

**MN 426/626 - Creative Models for Worship**  
**University of Dubuque Theological Seminary**  
**Fall, 2017 Course Description**

Instructor

Beth McCaw  
Severance 208  
563-589-3390  
BMcCaw@dbq.edu

Mondays  
1:00-2:40 – groups  
Severance 200

3 Credits  
Letter Grade

**Course Description**

This elective seminar course complements Foundations of Worship in equipping students to enrich worship through the use of diverse resources and the gifts of the congregation in various services. In a seminar format students will engage in study, discussion, planning and evaluation of worship resources, and participate in planning worship. It is open to undergraduates through the 426 site.

**Course Objectives**

1. Become familiar with diverse traditions and resources for worship, including multicultural worship, multisensory worship, emergent worship, special services and use of electronic media.
2. Gain practice in using theological, aesthetic, and liturgical criteria to critically assess elements/resources for worship.
3. Gain experience in crafting liturgy, music, movement, and orders supportive of a Scriptural text and theme.
4. Become familiar with and participate in a collaborative model for worship planning.

**M. Div. Curricular Goals**

1. Be formed by, live in, and minister out of Scripture and the historical and theological tradition of the Church.
2. Lead worship and administer the sacraments with theological integrity and to the glory of God.
3. Educate and equip individuals and congregations to live and minister joyfully and faithfully as part of their own denomination and the ecumenical church.
4. Integrate theology and practice in all areas of life and ministry.

**Course Requirements**

1. Regular, timely attendance and prepared participation in class (no more than one absence). 20%

2. Creation of five resources for worship to be shared with the seminar group. Some of these may be created in pairs/small groups. 40%
  - a. Script for a dramatic reading of Scripture, or a brief play (two-five pages)
  - b. Composition or arrangement of a song, or new lyrics for an existing melody. Alternative: Choreography for dance or other movement in worship.
  - c. Selection/creation of visual images tied to a specific theme for worship, formatted to be used with projection during music, liturgy, and/or sermon
  - d. Sketch or other rendering of a material resource for worship (e.g. artwork, use of candles, cloth, color, paraments, special seating configuration, worship stations, creative preparation of space and materials for communion or baptism...)
  - e. An order of worship crafted for a service in one of these traditions:
    - i. Praise
    - ii. Taize
    - iii. Testimony
    - iv. African American
    - v. African or Latin American
    - vi. Iona
    - vii. Daily Office
    - viii. Emergent
    - ix. A less common special event (e.g. healing with anointing; adoption placement; service of remembrance; justice vigil)
    - x. Propose another tradition
3. Participation in two worship planning teams for a UD service (seminary or college chapel or Impact). For each complete a two page description and evaluation of the process, and attach the planning and ordering and reflection notes. Reports are due two weeks after the service is held. Resources created for requirement #2 may - or may not - be used in these services. 30%
4. Crafting and carrying out a 10-15 minute prayer service for the beginning or end of the day, with a two page review. 10%

### **Required Texts**

Duck, Ruth C. *Finding Words for Worship: A Guide for Leaders*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 1995. *Selections*.

Long, Kimberly Bracken. *The Worshiping Body: The Art of Leading Worship*. Westminster John Knox Press. 2009. *Selections*.

Miller, Barbara Day. *Encounters with the Holy: A Conversational Model for Worship Planning*. The Alban Institute, 2010.

Smith, James K. A. *Desiring the Kingdom: Worship, Worldview, and Cultural Formation*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2009. *Selections*.

Ware, Corinne. *Discover Your Spiritual Type*. The Alban Institute, 1995.

E-reserves: Sample liturgy, and selected articles on multicultural worship and emergent worship.