Course Description
The course is an introduction to the fundamentals of Christian liturgy, including the meaning of assembly, ritual symbol and gesture, proclamation of Sacred Scripture, and blessing prayers in the context of relating liturgy to life.

Instructional Methods
Lecture, class discussion, group discussions, critical reading and analysis of key texts

Goals and Objectives
The purpose of this class is to help the student explore, discover, and appreciate the significance and importance of Christian liturgy and worship in the life of an individual and in the life of the community. Based upon the liturgical principles as set in the Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy of Vatican II, this course examine what liturgy, prayer, and sacrament is, where, when, how and why they are celebrated, the historical evolution of liturgy, and the history, meaning, and theology of sacraments and rituals.

By the end of the semester, the student will be able to (1) be familiar with the historical evolution of liturgy, particularly the Eucharist and the sacraments (2) understand and explain the background, content, meaning and context of contemporary celebration of liturgy; (3) realize that liturgy encompasses and celebrates the paschal mystery; and (4) critically reflect upon the dynamics between liturgy and life.
**Course Requirements and Assessment**

**Class Attendance and Participation**

Attendance is required for this class and will be recorded at every session. Each unexcused absence will result in a deduction of the participation grade. In order to receive an excused absence, you need to send the instructor an email (Alexopoulos@cua.edu) before class providing a valid reason and requesting an excused absence; excessive absences will result in a failing grade.

Attendance, completion of readings, and full, conscious and active participation of all members of this class is expected and will greatly enhance the educational experience of every one.

**Assignments**

In addition to the required readings for each session, each student is responsible for the completion of two projects:

1. **Essay:** Each student will write a 3-5 page paper on a sacrament or a service of his/her church tradition (Eucharist excluded). The paper is to include the following elements: (a) introduction to this particular rite (the "what", "where", "when" and "who" of the celebration); (b) an outline of the rite based on the appropriate liturgical book; (c) the "how" of its celebration (ritual, language, gesture, movement, symbols); and (d) the "why" of its celebration (the meaning of the rite and its implications for Christian living). Your major source for this project is the appropriate liturgical books. Attendance of the celebration of that particular rite is strongly encouraged.

**DUE October 10**

2. **Group project:** each groups of 4 students will have to pick a sacrament (Eucharist excluded and essay topic excluded) and prepare catechetical material for teenagers on that sacrament. That can take many forms: PowerPoint Presentation, Pamphlet, Video, Song, Play ... be creative! Each group will present their material in class. Your purpose is to produce exciting educational material that will convey in maximum 10 minutes the fundamentals of a sacrament to a teenager. PICK a sacrament, READ the actual rite, STUDY its history and theology, THINK what questions teenagers pose regarding that particular sacrament, RESPOND in a creative way!

**To be presented in class on the following dates:**

November 19 ______________________________
November 21 ______________________________
November 26 ______________________________
December 3 ________________________________
December 5 ________________________________
Quizzes and Exams

(1) There will be six class quizzes (three announced and three unannounced); the lowest quiz score will be dropped. In case of absence there will be no make-up quiz (unless there is a doctor's note or communication from the Dean of Students or family emergency such as funeral).

(2) There will be three exams as indicated in the syllabus. In case of absence there will be no make-up exam (unless there is a doctor’s note or communication from the Dean of Students or family emergency such as funeral).

Please note that according to the Catholic University of America’s policy, the final exam must be administered in the final examination period on the day and time assigned by the Registrar. Please plan travel, work, appointments accordingly!

Assessment
Participaton 10%
Quizzes (5X2) 10%
Exam I 15%
Exam II 15%
Exam III 20%
Essay 15%
Group project 15%
The University grading system is available at
http://policies.cua.edu/academicundergrad/gradesfull.cfm

My grading scale equivalent to the University system is the following:
A=95-100 Excellent
A-=92-94.9 Excellent
B+=89-91.9 Excellent
B=84-88.9 Good
B-=81-83.9 Good
C+=78-80.9 Good
C=74-77.9 Satisfactory
C-=71-73.9 Satisfactory
D=65-70.9 Lowest Passing
F=0-64.9 Failing
Reports of grades in courses are available at the end of each term on
http://cardinalstation.cua.edu
Expectations and Policies

Academic Honesty
Academic honesty is expected of all CUA students. Faculty are required to initiate the imposition of sanctions when they find violations of academic honesty, such as plagiarism, improper use of a student’s own work, cheating, and fabrication. Student Academic Dishonesty will have serious consequences: "The presumed sanction for undergraduate students for academic dishonesty will be failure for the course. There may be circumstances, however, where, perhaps because of an undergraduate student’s past record, a more serious sanction, such as suspension or expulsion, would be appropriate" (see http://policies.cua.edu/academicundergrad/integrityprocedures.cfm)

Campus Resources for Student Support
Catholic University of America Writing Center: http://english.cua.edu/wc/
Center for Academic Success (tutoring): http://success.cua.edu/tutoring/
Library Services: Contact the Religious Studies Librarian, Mr. Dustin Booher at booher@cua.edu
Counseling Services: 202-319-5765

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities
Any student who feels he/she may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact the instructor privately to discuss specific needs. Please contact Disability Support Services (at 202-319-5211 Pryzbyla Center 207) to coordinate reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities. To read about the services and policies, please visit the website: http://disabilitysupport.cua.edu

Class Courtesy
Be on time, be engaged, be focused! Arriving late, leaving early, engaging in disruptive conversation, and studying material for other classes will result in a deduction of your grade. Cell phones are to be silenced and out of sight! The use of cell phones in class (texting, emailing) or computers for purposes other than note taking will result in a deduction of your grade

Required Texts
Recommended Texts and Resources:

A. Church Documents

The Catechism of the Catholic Church available at www.vatican.va


B. Dictionaries/Reference Works (found in Mullen Library – 3rd floor reference)


C. Books


CLASS SCHEDULE AND READING ASSIGNMENTS

***Please note: ALWAYS bring the assigned readings to class***

WEEK 1
Tuesday, August 27
Introduction – Course Requirements - Expectations

Thursday, August 29
What is Liturgy? What is Sacrament?

WEEK 2
Tuesday, September 3
The Where/When/How of Liturgy

Thursday, September 5
What is Prayer?

  Assignment: Pick your favorite prayer, bring it to class, be ready to present it and discuss
  (a) What attracts you to this prayer? (b) Can you discern its structure?

WEEK 3
Tuesday, September 10
The Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy

  Required Reading: SC #1-46

Thursday, September 12
The Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy

  Required Reading: SC #47-130

WEEK 4
Tuesday, September 17
TEST 1

Thursday, September 19
Emerging Christianity

  Required Reading: Foley, Ch. 1

WEEK 5
Tuesday, September 24
The Domestic Church

  Required Reading: Foley, Ch. 2

Thursday, September 26
The Rise of the Roman Church
Required Reading: Foley, Ch. 3

WEEK 6
Tuesday, October 1
Germanization of Liturgy
   Required Reading: Foley, Ch. 4
Thursday, October 3
Synthesis/Antithesis – Prelude to Reform
   Required Reading: Foley, Ch. 5

WEEK 7
Tuesday, October 8
The Schism
   Required Reading: Kallistos Ware, The Orthodox Church (chapter 3: Byzantium II: The Great Schism)
Thursday, October 10
ESSAY DUE
Reform and Counter Reform
   Required Reading: Foley, Ch. 6

WEEK 8
Tuesday, October 15 – NO CLASS
Thursday, October 17
The Return to Change
Required Reading: Foley, Ch. 7

WEEK 9
Tuesday, October 22
TEST II
Thursday, October 24
Baptism
   Required Reading: Mick 1-17

WEEK 10
Tuesday, October 29
Confirmation
   Required Reading: Mick 18-31
Thursday, November 1
Eucharist

*Required Reading: Mick 32-54*

WEEK 11
Tuesday, November 5
Eucharist

*Required Reading: Eucharistic Prayers I, II, III, IV*

Thursday, November 7
Penance

*Required Reading: Mick 55-76*

WEEK 12
Tuesday, November 12
Anointing

*Required Reading: Mick 77-93*

Thursday, November 14
Marriage

*Required Reading: Mick 94-112*

WEEK 13
Tuesday, November 19
Holy Orders

*Required Reading: Mick 113-131*

**PRESENTATION:**

Thursday, November 21
The Liturgy of the Hours


**PRESENTATION:**

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WEEK 14
Tuesday, November 26
Open Discussion: “So, why Liturgy?”
PRESENTATION: ________________________________

Thursday, November 28 – NO CLASS/THANKSGIVING BREAK

WEEK 15
Tuesday, December 3 REVIEW
PRESENTATION: ________________________________

Thursday, December 5 REVIEW
PRESENTATION: ________________________________

FINAL EXAM: TEST III