

# Seasons and Celebrations in the Church Year

CL362

Fall 2004  
Elul 5764 – Kislev 5765

Tuesdays 6:00-9:15  
Classroom B

United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities  
"The Best Kept Secret of the Twin Cities"

Instructor: Jann Cather Weaver

**Office hours:**  
**Appointments upon Request**  
**Requests for Thursday Appointments would be kind.**  
**Instructor is good at making appointments around schedules**

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Room 221

## I. COURSE OVERVIEW

This course explores the historical and theological developments of the Jewish and Christian liturgical years. We will study the relationship – the foundations, departures, and similarities – of these related faith traditions, learning how to address each tradition as authentic and with mutual integrity. We will study liturgical time, seasons, and celebrations of the Jewish and Christian faiths in relationship to the worship and program life of churches. We will also study secular celebrations, e.g., Mother's Day, the Fourth of July, within a framework of liturgical and theological integrity in light of congregational realities. **Students with some prior experience in church worship will benefit the most.**

## II. OBJECTIVES OF THE COURSE

- To learn the primary days, seasons, and liturgical practices of the Jewish liturgical year;
- To learn the primary days, seasons, and liturgical practices of the Christian church year;
- To learn the relationship between the Jewish and Christian liturgical celebrations;
- To learn the liturgical shaping of time as religious practice;
- To learn the signs and symbols of the liturgical church year;
- To reevaluate Christian theology and liturgical practices in relationship to Judaism, learning to avoid anti-Judaic leanings;
- To examine critically cultural cooptation of liturgical seasons and how to return authentic theological and liturgical meaning to religious practice;
- To plan liturgical seasons as an organic whole, with imaginative liturgical expressions particular to each season and celebration;
- To plan, participate, and lead two UTS chapel services on two seasons/celebrations;
- To explore theological and liturgical integrity in relationship to secular holidays and celebrations.

III. FORMAT OF THE COURSE

Students come prepared by reading class assignments  
Opening Worship  
Check-in on Previous Sunday's Celebration and Liturgy  
Lecture  
Q&A  
Class Discussions  
Large and Small Group work

V. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Class attendance and participation in discussions;  
Lead Opening Worship;  
Reading of assigned material;

Designing and participation the **UTS Chapel Service on December 7:**

Detailed, annotated liturgical plans for **two** Christian liturgical seasons, appropriately recognizing Jewish holidays, traditions, customs, and implications for that Christian season. E.g., Advent – scripture texts, theme development for each Sunday, special music, special readings, litanies, sermon topics. The task is to develop a liturgical *season* as an organic whole.

**Due November 2 and December 14;**

Two five (5)-page papers:

**1) Due October 12**

Five-page paper on liturgical, sacred, and seasonal *time*:

Jewish and Christian understandings/juxtapositions of **time**, the meaning of **time** in the life of faith, meaning of **time** in liturgy and music; special relativity of **time**, ways of expressing and experiencing **time** within the liturgical year and worship life, historical developments of marking **time**, and implications for *your* ministry and worship.

**2) Due November 16**

Five-page paper on one Jewish or Christian celebration **and/or** their juxtaposition. E.g., Hanukkah; Christmas; Advent; Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur; Sabbath.

**N.B:**

- All papers are to be **double-spaced, 12 point font (no smaller than Times Roman)**.. This includes your annotated liturgies.
- Thank you for participating in “Save Professors’ Eyes Campaign” (SPEC – pun intended).
- All papers and/or liturgies will be **RETURNED** if submitted single-spaced and/or in small font for re-formatting before *La Professora* will be able to read said paper and/or liturgy.  
Remember **SPEC**.
- **Required Styles:** APA or *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, by Kate L. Turabian, 6<sup>th</sup> Edition.)
  - I kid you NOT.
  -
- Papers will be written in full academic style with **FOOTNOTES** and **BIBLIOGRAPHY**. This is not open to discussion or grace.
- In previous years, some students thought this was optional, much to their demise. This professor, a.k.a., Professor Weaver, is notorious for being Particularly **PICKY**.
- While other names of this disorder may occur to you, please just remember **SPEC** and **PICKY**. You will be fulfilling your Christian call by reducing the stress upon all professors (First Letter to the Tabithians 3:16, Version: JCW).
- Accurate use of academic style notations is a *sine qua non* of graduate level work. Professor is very willing to answer any questions you have about notations and bibliographies.
  - I kid you NOT.

**\*\*\*\*\*Please put your box number on all submitted written materials.\*\*\*\*\***  
**Professor is known to shred papers by accident.**

***Required Readings from the following Texts (All on Reserve)***

- Downey, Michael. "Worship between the Holocausts." *Theology Today* XLIII: no. 1 (April 1986).  
(On Reserve)
- Fisher, Eugene, ed. *The Jewish Roots of Christian Liturgy*. New York: Paulist Press, 1990.  
(On Reserve)
- Harris, Monford. *Exodus and Exile: The Structure of the Jewish Holidays*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1992. (On Reserve)
- Hickman, Hoyt L., Don E. Saliers, Laurence Hull Stookey, and James F. White, eds. *The New Handbook of the Christian Year*. Based on the Revised Common Lectionary. Nashville: Abingdon, 1992. N.B. Appendices are excellent resources.
- Hoffman, Lawrence A. "Response: Holocaust as Holocaust, Holocaust as Symbol." *Worship* 58. no. 4 (July 1984). (On Reserve)
- Horsely, Richard, and James Tracy, eds. *Christmas Unwrapped: Consumerism, Christ, and Culture*. Harrisburg: Trinity Press International, 2001.
- Kellenbach, Katharina von. *Anti-Judaism in Feminist Religious Writings*. American Academy of Religion: Cultural Criticism. Atlanta, Ga.: Scholars Press, 1994. (On Reserve)
- Klagsbrun, Francine. *Jewish Days: A Book of Jewish Life and Culture Round the Year*. New York: Noonday Press, 1996.
- The Year of Grace of the Lord: A Scriptural and Liturgical Commentary on the Calendar of the Orthodox Church*. London: Mowbray, 1980. (On Reserve)

**VI. BASIS FOR EVALUATION**

- Weekly attendance and class participation, showing integration of class material (30%)
- Chapel Services (20%)
- Five Page papers (20%: 10% each)
- Planned Liturgical Seasons (30%: 15% each)

***Criteria for Class Work and Paper Evaluation***

- Integration of assigned reading materials, material presented in class, and scripture or other theologically significant resources as exhibited in class discussions and written assignments;
- Attendance and Participation in class;
- Depth and clarity in work;
- Spelling, punctuation, and grammar;
- Accurate use of academic style notations.

**Papers or projects requiring extensions beyond the last day of class will not be graded until JUNE. Requests for extension will have to be filed with the registrar's office by the students. See UTS policy on extensions below or in the Masters Student Handbook (38):**

Extensions: (4/28/00; Revised 1/17/01)

The work for a course is terminated at the end of the final class session. The performance in the course is evaluated on the basis of the work submitted by that time, unless an exception is made by the instructor, in which case a formal petition for extension must be approved by the instructor by the end of the final class session. Extensions (of course work) beyond the end of the semester will be approved only under extraordinary circumstances.

In the event such as exception is agreed to, the student shall complete the petition for extension form and the instructor shall file the extension form with the registrar by the date grades are due. The Student Review Committee shall monitor extensions. If no petition for extension is filed, a final grade will be submitted.

An extension may be granted for a period not to exceed six months from the end of the term. If the work is not completed by the date petitioned, a final grade will be submitted. Any renewal of an extension must be approved by the instructor and filed with the registrar prior to the due date on the original petition. No extension or its renewal will exceed six months from the end of the term in question.

**N.B.:** All work in this class is expected to follow the Copyright Compliance Policy in the Masters Student Handbook (87-88).

All work in this class is expected to follow the Academic Integrity Policy in the Masters Student Handbook (42).

All work in this class is expected to follow the Inclusive Language Policy in the Masters Student Handbook, with opportunities for discussion on differences (98-99).

All work in this class is expected to follow the Policy Regarding Confidentiality and Disclosure within Small Group Settings in the Masters Student Handbook (109).

Regarding Professorial Boundaries, see Statement on Boundaries in the Masters Student Handbook (100-102).

Any questions?

VII. CLASS SCHEDULE AND READING ASSIGNMENTS

September 14

Introductions

Review of Syllabus and Course Responsibilities

**Time:** Seasons, Markers, Relationship to God's Salvation History, and Liturgical Meanings, Calendars: Julian vs. Gregorian, B.C./B.C.E. vs. A.D./C.E, dating of Jewish vs. Gregorian years designations of months: – Jewish, Christian, Metaphysical, and Secular

*Rosh HaShanah*: Jewish New Year (Begins September 15 Sundown) and *Yom Kippur* (September 24 Sundown) 2004

“Homecoming/Rally Sunday”

September 21

**Readings:**

Fisher (*On Reserve*): Introduction; 7-40; 119-157; 161-167; 183.5-187.065

Harris (*On Reserve*): Introduction, Chapters 1, 4-5

Hickman, *et al*: Chapter 2, Sections A-C, F; Chapter 3; (**Chapter 4 for students who have not taken CL330 – Worship in the Life of the Church!**)

Kellenbach (*On Reserve*): Chapter 7, “Judaism as Prologue.”

Klagsbrun: Preface; *Shabbat* (9-15); *Rosh Hodesh* (17-21); *Tishrei* (29-31.25, 35-38.75); *Elul* (203-204.5; 208-215)

Continuation of **Time** discussion

*Rosh HaShanah* and *Yom Kippur*: Ten Days of Repentance/Ten Days of Awe Sabbath vis-à-vis *Shabbat* vis-à-vis Sunday

Relationship of Jewish Liturgy to Christian Liturgy

Relationship of Jewish Liturgical Year to Christian Liturgical Year

September 28

**Readings:**

Harris (*On Reserve*): Chapter 6

Hickman, *et al*: Chapter 7, Section C; Chapter 8, Sections B-C

Klagsbrun: 38.75-41.5; *Tishrei* (45.5-47.75)

Horsley/Tracy: 1-109 (A start on the subject to be discussed the following week.)

World Communion Sunday: October 3, 2004 (First Sunday in October)

*Sukkot/Succot*: The Feast of Booths/The Holiday of Tabernacles: September 30, 2004

Reformation Sunday/Reconciliation Sunday: October 31, 2004

What to do with Halloween?

All Saints' Day Sunday Conflict with Reformation Sunday: November 1, 2004

Thanksgiving Sunday Service: November 21, 2004

Christ the King/Reign of Christ Sunday: Conflict with Thanksgiving Sunday, November 21, 2004

## October 5

### Readings:

Fisher (*On Reserve*): 187-189.5  
Klagsbrun: *Kislev, Tevet* (71-74.25);  
Harris (*On Reserve*): Chapter 11  
Hickman, *et al*: Chapter 5, Sections A-E;  
Horsley/Tracy: 103-224  
On-Line: Research *Kwanzaa*

World AIDS Day: Always December 1  
Advent/Advent Wreath and Calendar/Hymnody: November 28 – December 24,  
2004  
*Hanukkah (Chanukah)*: December 7 – 15, 2004  
Christmas/Christmas Eve  
Christmastide: December 25, 2004 – January 6, 2005  
First (and Second) Sunday after Christmas  
*Kwanzaa*: December 26, 2004-January 1, 2005  
New Year's Eve/Day; Holy Name of Jesus (Circumcision and Naming): January  
1, 2005

## October 12

**Due:** Five-page paper on *time*: liturgical, sacred, years, months, calendars, and  
otherwise. (See Above.)

### Readings:

Hickman, *et al*: Chapter 5, Sections E, G-J

Epiphany/*Dias de Reyes*: January 6/Epiphany Sunday: January 9, 2005  
Baptism of Jesus: January 9, 2005 (Liturgical conflict!!)  
Ordinary Time after Epiphany: January 16 – 30, 2005  
Transfiguration Sunday, February 6, 2005

## October 19

### Readings:

Hickman, *et al*: Chapter 8, Section A  
On-Line: Research *Ramadan*. Begins October 15.  
On-Line: Research *Id al-Adha*: January 21, 2005

*Ramadan* (Islam): Begins October 15  
*Dias de la Muerte*: November 2  
Candlemas/Feast of Presentation  
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day  
*Id al-Adha*: January 21, 2005  
Groundhog Day  
Valentine's Day  
Presidents' Day

## October 26 – Reading Week

### November 2

**Due:** Annotated liturgical plan for one of the following Christian liturgical seasons:

Homecoming Sunday to Last Sunday in Pentecost/Ordinary Time, Season of Advent, Christmas (including Christmastide), and Epiphany and Ordinary Time After Epiphany. (See above.)

Readings:

Harris (*On Reserve*): Chapter 10

On-Line: Research *Id Al-Fitr (Shawwal)* (Islam)

Klagsbrun, *Adar* (93-94.25; 103-109.75)

Veterans Day: November 11

*Id Al-Fitr (Shawwal)* (Islam): November 13

St. Patrick's Day

*Purim*: Ester and The Feasts of Lots – March 25, 2005

### November 9

Readings:

Fisher (*On Reserve*): 189.5-191.065

Hickman, *et al*: Chapter 6, Sections A-I

Kellenbach (*On Reserve*): Chapter 2 – “The Teaching of Contempt”

Season of Lent

Shrove Tuesday/Mardi Gras

Ash Wednesday

Holy Week

Palm/Passion Sunday

Maundy Thursday/Tenebrae

Good Friday

Holy Saturday

Easter Vigil

Theologies of the Cross

Anti-Judaism and Anti-Semitism

November 16

**Due:** Five-page paper on one Jewish or Christian celebration **and/or** their juxtaposition. (See above.)

**Readings:**

Fisher (*On Reserve*): 191-193.5

Harris (*On Reserve*): Chapter 2

Hickman, *et al*: Chapter 6, Sections J-M

Klagsbrun: *Shevat* (83-88.75); *Nisan* (113-114.24; 119-139.5)

*The Year of Grace of the Lord*: 169, 170-171-, footnotes #38-39, 59, 61; 205 footnote #4

April Fool's Day

Passover (*Pesah*)

Easter Sunday

Orthodox Easter Day

November 23 - **Thanksgiving Recess**

November 30

**Readings:**

Fisher (*On Reserve*): 193-196

Hickman, *et al*: Chapter 6, Section N

Klagsbrun: *Heshvan* (57-58.5); *Nisan* (117-119.25; 139.5-141)

Kellenbach (*On Reserve*): Chapter 4, (75-81.25); Chapter 6 (115.75 -120.5 (Deicide)),  
Chapter 8 –“The Teaching of Respect”

Hoffman, Lawrence A. “Response: Holocaust as Holocaust, Holocaust as Symbol.”  
*Worship* 58. no. 4 (July 1984).

Downey, Michael. “Worship between the Holocausts.” *Theology Today* XLIII: no. 1  
(April 1986).

Eastertide

Ecojustice Sunday/Earth Day

*Yom HaShoah*: Holocaust Remembrance Day

Ascension Day

Pentecost Sunday

Season of Pentecost

Trinity Sunday

Anti-Judaism and Anti-Semitism

December 7

**UTS Chapel Service @ 11:30 AM**: Advent (Eucharist?)

**Readings:**

Klagsbrun: *Sivan* (155-164.25);

Harris (*On Reserve*): Chapter 3

Hickman, *et al*: Chapter 7, Sections A-B; Chapter 9

Mothers/Fathers Day – Festival of the Christian Home

*Shavuot*: The Feast of Weeks celebrating the Giving of the Torah/The Counting of

*Omer*

Anti-Judaism and Anti-Semitism

Symbols of the Church

December 14

**Due**: Annotated liturgical plan for one of the following Christian liturgical seasons: Season of Epiphany, Lent and Holy Week, or Easter and Eastertide. (See above.)

**Readings:**

Hickman, *et al*: Chapter 9 (Review)

Klagsbrun: Epilogue

Symbols of the Church

Memorial Day

July 4/Independence Day

Labor Day

The End of Days: Imaginings of the Messianic Era

Evaluations

Any questions?

Happy and Meaningful Season and Celebrations!