

Theology of Sacraments

THEO 265

Spring 2017

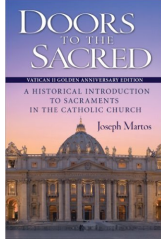
TTr 1-2:15pm

Loyola University Chicago

Dr. James S. Mastaler

Doors to the Sacred

A Historical Introduction to Sacraments in the Catholic Church

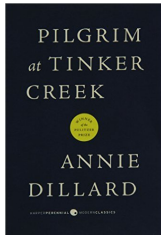


Joseph Martos

Liguori/Triumph, 2014

Required text

Pilgrim at Tinker Creek



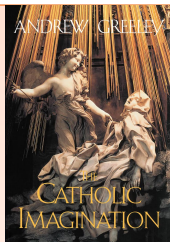
Annie Dillard

Harper Perennial Classics, 1998

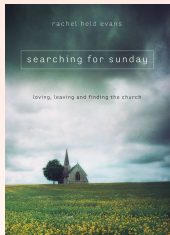
Required text

Recommended Texts

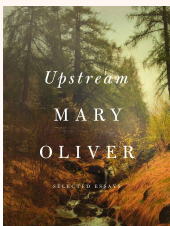
The Catholic Imagination
Andrew Greeley
U of CA Press, 2001



Searching for Sunday
Rachel Held Evans
Thomas Nelson, 2015



Upstream
Mary Oliver
Penguin Press, 2016



Theology of Sacraments

Course Description

This course studies the sacramental theology made manifest in the realities of Christian faith life and expressed in the rituals of Christian communities. Sacramental theology is about more than just mechanical ways in which to experience God in Christian liturgies; they have been traditionally defined as "a visible sign of an invisible reality" or as "visible forms of invisible grace." Indeed, the seven sacraments of the Catholic tradition, for example, are only privileged theological and liturgical expressions of a way of interpreting reality. This course will examine what is called a "sacramental imagination" as a way to get at the theological assumptions that are such a large part of Catholic spiritual traditions in particular, and to Christian traditions broadly. By studying the historical development, central beliefs and communal practices of the sacraments as expressed in Roman Catholic worship, students will learn to articulate the nature of Christian sacramental theology, and to define the key concepts and religious practices that are part of the ongoing discourse of this tradition for faith communities today and in the future.



You are encouraged to see me without an appointment during my office hours or you may arrange an appointment by seeing me before or after class.

Attendance, Participation, and Incomplete Work

One of the most important aspects of this course is your critical engagement with the lectures, readings, films, and conversations you have with your peers inside the classroom. This means that it is especially important to come to class and to come prepared to participate actively in discussion. Your attendance and readiness is expected.

Absences for University business such as academic trips and athletic travel, religious observances, or illnesses ought not to count against the student's successful completion of course requirements provided you inform the instructor beforehand and offer proper documentation (like a physician or athletic department notification). Students who miss a class session for any reason are responsible for all assignments and material covered during class. Missed exams and presentations typically cannot be made up unless under the conditions noted above.

Assignments are due in class at the beginning of the session noted and in paper copy. Late essays (including electronic submissions) will lose 10% for each day late and will not be accepted after a week and a grade of 0 will be recorded.

Intellectual Honesty & Plagiarism

Plagiarism is regarded as a serious violation of honesty and a grade of "0" will be recorded for any assignments found plagiarized. Please review the official University policy on standards and consequences:

http://www.luc.edu/academics/catalog/undergrad/reg_academicintegrity.shtml

Students with Disabilities

If you have a documented disability and wish to discuss academic accommodations, please contact me and also contact Services for Students with Disabilities (Sullivan Center Suite 260) as soon as possible to arrange appropriate accommodations.



Learning Outcomes

By successfully passing this course, students will:

- Increase their factual knowledge of the historical development of sacramental theology
- Learn the fundamental principles of sacramental theology broadly, and Catholic traditions of the sacraments specifically
- Gain a broader understanding and appreciation of how sacramental theology is often embedded within the intellectual and cultural activity of societies, especially cultural artifacts like literature and film
- Develop skill in expressing oneself orally and in writing
- Develop a clearer understanding of, and commitment to, personal values
- Learn to analyze and critically evaluate ideas, arguments, and points of view—especially those associated with religious texts and traditions in Christian sacramental theology

Classroom Decorum

A Learning Community

The goal of our time together in this course is for each of us to improve our ability to seek greater understanding.

While this requires individual effort, it also requires the collaboration and cooperation of your classmates and colleagues. It is each person's responsibility to create the intentional, free, open and honest intellectual space necessary in this pursuit. We each deserve to feel comfortable expressing our thoughts and we owe it to each other to express them with increasing clarity, greater understanding and respect for new or different perspectives.

Every individual shares this responsibility with every other individual, including your instructor.

No particular ideological, religious or moral viewpoint is expected from you—only a willingness to engage each other and this course's content honestly, critically and constructively.

Lectures, films, small and large-group discussions, interactive participatory learning, and written essays constitute this course's format

Your full engagement is essential to the overall success of this course



Scale: A (94.0-100), A- (90.0-93.9), B+ (87.0-89.9), B (83.0-86.9), B- (80.0-82.9), C+ (77.0-79.9), C (73.0-76.9), C- (70.0-72.9), D+ (67.0-69.9), D (60.0-66.9), F (0-59.9)

Course Evaluation

Accountability in Learning

Topical Essay (25 points) This 3-5 page writing assignment is to be double-spaced in size-12 *Times New Roman* font. You will decide your topic at the beginning of the semester, along with your panel assignment, in consultation with your instructor and it is to be relevant to a reading or contemporary issue.

Collaborative Panel (10 points) Working alongside a small team of your fellow students, your group will present a series of issues and themes relevant to the sacraments studied in the course. Individuals present for 5 minutes each but presentations are to be collectively integrative in nature.

Discussion Lead (5 points) Each student will take responsibility for facilitating an extended small group discussion on the Dillard text.

Exams 1 & 2 (25 points each) Two exams will assess your knowledge of course material covered in lectures, class discussions, films, and assigned readings. This is mostly a short-answer and essay-based format.

Course Finale (10 points) An opportunity to creatively apply your new knowledge and critical self-awareness at 1pm on Friday 05 May 2017.

Every class dynamic is different and unique. This course plan is intended to guide our time together over the semester. It is subject to modification as may be necessary, in order to adjust to the rhythm and particular needs of this group.

Course Plan Reading Schedule & Rubrics Available Online

17 January	Course Introduction	19 January	Introduction to Sacramentalism
24 January	Early Christianity and Sacramentalism	26 January	Discussion: <i>Pilgrim at Tinker Creek</i> 1-2
31 January	Medieval period & Catholic Sacraments	02 February	Reformation & Protestant Sacraments
07 February	Second Vatican Council & Sacraments	09 February	Exam 1
14 February	Lecture: BAPTISM; Panels/essays	16 February	Discussion: <i>Pilgrim at Tinker Creek</i> 3-4
21 February	Lecture: CONFIRMATION; Panels/essays	23 February	Discussion: <i>Pilgrim at Tinker Creek</i> 5-6
28 February	Lecture: EUCHARIST; Panels/essays	03 March	<i>Babette's Feast</i>
07 March	No Class—Spring Break	09 March	No Class—Spring Break
14 March	Lecture: RECONCILIATION; Panels/essays	16 March	Discussion: <i>Pilgrim at Tinker Creek</i> 7-8
21 March	Lecture: ANOINTING; Panels/essays	23 March	Discussion: <i>Pilgrim at Tinker Creek</i> 9-10
28 March	<i>Wit</i>	30 March	<i>Wit</i>
04 April	Lecture: MARRIAGE; Panels/essays	06 April	Discussion: <i>Pilgrim at Tinker Creek</i> 11-12
11 April	<i>Moonstruck</i>	13 April	<i>Moonstruck</i>
18 April	Exam 2	20 April	Discussion: <i>Pilgrim at Tinker Creek</i> 13-14
25 April	Lecture: ORDINATION; Panels/essays	27 April	Discussion: <i>Pilgrim at Tinker Creek</i> 15