John the Deacon

The Gelasian Sacramentary

Ordo Romanus XI

Added discussions: Practices of fasting. Penance as a return to/renewal of Baptism. The process of canonical public penance related to the catechumenal process.

Mar. 17 THE DISINTEGRATION OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION IN THE MEDIEVAL WEST

Readings: Fisher, *Baptism in the Medieval West*, Chs. VI, VII, VIII, Appendices; Johnson, Ch. 7

Choice of papers:

Separation of Baptism from Paschal Initiation

Separation of Baptism from Communion

Separation of Baptism from Confirmation

The Theory and Practice of Confirmation

Mar 22 Spring Break

Mar 29 BAPTISM AND CHRISTIAN VOCATION IN LUTHER

Bring to class copies of *Luther's Works*, American Edition, vols. 35, 36

Readings: Johnson, Ch. 8.

We will choose topics for the remainder of the course.

APR 5 BAPTISM AND CONFIRMATION IN THE REFORMATION CHURCHES

Readings: Sources in Fisher, *Christian Initiation: The Reformation Period*

Choice of paper:

Baptism Orders in Luther and Lutheran Church Orders

Baptism and Confirmation in Martin Bucer

Baptism in John Calvin and John Knox

Baptism and Confirmation in the Books of Common Prayer (1549, 1552)

Discussion also of Roman Catholic practices of Baptism, Confirmation, First Communion after the Council of Trent

Apr. 12 BELIEVERS BAPTISM TRADITIONS AND PRACTICES

Readings: Senn, 179-202.

Class assignments will be to develop bibliographies of academic studies of baptismal practices in believers' baptism traditions. Choice of:

Anabaptists

Baptists

Evangelicals

Pentecostals

Apr. 19 RENEWAL OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION IN THE TWENTIETH CENTURY:

Reading: Johnson, Ch. 9; Kavanagh, *The Shape of Baptism*, Chapters 3-6.

This class session will focus primarily on the RCIA in the Roman Catholic and Protestant Churches. Choice of papers:

Restoration of the Paschal Vigil

Restoration of the Catechumenate

Renewed Orders of Holy Baptism

Confirmation/Reaffirmation of Baptism

APR 26 BAPTISM IN MISSIONAL, CULTURAL, ECUMENICAL CONTEXTS: PASTORAL ISSUES

Readings: Johnson, Ch. 10; Senn, *The Witness of the Worshiping Community*.

Your choice of topic. Some possible topics for your own reflection:

What kind of preparations would you recommend for receiving Baptism?

Is there a value in "storing up" baptisms for major festivals? Which festivals?

Should all the newly-baptized receive Communion at the time of their Baptism regardless of age? What argument would you give for this practice?

Are there cases for re-baptizing candidates for church membership? Why would some previous "baptisms" be disqualified?

Could there be ecumenical celebrations of Baptism? How would that work?

Should all baptisms be celebrated in public? Why might some baptisms be celebrated privately or even secretly?

Are there any pastoral instances in which you would recommend delaying Baptism?

May 3 CRITIQUE OF CURRENT PRACTICE

Paper: Report on Baptism and Christian Initiation Practices in Your Own Church. Critique these practices in the light of the ritual, historical, liturgical, and theological issues we have discussed in this course. How adequate are your practices for making Christians in your missionary context? What might be done differently?