**THEO 60403 – Christian Initiation**

Summer Session, 2014

**Instructor**:

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**Class Time and Location**:

June 16 - July 3, 2014

Mon-Fri 3:15-5:55 p.m.

200 O’Shaughnessy Hall

**Course Description**:

Liturgical historian Robert Taft, S.J. has insisted that “Christian liturgy is a given, an object, an already existing reality like English literature. One discovers what English literature is only by reading Chaucer and Shakespeare and Eliot and Shaw and the contemporaries. So too with the liturgy. If we want to know what Christmas and Chrismation, Eucharist and Easter mean, we shall not get far by studying anthropology or game-theory, or by asking ourselves what we *think* they mean. We must plunge into the enormous stream of liturgical and patristic evidence and wade through it piece by piece, age by age, ever alert to pick up shifts in the current as each generation reaches for its own understanding of what it is we are about.”

*Beyond East and West: Problems in Liturgical Understanding*,

Second Edition (Rome: Pontifical Oriental Institute, 1997) p. 14

This course will trace the origins, development, and interpretation of the rites of Christian Initiation proceeding from this premise: that understanding the rites of initiation comes not from pious navel gazing or myth making based on our particular fantasies, preferences, and prejudices, but from a methodical study of the rites themselves as they are preserved in the historical sources—written, visual, and architectural—using the tried and true methods of historical criticism and comparative liturgy.

**Course Objectives**:

* To learn to use the methods of historical criticism and comparative liturgy in the analysis of liturgical rites
* To trace the evolution of the rites of initiation in the various communities of the Christian East and West
* To compare and contrast the structures and theologies of the rites of initiation of the communities of the Christian East and West
* To read the meanings/theologies of initiation as they are revealed in the rites and how those meanings have been changed, amplified, or muted as the rites have evolved, disintegrated, and been renewed

**Course Requirements**:

* Participation and Attendance 30%
* Paper 35%
* Presentation 35%

**Grading Scale:**

95-100 = A

91-94 = A-

86-90 = B+

82-85 = B

78-81 = B-

74-77 = C+

70-73 = C

66-69 = C-

62-65 = D

61-below = F

**Required Texts**:

* **RCI** = Maxwell E. Johnson, *The Rites of Christian Initiation: Their Evolution and Interpretation*, Revised and Expanded Edition. Collegeville: Liturgical Press, 2007. ISBN 978-0-8146-6215-1
* **LWSS** = Maxwell E. Johnson, ed. *Living Water, Sealing Spirit: Readings on Christian Initiation*. Collegeville: Liturgical Press, 1995. ISBN 978-0-8146-6140-8
* **DBL** = E. C. Whitaker, *Documents of the Baptismal Liturgy*, Revised and Expanded by Maxwell E. Johnson. Collegeville: Liturgical Press, 2003. ISBN 978-0-8146-6200-5

**Recommended Reading**:

* **BEC** = Everett Ferguson, *Baptism in the Early Church: History, Theology, and Liturgy in the First Five Centuries*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2009. ISBN 978-0-8028-2748-7
* **SOB** = Aidan Kavanagh, *The Shape of Baptism: The Rite of Christian Initiation*. Collegeville: Liturgical Press, 1991. ISBN 978-0-8146-6036-3
* **AWS** = Gerard Austin, *Anointing With the Spirit: The Rite of Confirmation*. Collegeville: Liturgical Press, 1986. ISBN 978-0814660706
* **HLS4** = Anscar J. Chupungco, ed., *Handbook for Liturgical Studies, Volume IV: Sacraments and Sacramentals* (Collegeville: Liturgical Press, 2000)

**Week One**

**Mon 6/16 – Antecedents to Christian Initiation**

* Required Reading
	+ Collins, “The Origin of Christian Baptism,” in **LWSS**, 35-57
* Recommended Reading
	+ Ferguson, **BEC**, 25-37 and 60-98

**Tues 6/17 – Initiation in the NT**

* Required Reading
	+ Johnson, **RCI**, xvii-xxiv and 1-40
* Recommended Reading
	+ Collins, “The Origin of Christian Baptism,” in **LWSS**, 35-57
	+ Ferguson, **BEC**, 99-200

**Wed 6/18 – Initiation in the pre-Nicene East**

* Required Reading
	+ Johnson, **RCI**, 41-82
* Recommended Reading
	+ Winkler, “The Original Meaning of the Prebaptismal Anointing and Its Implications,” in **LWSS**, 58-81
	+ Bradshaw, “Baptismal Practice in the Alexandrian Tradition: Eastern or Western?,” in **LWSS**, 82-100
	+ Jean Laporte, “Models from Philo in Origen’s Teaching on Original Sin,” in **LWSS**, 101-117
	+ Ferguson, **BEC**, 201-324

**Thurs 6/19 – Initiation in the pre-Nicene West**

* Required Reading
	+ Johnson, **RCI**, 83-114
* Recommended Reading
	+ Bradshaw, “‘Diem baptism sollemniorem’: Initiation and Easter in Christian Antiquity,” in **LWSS**, 137-147
	+ Adrien Nocent, OSB, “Christian Initiation During the First Four Centuries,” in **HLS4**, 5-28
	+ Ferguson, **BEC**, 325-454

**Fri 6/20 – Initiation in the East during the Fourth and Fifth Centuries**

* Required Reading
	+ Johnson, **RCI**, 115-158
* Recommended Reading
	+ Maxwell E. Johnson, “From Three Weeks to Forty Days: Baptismal Preparation and the Origins of Lent,” in **LWSS**, 118-136
	+ Ferguson, **BEC**, 455-633 and 687-755

**Week Two**

**Mon 6/23 – Initiation in the West during the Fourth and Fifth Centuries**

* Required Reading
	+ Johnson, **RCI**, 159-200
* Recommended Reading
	+ Ferguson, **BEC**, 634-683 and 756-818

**Tues 6/24 – Initiation in the Medieval West – Part I**

* Required Reading
	+ Johnson, **RCI**, 219-268
* Recommended Reading
	+ Aidan Kavanagh, “Confirmation: A Suggestion from Structure,” in **LWSS**, 148-158
	+ Paul Turner, “The Origins of Confirmation Reconsidered: An Analysis of Aidan Kavanagh’s Hypothesis (with Response by Aidan Kavanagh),” in **LWSS**, 238-249
	+ Gabriele Winkler, “Confirmation or Chrismation? A Study in Comparative Liturgy,” in **LWSS**, 202-218
	+ Joseph Levesque, “The Theology of the Postbaptismal Rites in the Seventh and Eighth Century Gallican Church,” in **LWSS**, 159-201

**Wed 6/25 – Initiation in the Medieval West – Part II**

* Required Reading
	+ Johnson, **RCI**, 219-268
* Recommended Reading
	+ J. D. C. Fisher, *Christian Initiation: Baptism in the Medieval West: A Study in the Disintegration of the Primitive Rite of Initiation*, Alcuin Club, 47 (London: Alcuin GROW, 1965)
	+ Adrien Nocent, OSB, “Christian Initiation in the Roman Church from the Fifth Century Until Vatican II,” in **HLS4**, 49-92 (Available on Sakai)

**Thurs 6/26 – Initiation in the East – Part I**

* Required Reading
	+ Johnson, **RCI**, 269-308
* Recommended Reading
	+ Stefano Parenti, “Christian Initiation in the East,” in **HLS4**, 29-48 (Available on Sakai)

**Fri 6/27 – Initiation in the East – Part II**

* Required Reading
	+ Johnson, **RCI**, 269-308
* Recommended Reading
	+ Sebastian Brock, “Studies in the Early History of the Syrian Orthodox Baptismal Liturgy,” *Journal of Theological Studies* 23 (1972) 16-64 (Available on Sakai)

**Week Three**

**Mon 6/30 – Initiation in the Protestant and Catholic Reformations – Part I**

* Required Reading
	+ Johnson, **RCI**, 309-374
* Recommended Reading
	+ J. D. C. Fisher, *Christian Initiation: The Reformation Period* (London: SPCK, 1970)

**Tues 7/1 – Initiation in the Protestant and Catholic Reformations – Part II**

* Required Reading
	+ Johnson, **RCI**, 309-374
* Recommended Reading
	+ J. D. C. Fisher, *Christian Initiation: The Reformation Period* (London: SPCK, 1970)

**Wed 7/2 – Contemporary Change, Renewal, and Reform**

* Required Reading
	+ Johnson, RCI, 375-450
* Recommended Reading
	+ Aidan Kavanagh, **SOB**, 81-204
	+ Aidan Kavanagh, “Unfinished and Unbegun Revisited: The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults,” in **LWSS**, 259-273
	+ Laurence H. Stookey, “Three New Initiation Rites,” in **LWSS**, 274-291
	+ Eugene L. Brand, “New Rites of Initiation and Their Implications: in the Lutheran Churches,” in **LWSS**, 292-309

**Thurs 7/3 – Presentations**

**Fri 7/4 – Happy Fourth!**

**THE RITES OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION:**

**A SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY**

**(Compiled by the Rev. Dr. Maxwell E. Johnson)**

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* Van Gennep, *The Rites of Passage*. Chicago 1960.
* L. Mitchell, *The Meaning of Ritual* (New York 1977)
* V. Turner, "Passages, Margins and Poverty: Religious Symbols of Communitas," *Worship* 46 (1972) 390-412, 482-395.
* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, *The Ritual Process: Structure and Anti-Structure*. Chicago 1969.

**GENERAL HISTORIES/TEXTS**

* J.G. Davies, *The Architectural Setting of Baptism* . London 1962.
* T.M. Finn, *Early Christian Baptism and the Catechumenate* (= *Message of the Fathers of the Fathers of the Church 5 and 6* ) vol. 5: *West and East Syria*; vol. 6: *Italy, North Africa, and Egypt* Collegeville 1992.
* M. Johnson (ed.), *Living Water, Sealing Spirit: Readings on Christian Initiation*. Collegeville 1995.
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* S.A. Stauffer, *On Baptismal Fonts: Ancient and Modern.* Alcuin/GROW Liturgical Study 29-30, Bramcote/Nottingham 1994.
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* P. Turner, *Sources of Confirmation: From the Fathers Through the Reformers.* Collegeville 1993.
* G. Wainwright, *Christian Initiation*. London 1969.
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* E.C. Whitaker, *The Baptismal Liturgy*. London 1965; 2nd edn 1981.
* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, *Documents of the Baptismal Liturgy* . London 1970. Revised Edition by Maxwell E. Johnson (London; SPCK, Collegeville: Pueblo, 2003).
* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, "The History of the Baptismal Formula," *Journal of Ecclesiastical History* 16 (1965) 1-12.

**NEW TESTAMENT**

* \*A. Collins, "The Origin of Christian Baptism," *Studia Liturgica* 19, 1 (1989) 28-46.
* G. P. Beasley-Murray, *Baptism in the New Testament* . London 1962=1972.
* M. E. Boismard, *Le baptême Chrétien selon le nouveau testament.* Paris: Cerf, 2001.
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* O. Cullmann, *Baptism in the New Testament*.. London 1950.
* W. F. Flemington, *The New Testament Doctrine of Baptism* . London 1964.
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* L. Hartman, *'Into the Name of the Lord Jesus': Baptism in the Early Church*. Studies of the New Testament and its World. (Edinburgh: T&T Clark, 1997).
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* T.W. Manson, "Entry into Membership of the Early Church," *Journal of Theological Studies* 48 (1947) 1964.
* Van Meenen, Un esprit inaugural: don do l’esprit et commencement de la vie chrétienne selon quelques texts du Nouveau Testament.” *QL* 79 (1998) 202-213.
* E. Nodet, *Baptême et resurrection: le témoignage de Josèphe.* Paris: Éditions du Cerf, 1999.
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* R. E. O. White, *The Biblical Doctrine of Initiation*. London 1960.

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*and Religio-historical Analysis of their Relationship.* Unpublished Ph.D. Dissertation, Temple University, 2002.

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