All precourse assignments should be emailed to the Course of Study Office by May 1, 2014

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
- Examination of the church year and its historical and theological grounding
- Examination of the theology and practice of the sacraments
- Review of the rites of Christian marriage, death and resurrection, and other occasional services, including appropriate counseling methods
- Reflection on worship practices, including use of nontraditional liturgies, media, music, and lay leadership
- 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?
   - What does Dr. White say about the ongoing nourishment of the Christian Life?
   - 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, each between 5-7 pages in length, double-spaced, 12 pt. font): 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. (Note: The sermon on Holy Communion will be preached to the class on the day you recite the prayer of Great Thanksgiving.)

3. Read Hoyt Hickman’s book, Worshiping with United Methodists: A Guide for Pastors and Church Leaders. Utilizing the knowledge gained from reading this book as a guide and a copy of a recent bulletin from your church, evaluate the order of worship currently in use at the church you serve. Putting yourself in the role of Dr. Hickman, write a short (2-3 pages, double spaced) reflection on what he might advise you to change about your pattern of worship, and why, as well as what should stay the same, were he to come and give a consultation at your church.

4. 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.

5. Memorize the full version of The Great Thanksgiving prayer from the opening dialogue (The Lord be with you; and also with you…) through the “Amen” just before the Lord’s Prayer. This can be found on pages 36-38 of the 1992 edition of The United Methodist Book of Worship. You will be required to recite the prayer from memory in front of the class.

6. Read the two articles on “Lectionary vs. Topical,” taking notes on the merits and drawbacks of series preaching. Based on these readings and your own experience, be prepared to participate in a discussion on this topic in class.
7. 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 and checked for completion the first week of class.

**Guidelines for Written Assignments**

- All papers should be typed, double-spaced, on 8 ½” by 11” paper, unless the instructor has asked for a different format specifically within the precourse work. Font should be Times New Roman or something similar and no larger than size 12. Margins are to be 1” on all four sides of each page.
- All papers must include a page number and the last name of the student in either the header or footer of every page.
- You should note the question you are answering at the beginning of each new section of materials.
- All papers should provide citations for all quoted material. You may use MLA, Turabain, APA or Chicago Style.
- Punctuation should be consistent; clarity of meaning is the primary purpose of punctuation. Edit and retype material as needed and check spelling in a standard dictionary.
- All papers should attempt to eliminate discriminatory language—for example: racism, ageism, sexism, classism, and prejudicial usage concerning handicapping conditions.

**Inclusive Language Covenant**

The faculty of Emory Course of Study School has adopted a covenant statement encouraging inclusiveness in the use of language, as follows:

The Inclusive Language Covenant is designed to create a linguistic environment in which all students, staff, and faculty can grow in understanding and appreciating the rich diversity of God’s people. The COS faculty commits itself—through continued discussion, reflection, and exploration—to using language in such a way that we respond to the fullness of God’s presence among us as much by our choice of words as by our care for one another. Recognizing that our experience with inclusive language is an integral part of theological formation, we invite students and others to share as partners with us in this learning process.

We understand “covenant” more in terms of its biblical and theological meaning than in a legal or contractual context. Covenant signifies the common commitment of a community of faith in response to God’s revelation and in partnership with one another. The values implied in the covenant have morally persuaded us to try to generate patterns of speech and behavior that bond the members of the community in mutual respect. We expect all members of the community to address issues of diversity constructively. The entire Inclusive Language Covenant can be found on the COS website, and you are encouraged to read the whole covenant.
**Directions to Email Precourse Assignments**

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 instructors precourse assignments.
2. Email must be received no later than 11:59pm on the deadline of May 1st.
   1. Please note that the cut off time is EASTERN STANDARD TIME zone, so email your assignments accordingly.
   2. Any precourse work received after May 1st at 11:59pm will be subject to a late penalty.
      - Precourse work received between May 2 – June 1 is 1 letter grade deduction.
      - Precourse work received between June 2 – June 20 is 2 letter grade deductions.
      - You will be drop from any course for which precourse work has not been received after June 20th. No precourse work will be accepted at check-in.
3. The course number and the phrase “precourse work” should be the subject of your email: Example - Precourse Work 113
   1. 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.
   1. Any version of Microsoft Word will be accepted; PDF and Mac-Pages documents will not be accepted.
   2. All assignments for each course must be in one document, multiple documents are not acceptable. You should send only one attachment with all course assignments.
5. Your FULL name, phone number and email, should all be clearly included at the beginning of your email. See Example
6. Plagiarism Policy and Plagiarism Defined
   The plagiarism Policy and Defined paragraphs below 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 (which is a requirement). 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 the cover sheet for your precourse assignments, because it has the verification of date and time received, and your agreement to the plagiarism policy and definition.
   **Plagiarism Policy** - I have read the plagiarism definition below and verify that this assignment represents my own work, except where credit is given.
   **Plagiarism Defined:** “You plagiarize when, intentionally or not, you use someone else’s words or ideas but fail to credit that person, leading your readers to think that those words are yours. In all fields, you plagiarize when you use a source’s words or ideas without citing that source. In most fields, you plagiarize even when you do credit the source but use its exact words without using quotation marks or block indentation” (201-202). Booth, Wayne C. Booth, Gregory G. Colomb, and Joseph M. Williams. *The Craft of Research, Second Edition*. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press, 2003.
7. If you do not follow the procedure your precourse work WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED!