

LS 652—Christian Initiation

Ss. Cyril & Methodius Seminary
3535 Commerce Rd.
Orchard Lake, MI 48324

Winter, 2018 2 Credit Hours Wednesday, 10:00 -11:50 am. CAC 109

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DESCRIPTION

Historical, textual, and theological study of the development of the rites of the Catechumenate, Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist, and Mystagogy in the formation of Christians as a basis for pastoral evaluation and implementation of the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults. (From the SSCMS Catalogue)

AIMS/STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

- To allow you to identify and describe basic trends in the history of the Sacraments of Initiation over 2000+ years of Christianity.
- To read the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) and the Rite of Infant Baptism.
- To help you envision and design initiation rites at the parish level.
- To prepare you for future studies in pastoral liturgy and parish initiation ministries.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- Attendance and active participation in discussions and exercises.
- Completion of reading assignments.
- Completion of a written or oral midterm examination, and a written or oral final examination, demonstrating integration and knowledge of the course material.

GRADING

A standard letter grade will be given. 20% of the grade is based on class attendance, participation, and discussion. 40% of the grade is based on the midterm examination. 40% of the grade is based on the final examination.

An “A” grade assignment clearly demonstrates the student’s ability to integrate the course material learned and apply it. A “B” grade paper is basically well-crafted, but demonstrates these elements to a lesser degree. A “C” grade (or less) paper does not sufficiently demonstrate these elements.

An “A” grade in participation will be gained by the student that frequently contributes to class discussions, adding meaningful points which further the discussion. A “B” grade in participation will be given to the more reserved student that nonetheless contributes. A “C” grade or less in participation will be given to the student that does not pay attention, or contributes little or never to discussions, or monopolizes discussions in a negative way.

The instructor reserves the right to limit or prohibit the use of laptop computers, cell phones, and other electronic devices in the classroom. All assignments are due in class on the specified date. Absences and late assignments must be excused ahead of time by the instructor. Unexcused late assignments, including presentations and papers will be reduced by one letter grade.

Students are welcome to use various resources to gain ideas for their writing, and they may certainly borrow ideas, examples, and quotes from such resources. Please note well that students are **not** permitted to use another's work as their own; beyond legitimately borrowed material, each assignment must show the student's personal thought or input. Another person's scholarship, especially in a direct quotation, is to be properly cited using footnotes. Violations of the plagiarism policy will be reported to the Academic Dean. (See the Seminary policy on plagiarism in the Catalogue.)

REQUIRED TEXTS (Available in the Seminary Bookstore)

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults. Study edition.

Johnson, Maxwell. *The Rites of Christian Initiation: Their Evolution and Interpretation*. Revised and Expanded edition. Collegeville: Pueblo, 2007.

Very highly recommended: You may want to obtain for yourself a copy of the *Rite of Baptism for Infants*, to develop or add to your collection of liturgical books.

Photocopies of required readings will be provided as necessary.

FORMAT FOR ASSIGNED PAPERS

Papers/exams may be submitted electronically to the instructor as a MSWord (compatibility mode, 12 pt. text) document (.doc) attached to an Email. Alternatively, a printed copy may be submitted to the instructor's mailbox.

GENERAL GUIDELINES

These are taken from the Catalog or the Web site except where indicated.

Guidelines for Academic Study - Students are expected to devote at least 2-3 hours of study per week, per credit. A normal reading load is about 500 pages per credit and research writing of about 5 pages per credit.

Standards for Written Assignments - Class assignments must be submitted electronically and in hard copy, unless otherwise indicated by the instructor, and proofread for proper grammar, spelling, punctuation, and form. In preparing research papers requiring documentation, students are to follow the guidelines in Kate L. Turabian's *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, (latest edition). The manual is available in the Campus Bookstore and Library. Students are required to reference the *Student Writing Guide* posted on the Seminary Web Site. The Writing Center is available to aid students in preparing written and/or oral assignments. *To this may be added any requirements of the professor mandating use of the Writing Center,*

Disabilities Accommodation – Students enrolled in this course who have documented disabilities should contact the professor at the first class session. Reasonable accommodations will be made to ensure that students with disabilities have access to course materials and interaction in modes in which they can receive them.

Class recording – Prior permission to record class lectures must be obtained. A signed affidavit may be required. Consult the professor before any recording takes place.

Electronic Devices in the Classroom -The instructor reserves the right to limit or prohibit the use of laptop computers, cell phones, and other electronic devices in the classroom. (Instructor's policy.)

Class Attendance – Seminarians are required to be punctual and regularly in attendance at class sessions. Non seminarian students enrolled in online courses may chose, at their discretion, to attend classes in person or online in real time or time shifted. At the opening of a term, instructors will inform students of any specific policies governing attendance. Frequent absences may result in an academic penalty and/or failure in the course. Students should confer with the instructor concerning foreseen absences.

Inclement Weather - Students are expected to exercise good judgment and precaution in determining the safety of travel from their areas. Classes that have resident faculty and students exclusively will meet.

Academic Integrity - Students are expected to maintain personal honesty and professional integrity in examinations, assigned papers, and research projects. Source materials and citations used in the preparation of papers are to be indicated by proper documentation. Copyright laws should be honored when duplicating materials. Plagiarism and cheating are a breach of academic integrity. Plagiarism is defined as: "to steal and pass off (the ideas or words of another) as one's own: use (a created production) without crediting the source: to commit literary theft: present as new and original an idea or product derived from an existing source" (*Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary 9th ed*, Springfield, MA: Merriam, 1981, p. 870). Violations in this area are considered a serious offense. If a student is suspected of plagiarism, the following procedure is to be followed:

1. When the instructor *suspects* a student has plagiarized an assignment, the instructor may confront the student.
2. If the instructor has *evidence* that a student has plagiarized an assignment, the instructor should confront the student with the evidence. The student has an opportunity to explain what happened.
3. If the instructor is convinced that plagiarism has occurred, the instructor may suggest a course of action: e.g. rewrite the assignment and receive a grade or the student may take a "0" for the assignment and not rewrite the assignment.
4. The Academic Dean should be informed of the outcome of this discussion and a note will be placed in the student's file. The respective formation mentor is informed by the Academic Dean.
5. If there are repeated offenses, the student will fail the course.
6. The student who fails a required course must repeat it.
7. A student who plagiarizes or cheats consistently in the academic program will be dismissed from the program.
8. For dismissal from the academic program, a board consisting of the Rector, Academic Dean, the student's mentor, the faculty member(s) affected by the student's plagiarism and a faculty member of the student's choosing will be convened and a decision rendered. This decision will be communicated to the student by the Rector.

Cheating is defined as "to deprive of something valuable by the use of deceit or fraud; to influence or lead by deceit, trick, or artifice; to elude or thwart by or as if by outwitting <cheat death>*intransitive verb*: to practice fraud or trickery; to violate rules dishonestly <cheat at cards><cheating on a test> ("cheat." *Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary*. 2010. Merriam-Webster Online. 5 May2010 <http://www.merriamwebster.com/dictionary/cheat>). In short, "cheating is

defined as the intentional act of breaking the rules, or attempting to achieve personal gain through fraud or deceit. With children, cheating usually refers to academic fraud, such as copying answers from another student while taking an exam, or breaking the rules in a game” (Dianne K. Daeg de Mott, Thomson Gale, Detroit, Gale Encyclopedia of Childhood and Adolescence, 1998).

Examples of cheating in an academic setting include, but are not limited to:

- a. copying answers for an exam from another student;
 - b. writing out the answers to an exam beforehand and turning them in at the time of the exam;
 - c. obtaining the answers to an exam prior to the exam and using them during the exam in some way;
 - d. having another person take an exam or write a paper for you;
 - e. continuing to write answers to an exam after the time has expired (timed examinations);
 - f. obtaining copies of an exam or answer key to aid in studying for the exam or preparing an assignment;
 - g. passing notes to another student during an exam;
 - h. asking another student for help during the writing of an exam;
 - i. using another person’s paper, presentation, reflection, etc. and handing it in as your own work;
 - j. using electronic devices such as computers or mobile phones to obtain answers during an exam.
- (The term “exam” may be substituted with “quiz,” “paper,” or “presentation” as the case may be.)

NOTICE OF CHANGE

The information in this syllabus is subject to change. The professor reserves the right to make any necessary changes.

COURSE DELIVERY METHODS/DIVERSE LEARNING METHODS

This course utilizes a number of learning methods. These include lecture, class discussion, assigned readings, videos of ritual or liturgical events, and a written or oral exam that will demonstrate learning and synthesis of material in this course.

SCHEDULE (subject to change)

Session 1—January 10—Introduction

- Syllabus and Introduction to Course and Text Books
- Personal Introductions
- What is Initiation? Everyday life examples.
- *Assignment. (To be announced.)*

[January 17—No Class (Washington, DC Trip)]

Session 2—January 24—Initiation Rituals from a Social Science View

- Initiation Rituals
- *Assignment: Read Chapters 1-3 in Johnson for next class.*

Session 3—January 31—Initiation in the Early Church, 1st through 3rd Century

- *Assignment: Read Chapters 4-5 in Johnson for the next class.*

Session 4—February 14—Initiation in the Early Church, 4th and 5th Centuries

X.

- *Assignment: Read Chapters 6-8 in Johnson for the next class.*

Session 5—February 21—Initiation in the Middle Ages, Reformation, Trent, etc.

X.

- *Assignment: Read Chapters 9-10 in Johnson for the next class. Read the General Instruction of the RCIA.*

[February 28--No Class—Spring Break]

Session 6—March 7—Vatican II and the RCIA

X.

- *Assignment: Read the Rite of Acceptance in the RCIA for next class. Midterm Exam due next class.*

Session 7—March 14—The RCIA: Catechesis and the Rite of Acceptance

X.

- *Assignment: Read the Rites of Sending, Dismissal, Scrutinies, Presentations, and Preliminary Rites in the RCIA for the next class.*

Session 8—March 21—The RCIA: The Rite of Sending, the Dismissal Rite, the Scrutinies, the Presentations, the Preliminary Rites

X.

- *Assignment. Read the Rites of Initiation (Easter Vigil) in the RCIA for the next class.*

[March 28—No Class—Easter Break]

Session 9—April 4—The RCIA: The Rites of Initiation: Easter Vigil

X.

- *Assignment: (To be announced.)*

[April 11--No Class (Instructor at PAPA Convention)]

Session 10—April 18—The RCIA and Special Cases; Mystagogy

X.

- *Assignment: Read the Rite of Infant Baptism for the next class.*

Session 11—April 25—The Rite of Infant Baptism; The Question of Confirmation

Final Exam Date—May 2

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RECOMMENDED READINGS FOR LITURGICAL STUDIES

Books

- Bell, Catherine. *Ritual Perspectives and Dimensions*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1997.
- Bradshaw, Paul. *Eucharistic Origins*. New York: Oxford, 2004.
- Bradshaw, Paul. *The Search for the Origins of Christian Worship: Sources and Methods*. Revised and Enlarged Edition. London: SPCK and New York: Oxford University Press, 2002.
- Danielou, Jean. *The Bible and the Liturgy*. Notre Dame: University of Notre Dame Press, 2009.
- Johnson, Maxwell (ed.). *Between Memory and Hope: Readings on the Liturgical Year*. Collegeville: Pueblo, 2000.
- Johnson, Maxwell. *The Rites of Christian Initiation: Their Evolution and Interpretation*. Revised and Expanded edition. Collegeville: Pueblo, 2007.
- Kavanagh, Aidan. *On Liturgical Theology*. Collegeville: Pueblo, 1984.
- Schillebeeckx, Edward. *Christ the Sacrament of the Encounter with God*. New York: Sheed & Ward, 1963.
- Taft, Robert F. *The Byzantine Rite: A Short History*. Collegeville: The Liturgical Press, 1992.
- Taft, Robert F. *The Liturgy of the Hours in East and West: The Origins of the Divine Office and its Meaning for Today*. Collegeville: The Liturgical Press, 1986.
- White, James F. *Protestant Worship: Traditions in Transition*. Louisville: Westminster/John Knox, 1989.

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