Course Description
This course examines the sacraments, rites, and liturgy of The United Methodist Church and the pastor’s role as worship leader.

Course Objectives
1. Examination of the church year and its historical and theological grounding
2. Examination of the theology and practice of the sacraments
3. Review of the rites of Christian marriage, death and resurrection, and other occasional services, including appropriate counseling methods
4. Reflection on worship practices, including use of nontraditional liturgies, media, music, and lay leadership
5. Development, for reflection and evaluation, of a sample service of worship

Required Text Books and Online Readings
- *This Holy Mystery: A United Methodist Understanding of Holy Communion* (available at gbod.org/worship)
- *By Water and the Spirit: A United Methodist Understanding of Baptism* (available at gbod.org/worship)
- Bill Barnes, “Lectionary vs. Sermon Series: Does it Have to be One or the Other?” *Circuit Rider* August/September/October 2008
  [http://www.ministrymatters.com/all/article/entry/65/lectionary-vs-sermon-series-does-it-have-to-be-one-or-the-other](http://www.ministrymatters.com/all/article/entry/65/lectionary-vs-sermon-series-does-it-have-to-be-one-or-the-other)
- *The United Methodist Hymnal* (ISBN 9780687431328)
- *The United Methodist Book of Worship* (ISBN 9780687035724)
Precourse Assignments

Due to the COS office via email by May 1st. All papers should be double spaced, inch-margins, and a 10-12pt font. For each assignment, demonstrate knowledge of the book covered in that assignment.

1. Read Susan White’s *Foundations of Christian Worship*. Based on your reading, write a 3-5 page paper that answers the following questions:
   - What are the foundations of Christian Worship?
   - What are the basic components of worship and why are they important?
   - How does worship speak to the human life cycle?
   - What are some challenges to worship in our time and culture?

2. Read Gayle Felton’s *United Methodists and the Sacraments, This Holy Mystery: A United Methodist Understanding of Holy Communion,* and *By Water and the Spirit: A United Methodist Understanding of Baptism*. Based on your reading of these books, write two sermons (based on the scripture text of your choice, between 5-7 pages): One sermon to teach your congregation about the theology and practice of Holy Communion in the UMC, and the other is to teach your congregation about the theology and practice of Baptism in the UMC. You may focus your sermons around particular events (eg. World Communion Sunday, the baptism of a person you know, one of the case studies in Susan White’s book *Foundations of Christian Worship*) or you may make your sermon more general.

3. Using the guidelines found in Appendices 2 & 3 in Susan White’s *Foundations of Christian Worship*, attend a United Methodist Worship Service as an observer. Write a 3-5 page observation paper describing the elements of the ritual and evaluating its effectiveness from a United Methodist perspective.

4. Read *Worship Matters, Volume I* and the two articles on “Lectionary vs. Topical”. Utilizing material and referencing relevant chapters from *Worship Matters, Volume I*, write a 3-5 page paper evaluating the merits and drawbacks of planning worship strictly around the Christian Year.

5. Read and do the exercises in Laurence Stookey’s workbook, *Let the Whole Church Say “Amen!”* Keep a journal demonstrating completion of all the exercises in the book. The journals will be collected on the first day of class.
DIRECTIONS FOR EMAILING PRECOURSE WORK

Please read all the directions below before emailing your assignments to the COS Office, any emails received that do not follow the directions below will not be accepted. You will receive an email confirmation of receipt and if your email is not submitted correctly an email indicating you will need to resend your assignments.

1. Email only michelle.levan@emory.edu, do not email the instructor your assignment.

2. Emails must be received no later than 11:59pm on the May 1, 2013 deadline.
   a. Please note that the cut off time is EASTERN STANDARD TIME zone, so email your assignments accordingly.
   b. Any precourse work received after May 1st at 11:59pm will be subject to a late penalty.
      1. Precourse work received between May 2 – June 1 is 1 letter grade deduction.
      2. Precourse work received between June 2 – June 20 is 2 letter grade deductions.
      3. You will be drop from any course for which precourse work has not been received after June 20, 2013. No precourse work will be accepted after the June 20th deadline.

3. The course number and the phrase “precourse work” should be the subject of your email:
   Example - Precourse Work 113
   a. You will need to send a separate email for each course you are registered to attend.

4. Precourse work must be sent as an attached document and not in the body of the email.
   a. Any version of Microsoft Word or WordPerfect documents will be accepted; PDF and Mac-Pages documents will be accepted.
   b. All of your assignments for each course must be in one document, multiple documents are not acceptable. You should send only one attachment with course all assignments.

5. Your FULL name, phone number and email, should all be clearly included at the beginning of your email:
   Example: Michelle Levan
   404.727.4587
   michelle.levan@emory.edu

6. Plagiarism Policy and Plagiarism Defined paragraphs must be included in the body of your email (both are below), not within your precourse work. The inclusion of the policy and definition in the body of the email, verifies that you agree to it and your email will represent your signature. If the email does not include the plagiarism policy and definition it will not be accepted. Your email, with the plagiarism policy and definition will be printed and used as cover sheet for your precourse work, because it has the verification of date and time received, and your agreement to the plagiarism policy and definition, and your contact information.

   Plagiarism Policy
   I have read the plagiarism definition below and verify that this assignment represents my own work, except where credit is given. I have also made copies of this assignment and I will bring them with me to class in the event that any of my work is misplaced.

   Plagiarism Defined
   “You plagiarize when, intentionally or not, you use someone’s words or ideas but fail to credit that person. You plagiarize even when you do credit the author but use his exact words without so indicating with quotation marks or block indentation. You also plagiarize when you use words so close to those in your source, that if your work were placed next to the source, it would be obvious that you could not have written what you did without the source at your elbow. When accused of plagiarism, some writers claim I must have somehow memorized the passage. When I wrote it, I certainly thought it was my own. That excuse convinces very few.” From page 167 of The Craft of Research by Wayne C. Booth, Gregory G. Colomb, and Joseph M. Williams, published in 1995 by The University of Chicago Press in Chicago.

7. If you do not follow the procedure your precourse work WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED!!!!!!!