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WO 655 Getting Premodern to go Post Modern: Wisdom from the Early Church for Preaching and Worship Today

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Syllabus
WO 655

Getting Premodern to go Post Modern:
Wisdom from the Early Church for Preaching and Worship Today (3 hours)
January 20-24, 2003
Dr. Michael Pasquarello and Dr. Lester Ruth
Guest lecturers: Sally Morgenthaler and Karen Ward

Please note that this syllabus might be adjusted in some minor aspects before the start of class.

Each student will need an ATS e-mail account (First Class) and facility with this account in order to participate in required online assignments.

Course Description: This course seeks to facilitate a conversation between a Patristic vision of reality and the Postmodern world so as to provoke reflection and discussion about current possible practices of preaching and worship. It will seek to explore a third way for preaching and worship beyond the confines of so-called “contemporary” and “traditional” worship.

Objectives of the Course:

- 1) to familiarize students with essential characteristics of the patristic vision and the Postmodern world;
- 2) to see how the patristic vision was expressed as the church at worship;
- 3) to explore connections between this patristic vision and the world of Postmodernity

Competencies to be developed by the student: a student who has successfully completed this course will be able to:

- 1) demonstrate her or his understanding of these core patristic concepts: economy of salvation, remembrance, time, sacrament, and church;
- 2) describe the basic rhythms and practices of worship in the patristic era;
- 3) articulate an overview of the various cultural expressions that make up Postmodernity; and
- 4) use the practical wisdom of the early church Fathers in leading the church at worship in the emerging Postmodern world.

Textbooks and other reading material:

- Allen, Diogenes. *Spiritual Theology: The Theology of Yesterday for Spiritual Help Today*. Cowley Publications, 1997.
- Cuming, Geoffrey. *Hippolytus: A Text for Students*. Grove Books Limited, 1987.
- Greer, Rowan A. *Broken Lights and Mended Lives*. Pennsylvania State University Press, 1986.
- Harmless, William. *Augustine and the Catechumenate*. Pueblo, 1995.
- Kelly, J. N. D. *Golden Mouth: The Story of John Chrysostom: Ascetic, Preacher, Bishop*. Cornell University Press, 1995.
- McLaren, Brian. *A New Kind of Christian*. Jossey-Bass, 2001

Webber, Robert. *Ancient-Future Faith: Rethinking Evangelicalism for a Postmodern World*. Baker, 1999.

A course packet containing the following material will also be required:

Kavanagh, Aidan. "A Rite of Passage."

Taft, Robert. "Toward a Theology of the Christian Feast." pp. 1-14 in *Beyond East & West: Problems in Liturgical Understanding*. Pastoral Press, 1984.

+ 4 sermons from Augustine, Chrysostom, Ambrose, and Cyril of Jerusalem.

Course Requirements

Each student will complete the following requirements:

- 1) the assigned reading
- 2) attendance at all class sessions
- 3) 2 pre-class online assignments
- 4) final exam (comprehensive, take-home, open book)

Details on each assignment and the basis for evaluation

Online assignments (beginning, respectively, on the following dates: Jan 6, Jan. 13); at a minimum each student will be expected to post an initial response to the professors' discussion starter and a response to another classmate's initial posting; postings will be evaluated not only for quantity (how much you participate) but also for quality (how well you participate). Quality postings will show insightfulness, ability to integrate readings, and will move the discussion forward.)

Weight of grading for the requirements

--Each online assignment is worth 20% of the class grade for a total of 40%

--The final exam will be worth 60% of the grade.

Class Schedule

Pre-class

Beginning **Jan. 6** 1st online assignment: On this date be prepared to begin participating in the online assignment concerning McLaren's *A New Kind of Christian*

Beginning **Jan. 13** 2nd online assignment: On this date be prepared to begin participating in the online assignment concerning Webber's *Ancient-Future Faith*

The week of classes

Jan. 20: Course introduction; Sally Morgenthaler on Postmodernity

Jan. 21: morning: Sally Morgenthaler on Postmodern context; afternoon: Karen Ward on Postmodernity

Jan. 22: The Patristic Vision (have read 2 of the sermons in the course packet)

Jan. 23: Patristic Worship and Preaching (have read Kavanagh's "A Rite of Passage" + 1 of the sermons in the course packet + *Hippolytus*)

Jan. 24: Patristic Worship and Preaching (have read the last sermon in the course packet)

On noon, **January 31** a take-home, open book, comprehensive exam will be **due** in the office of Dr. Lester Ruth (BC 218).