IWR410 The Church Year: Time and Worship

COURSE DESCRIPTION:
For thousands of years the people of God have used the cycles of nature to proclaim the mighty acts of God. Still today, the year, week, and day provide powerful ways to recognize and celebrate the effects of the presence of Christ, the central self-revelation of the Triune God. This course will provide an historical, practical, ecumenical, even inter-religious introduction to the sanctification of time.

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SCHEDULE:
Monday, January 12—Friday, January 16
Monday:  8:30 am–12:30 pm; 2:00–5:30 pm
Tuesday: 8:30 am–12:30 pm; 2:00–5:30 pm
Wednesday: 8:30 am–12:30 pm; 2:00–5:30 pm; 7:00–9:00 pm
Thursday: 8:30 am–12:30 pm; 2:00–5:30 pm
Friday: 8:30 am–12:30 pm;
In addition, 6 contact hours will be counted through Distance Education course requirements on an LTSP Moodle Site (See below).

COURSE OBJECTIVES:
By the end of the course, students will be able
1. to see the dangers of the "sanctification of time," and so explain the church year theologically and pastorally as to defend the practice;
2. to compare and contrast Christian festivals with Jewish, Muslim, and other religious and civic ones;
3. to explain the centrality and unity of the celebrations of Sunday and the Pasch;
4. to understand the customs of some cultures other than their own related to the Christian year;
5. to recognize the themes of the Church year in such artistic expressions as music, painting, drama, and popular and serious literature;
6. to plan congregational worship for the seasons and festivals of the church year, taking into account the congregation's culture as well as the history, imagery, hymnody, and resources of the seasons and festivals;
7. to understand, practice, and teach the devotional use of the lectionaries and daily office.

ADVANCE PREPARATION:
In advance of the first session of the class,
1. students are to have read
   a.  Lord of the Dance by Andrew M. Greeley (out of print, but available from libraries, amazon.com, or the instructor)
   b.  Between Memory and Hope: Readings on the Liturgical Year by Maxwell Johnson
2. students are to choose in consultation with the instructor a religious or cultural tradition other than their own, and are to begin research on that traditions sanctification of time, including such questions as:
a. What are the daily, weekly, monthly, and annual observances?
b. How are these observances related to geographic or cosmological cycles?
c. How are these observances related to life occurrences and/or the rhythms of family, occupational, recreational, or academic life?
d. How do these observances include artistic expression (including culinary, of course)?
e. How are these observances linked to and how do they stand over against the practices of the surrounding culture?

3. Students are to be prepared to answer these same questions related to the congregation they know best.

**REQUIREMENTS:**
1. Completion of all reading and assignment.
2. Attendance and active participation in all sessions of the course.
3. In-class presentations on their own and another tradition
4. A final written paper on the tradition chosen, of about 10 pages in length, double spaced, including bibliography. The final project will be posted on-line for sharing with class members and instructor; each student will write a short (less than 100 word) response to every other student’s paper. The paper should be posted by Feb. 10; all comments should be made by February 25
5. An outline of a service for a festival which could be used by the community they know best, using resources from at least two sources (including themselves) outside of the official materials used by that community. This outline should be submitted to the instructor by Feb. 20.