MA in Christian Liturgy
(Validated by the University of Winchester)

The Eucharist
20 Credits

2012
Introduction

This module explores the development of eucharistic worship from the New Testament to the contemporary church through an analysis of the most significant primary and secondary sources. Students will gain an understanding of the theological, historical and social influences upon the eucharist and be equipped for independent study of the topic.

Module Content

Monday
Session 1 The Meals of the First Christian Communities [PB]
Session 2 The Evolution of Eucharist Prayer [PB]

Tuesday
Session 3 The Eucharist in the West: The Roman Canon and Ordo Romanus Primus [PB]
Session 4 The Medieval Mass and the Sarum Rite [PB]
Session 5 SEMINAR ONE
Session 6* Eucharist and the Continental Reformation [BN]

Wednesday
Session 7* From Mass to Lord’s Supper: English Reformation and Thomas Cranmer’s 1549 and 1552 Revisions [BN]
Session 8* SEMINAR TWO
Session 9 The Ecumenical Turn: Twentieth-Century Story [JS]

Thursday
Session 10 Eucharistic Theology: Convergence and Debates [JS]
Session 11 Eucharist in Crisis? Contemporary Perspectives [JS]
Session 12 SEMINAR THREE
Session 13 SEMINAR THREE
Session 14 Eucharist and Discipleship [JS]

* See under Preliminary Reading for these sessions

Teaching Staff
Dr James Steven [JS] MA in Christian Liturgy Programme Director
Dr Bridget Nichols [BN] Visiting Scholar at Sarum College
Prof Paul Bradshaw [PB] Professor of Liturgy at the University of Notre Dame

Seminars
There will be two seminar ‘streams’, one for those students studying for assessment and the other for auditing students.

- MA students will present short papers on topics they have selected (see below under Assessment)
- Auditors will have three topics/texts to discuss

Seminar 1 - O’Donoghue, N.X, ‘The Shape of the History of the Eucharist’ (details under Seminar pre-reading)
Seminar 2 - Richard Baxter’s ‘The Reformation of the Liturgy’ – Savoy Conference (pdf file circulated)
Seminar 3 - Comparison of Eucharistic texts (to be circulated at beginning of module)

Aims

The aims of this module are

- to investigate the development of the Eucharist through an exploration of key historical, theological and pastoral issues;
• to become familiar with the interpretative issues surrounding key primary liturgical texts and the methods and perspectives of contemporary scholars;
• to explore contemporary liturgical practice and ecumenical issues relating to the theology and celebration of the Eucharist.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of the module students will be able to demonstrate

a Knowledge and Understanding
  • a systematic understanding of the major developments of the eucharistic rite in different contexts: historical, social, theological, pastoral.
  • a critical awareness of the variety of interpretation of liturgical sources exemplified by contemporary scholars, eg Bradshaw, Duffy, Mazza, Taft.
  • an ability to appropriate and critique contemporary scholarship on the eucharist with awareness of the theological presuppositions behind it.

b Subject specific skills
  • advanced skills in the critical interpretation of primary sources which takes account of their context and problematic issues.
  • an ability to evaluate contemporary liturgical practice in the light of the historical development of eucharistic theology and ritual.

c Transferable skills
  The student will demonstrate an ability to
  • communicate their responses in a coherent and objective manner in writing and orally.
  • undertake effective research using printed and electronic resources, with sensitivity to the genre and perspective of primary and secondary sources.
  • contribute to ecumenical conversations in an informed and objective manner.
Preliminary Reading for the Module

Before the residential, you should find time to undertake some preliminary reading. This will help you follow the lectures and seminars and provide you with enough background to make an informed choice about the direction of your own research.

You are encouraged to look at some general areas of liturgical study relating to the eucharist: Historical development; theology; the practice of your own denomination and the eucharist; ecumenism. The lectures/seminars will touch upon all these areas.

1. An Overview of the Historical Development
To provide you with a framework of its theological and liturgical development you may wish to read one of these general introductions:

and for a ‘quick start’ very accessible historical guide, read relevant chapters of:
White, J.F., Documents of Christian Worship Edinburgh: T&T Clark, 1992

2. The Theology of the Eucharist

Eucharistic Prayer; Eucharistic Theologies

3. Contemporary Eucharistic Practice in your own denomination
Read through the latest authorised rites and the rubrics/instructions if these exist and a good commentary. If your church does not have an authorised eucharistic rite, then locate and read any guidelines and commentaries there may be.

4. The Eucharist in other denominations or in ecumenical discussions
Read through the following entry in the New SCM Dictionary ‘Eucharist’, and explore some of the references.
The internet is probably the best place to search for eucharistic liturgies. The following might be useful:
For Anglican Liturgies: www.oremus.org/liturgy/index.html
For Roman Catholic Liturgies: http://www.romanmissal.org.uk/ or http://www.usccb.org/romanmissal/resources.shtml
For a wide range of historic and denominational texts go to http://www.worship.ca/ and find your way to section 5, links for ‘scholars of liturgy’.
For a liturgically minded Baptist contribution, with some interesting Eucharistic Prayers, see http://laughingbird.net/Seasonal.html. In each season there are various Eucharistic Prayers.
If you are interested in the Orthodox Liturgy then read the Liturgy of St John Chrysostom and Robert Taft's The Byzantine Rite.
If you are interested in ecumenical eucharistic discussions, read the relevant sections of *Baptism Eucharist and Ministry* and the *Response to BEM* from selected churches.

5. **Specific Reading for seminars**

6. **Eucharist in Reformation**
Bridget Nichols recommends that students read ‘The Sacrament of the Altar’ in Martin Luther’s Babylonian Captivity of the Church (pp.6-24) – already circulated. She also requests that all students bring a downloaded version of the texts of Holy Communion in 1549 and 1552 BCP to the lecture (note: the 1662 BCP Holy Communion service is a revised version of the 1552). See [http://anglicansonline.org/resources/bcp.html](http://anglicansonline.org/resources/bcp.html)

7. **And for fun …**
Check out this online quiz to see where you are on the theological scale: [http://quizfarm.com/quizzes/new/wquercus/eucharistic-theology/](http://quizfarm.com/quizzes/new/wquercus/eucharistic-theology/)

**Assessment**

This module is assessed by TWO pieces of written work: a seminar paper of 1,000 words AND an essay of 4,000 words.

**Seminar Paper**
The aim of this exercise is to develop your critical reading skills, to evaluate scholarly work in liturgical studies and to assess your ability to write a highly focussed study for presentation as a seminar paper.

During the residential teaching week, those doing the module assessment will deliver a seminar paper of 500 words on a topic chosen from the list below; *those students auditing are not required to present a seminar paper.*

The secret to producing a good paper is to focus upon an issue that is both interesting and significant in relation to the topic. Avoid general summaries of ‘what you know about x, y or z’; many of the topics can generate huge amounts of information. Instead, aim to focus upon an ‘angle’ on the topic, demonstrating that you have grasped a debate, or an aspect of liturgical significance, or maybe posing a question. Please write your paper and deliver it from a script. The purpose of the seminar, and especially the feedback you receive, is to help you refine and develop your paper so that you are better equipped to write the 1,000 paper for submission. You may choose to prepare a handout, and to use Powerpoint, but remember that the content of your paper is more important than fancy graphics.

Approach this task as a first step towards the final paper. You will be introduced to the complete module bibliography once the module handbook has been compiled; this will be ready by the week before the module. Therefore, in the meantime, please use whatever means you have to hand (which may include liturgical dictionaries, web-based search etc) to prepare. I have included a general bibliography below.
For those attending this module as part of their assessed MA, the paper must be expanded to 1,000 words +/- 10% for submission; the longer version must include references and a bibliography. The mark gained is worth 25% of the final mark for the module.

**Topics:**
The Anaphora of Addai and Mari
The Anaphora of St Basil the Great
John Paul II, *Ecclesia de eucharistia* from www.vatican.va,
Actions and postures during the eucharistic prayer
The Lima Text: *Baptism Eucharist and Ministry*
The eucharistic theology of one of
- Thomas Aquinas
- Richard Baxter
- Charles Wesley
- Karl Rahner
- E.B. Pusey

Concelebration
The Eucharist and Last Supper
Consecration
Eucharist in the context of either a Marriage or a Funeral
New translation of the Roman Missal
[http://www.usccb.org/romanmissal/resources.shtml]
The Parish Communion Movement
Eucharistic Presidency
A liturgical strategy of how to celebrate Eucharist when a presiding minister (or priest) is not present
Eucharist and Justice
When or how often to receive Communion
Epiclesis
Anamnesis
The Eucharistic elements
Children and the Eucharist
‘For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes….’ 1 Corinthians 11.26
The Offertory
The Peace
The rationale for the non-Eucharistic practice of an ecclesial community: e.g. Salvation Army or Quakers
A distinctive feature of the Eucharistic liturgy in a Eucharist order of your own or another’s denomination

**When you have chosen your topic please email James Steven without delay.**
This helps in the management of seminar planning. You may not write the 4,000 word essay on a topic closely related to your seminar paper, so you should choose them both with care.

**Essay**
Write an essay of 4,000 words +/-10% on one of the following. The mark for this essay is worth 75% of the final mark for the module. Remember to follow the conventions for referencing and bibliographies from the Programme Handbook.

Choose one of the following or negotiate a title in consultation with James Steven

1. Assess Gregory Dix’s theory about the ‘shape’ of the eucharist.
2. Is the eucharist a sacrifice?
3. What theories have been proposed for the origins of the Roman Canon?
4. Compare and assess the various forms taken by either the epiclesis or the anamnesis in ancient and contemporary prayers.
5. ‘Theological meaning lies as much in the shape of the liturgy as in the texts’ Frank C. Senn Christian Liturgy – Catholic and Evangelical Minneapolis MN: Augsburg Fortress, 1997 p. 440. Discuss this assertion with particular reference to the Order for Holy Communion otherwise known as the Lord’s Supper or the Mass of 1549 and the Order for Holy Communion The Lord’s Supper of 1552.
6. Put yourself in the position of a layperson in an English parish in the 1540s which was embracing the Reformation. Describe the experience of attending Mass at Easter in 1547; The Holy Communion at Easter in 1550; and The Lord’s Supper at Easter in 1553. Your description should take account of the spatial arrangement and decoration of the church building, music, and the vesture of the priest, as well as the words of the service and the participation of the people.
7. It has been said that Cranmer was not a Lutheran or a Zwinglian, but a Cranmerian. Describe some of the distinctive theological and liturgical features of the rites of Holy Communion of 1549 and 1552.
8. In The Babylonian Captivity of the Church (1520) Luther names three principal abuses of the Sacrament of the Altar: The denial of the cup to the laity The attempt to provide a scientific account of the presence of Christ in the sacrament (in other words, the definition of Transubstantiation) The claim that the Mass was a good work and a sacrifice What was radical about this position and how is it expressed in the Formula Missae of 1523 and the Deutsche Messe of 1526?
9. Choose one bi-lateral ecumenical conversation and/or agreement about the eucharist. What theological and liturgical differences were highlighted and/or resolved?
10. Choose one contemporary revision of a eucharistic rite and analyse the factors which have influenced the revisers.
11. Assess the strategies employed by various denominations to maintain eucharistic worship despite the lack of priests.
12. Explore the meaning of the Eucharist through one theological lens.
13. Has Schmemann’s critique of western Eucharistic theology been answered?
BIBLIOGRAPHY

Denotes not available in Library but if needed please speak with Jayne Downey, Librarian

GENERAL & REFERENCE WORKS

You should consult the relevant sections of :-

HISTORICAL OVERVIEWS


NEW TESTAMENT

Chilton, Bruce, A Feast of Meanings: Eucharistic Theologies from Jesus through Johannine Circles, Supplements to Novum Testamentum 72 Leiden: Brill, 1994.

EARLY TO MEDIEVAL


Jones, Simon, The Sacramental Life: Gregory Dix and his Writings (Norwich; Canterbury Press, 2007).


EASTERN CHURCH


Tovey, Phillip, The Liturgy of St. James As Presently Used, Alcuin/GROW Liturgical Study 40 Cambridge: Grove Books, 1998.

REFORMATION


Buchanan, C.O. What Did Cranmer Think He Was Doing? Bramcote: Grove Books, 1976, also found in Buchanan C.O., An Evangelical Amongst the Anglican Liturgists London SPCK/Alcuin Club Collections 84, 2009, Ch. 5.


Cox, T. and Cranmer, J.E. (ed) *Writings and Disputations of Thomas Cranmer: relative to the sacrament of the Lord’s Supper* Cambridge: The University Press, 1844


Osborne, Thomas, ‘Faith, Philosophy, and the Nominalist Background to Luther’s Defense of the Real Presence’, *Journal of the History of Ideas* 63.1 2002, 63-82.


Spinks, B., *Luther’s Liturgical Criteria and his reform of the Canon of the Mass* Bramcote, Grove Books, 1982


**ECUMENICAL**


Heron, A. *Table and Tradition: Towards an Ecumenical Understanding of the Eucharist* Edinburgh: Handsel Press, 1983 [Reformed perspectives]

McKenna, J.H., 'Eucharistic Presence: An Invitation to Dialogue’ in *Theological Studies* 60 (1999) [very helpful overview of history in Western church and contemporary debates amongst RC theologians].


See also:


Anglican and Roman Catholic International Commission (ARCIC)

See documents in sections 262.001 and 234.7 in the Library

**EUCHARISTIC TERMINOLOGY AND DEBATE** (epiclesis, eucharistic elements, presence of Christ, frequency of celebration, presidency, Peace, sacrifice and offertory, eucharist without a priest)


Buchanan, C.O., 'Priesthood and sacrifice and the ordained ministry' in Buchanan C.O., An Evangelical Amongst the Anglican Liturgists London SPCK/Alcuin Club Collections 84, 2009, Ch.7.


Callam, D., 'The Frequency of the Mass in the Latin Church, ca. 400,' Theological Studies 45 1985 615-626.


Kennedy, D. And Tovey, P., Methodist and United Reformed Church worship: baptism and communion in two 'Free' Churches Bramcote: Grove Books, 1992.


Ledogar, Robert J., 'The Eucharistic Prayer and the Gifts Over Which it is Spoken,' Worship 41 1967 578-596.


Power, D. 'Words that Crack: The Use of 'Sacrifice' in Eucharistic Discourse', *Worship*, vol.53, no.5 (Sept 1979) 386-404


Young, D. *Welcoming children to communion* Bramcote: Grove Books, 1983

**EUCHARIST AND LIBERATION**


**SPIRITUALITY AND EUCHARIST**

Miller, C. *Praying the Eucharist* London, SPCK, 1995

**THEOLOGY**


**DENOMINATIONS**

**WESLEY**

Borgen, Ole E. *John Wesley on the Sacraments* Zurich: United Methodist Church, 1970

**REFORMED**


**ANGLICAN**


Pusey, E.B., Tract 81 [http://anglicanhistory.org/tracts/tract81.html]


**ROMAN CATHOLIC**


Kavanagh, Aidan 'Thoughts on New Eucharistic Prayers,' *Worship* 43 1969 2-12.


**EUCHARISTIC TEXTS**

**Web links**

http://anglicansonline.org/resources/liturgical.html
http://anglicansonline.org/resources/bcp.html (for Book of Common Prayer)
http://www.worship.ca/ (Lift Up Your Hearts - Worship & Spirituality Site of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada; excellent links to historic and contemporary eucharistic liturgies)
http://catholic-resources.org/ChurchDocs/Mass.htm (Roman Missal post Vatican II, Novus Ordo, 1970)
http://www.catholicliturgy.com/index.cfm/FuseAction/Texts/Index/4 (Roman Missal pre-1962; 'Tridentine Mass')
http://old.usccb.org/romanmissal/resources.shtml (2011 Roman Missal)
http://justus.anglican.org/resources/bcp/Sarum/index.htm (Sarum Mass)

**Publications**


