

## ST 740– Advanced Church, Ministry, and Sacraments

Fall 2017, Online

Eugene R. Schlesinger, Ph.D.; 262-226-6854; [eugenschlesinger@gmail.com](mailto:eugenschlesinger@gmail.com)

### I. Course description

This is an advanced course in the theology of the church, its ministry, and the sacraments. It presupposes the sort of knowledge base you would gain from ST645: The Holy Spirit, Church, Ministry, and Sacraments. We will consider issues in church identity, discipline, and government from an Anglican and ecumenical perspective. Particular attention will be paid to the history and theology of the sacraments of baptism and Eucharist and the orders of ministry. Our course will consist mainly of a close reading of Richard Hooker's *Laws of Ecclesiastical Polity*, which will serve as a primary document for a classical Anglican understanding of these issues. With Hooker as our launching point, we will engage with an assortment of other voices: classic and contemporary, Anglican, Catholic, and Protestant. Throughout the course, two animating questions will drive us: how can we best do justice to and embody our Anglican heritage of reformed catholicity?, and how can we best leverage X for the church's mission to the world today (i.e., how do these aspects of the church inform its missional identity?).

### II. Required course texts<sup>1</sup>

Avis, Paul. *A Ministry Shaped by Mission*. T&T Clark, 2005. ISBN: 978-0-567-08368-5

----- *The Vocation of Anglicanism*. T&T Clark, 2016. ISBN: 978-0-567-66462-4.

Hooker, Richard. *Of the Laws of Ecclesiastical Polity and other Works as edited by John Keble, arranged with Hooker's Blueprint by Michael Russell, Volume 2*. Michael Russell, 2004. ISBN: 978-1453624739.

----- *Of the Laws of Ecclesiastical Polity and other Works as edited by John Keble, arranged with Hooker's Blueprint by Michael Russell, Volume 3*. Michael Russell, 2004. ISBN: 978-1453646359.<sup>2</sup>

Hunsinger, George. *The Eucharist and Ecumenism: Let us Keep the Feast*. Cambridge University Press, 2008. ISBN: 978-0-521-89486-9.

Meyers, Ruth A. *Continuing the Reformation: Re-Visioning Baptism in the Episcopal Church*. Church

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<sup>1</sup> In certain cases, these books may be found cheaper in another edition. In most cases it will be acceptable for you to purchase these alternate editions. Please ask first, though, just so I can be sure that you'll be getting what you need in these alternates.

<sup>2</sup> Hooker's works are in the public domain and can be downloaded from the internet. <http://www.luminarium.org/renlit/hookbib.htm>. I recommend purchasing a hard copy, because Hooker is worth owning. If you need to triage, buy volume 2, which contains book 5 of the *Laws of Ecclesiastical Polity*, which gives the heart of Hooker's views on the sacraments. It's where we'll spend most of our time. We will also spend time in book 7, which is found in volume 3.

Publishing, 2000. ISBN: 978-0-898-69697-4

Ramsey, Michael. *The Gospel and the Catholic Church*. Wipf and Stock, 2008. ISBN: 978-1-606-08245-4.

Wood, Susan K. *One Baptism: Ecumenical Dimensions of the Doctrine of Baptism*. Liturgical Press, 2009. ISBN: 978-0-8146-5306-7.

Other texts will be made available via Google Classroom.

### **III. Course design**

Our course will begin with readings from Michael Ramsey's classic, *The Gospel and the Catholic Church*, and Paul Avis's recent *The Vocation of Anglicanism*. These texts will set the stage for our consideration of the nature of the Christian church, and especially Anglicanism's identity and calling within a wider ecumenical reality. This initial perspective (weeks 1 and 2) will serve as a springboard for the course's four main parts. (1) Baptism, and the nature of the sacraments more broadly (weeks 3–6); Eucharist, with a focus on questions of real presence and eucharistic sacrifice (weeks 7–10), and ministry, especially the nature of the episcopate (weeks 11–13).

Each week will consist of 100–150 pages of reading, participation in a concurrent web-seminar session, and participation in an online discussion board. Each of the three major sections will involve a short (5–7 pages) paper connecting that section's content to one of our two guiding questions.

### **IV. Course grade**

Our online seminars are designed to allow the instructor to give his own take on our material, and for you to receive clarity about any sticky points in the reading. Your participation here accounts for 10% of your final grade.

The discussion board allows you to engage with your classmates in constructive dialogue, and to demonstrate your familiarity with the week's reading assignments. Your participation here accounts for 15% of your final grade.

Your short papers demonstrate your ability to think theologically, and engage critically with the course material. They allow you the opportunity to engage in synthesis and formulate your own ideas and convictions (hopefully in conformity to Scripture and in concert with the church!). Each short paper accounts for 25% of your final grade.