



Master Divinity College
Devotional Practices in the New Testament

NT 3XD3/5XD5/6XD6
Devotional Practices in the New Testament

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Winter 2018 (Term 2)
Tuesdays 7–9 p.m.

I. Course Description

This course will combine the *study* of the devotional practices in the New Testament with *interactive experience* in which we explore the application of early Christian devotional practices together. Students who specialize in biblical studies will find insight into the contexts of the early church, its Scripture, and its additional early Christian literature, the application of biblical theology to the study of devotion and worship, and the goal of bridging the gap between biblical scholarship and contemporary application. Students who specialize in Christ and Culture will find that when they encounter Christ through the engagement of the two horizons of first century Christianity and twenty-first century Western culture, that it will yield insights into the personal and global issues of Christ and culture. Students who specialize in Pastoral Studies will find fresh and practical approaches to biblical practices of devotion and worship that will enrich them personally and equip them for ministry. Come to class with an open mind and a willingness to step out of our twenty-first century comfort zones.

II. Course Objectives

Specific Objectives—through reading, lectures, discussion and interactive participation the student will...

Knowing

1. Know the spectrum of devotional practices in the New Testament and early Christianity
2. Understand the social, historical, literary and religious cultural contexts in which the early church developed its devotional practices
3. Grasp the nature of devotion to Jesus within exclusive monotheism

Being

4. Be open to diverse biblical practices and experiences of devotion and worship
5. Grow in radical commitment to the Lordship of Jesus Christ
6. Become a multi-faceted worshipper of the triune God

Doing

7. Participate in interactive practices of devotion and worship
8. Research and write a paper on an aspect of early Christian devotion that is suitable for the student's area of specialization.
9. Utilize the research and course resources to develop a project in the area of the student's specialization that speaks to the contemporary context.

III. Course Requirements for NT 3XD3

A. Class Participation (10%)

Student participation in interactive activities and class and group discussions is expected, enriched by your readings for the week.

B. Reading (10%)

See the Daily Schedule at the end of the syllabus for dates and pages.

1. Weekly: read the scheduled material in Hurtado
2. The student will summarize the percentage of reading completed on **Apr 9**, and submit it on Avenue.

C. Written Assignments

In order to pass the course, all assignments must be completed

1. Research Paper (40%)

- a. Each student will write a research paper on an aspect of early Christian devotion that concerns Biblical Studies, Christ and Culture or Pastoral Studies. It will be due March 1 at midnight. It will be submitted in PDF form to Avenue. Late papers will be docked at the rate of 2% per day for the first 7 days (including weekends) and 5% per day after that.
- b. Length & style: It should be approximately 4,000 words (about fifteen pages) of text, excluding footnotes and bibliography. For all matters of style and form, consult the McMaster Divinity College Style Guide at: <https://www.mcmasterdivinity.ca/sites/default/files/documents/mdcstyleguide.pdf>.
- c. Approach: Choose an aspect or topic of early Christian devotion that reflects your specialization. Utilize a minimum of twelve academic resources.

2. Profile Project & Presentation (30% + 10%)

- a. Each student will complete a paper or project designed to apply their research in a contemporary context. The project will be presented in class. **A hard copy will be due at 7 p.m. on April 9** (at the time of the scheduled exam). No late projects will be accepted. If possible, submit a PDF copy to Avenue.
- b. Length & style: If written, it should be approximately 3000 words (about

twelve pages) of text, excluding footnotes and bibliography. For all matters of style and form, consult the McMaster Divinity College Style Guide (above).

If it is a project, it should be somewhat comparable in time and effort to a 12 pg. research paper submitted in PDF copy to Avenue.

*Artifacts and performances require a 1–2 pg description that explicitly connects their project with their research

- c. Each project will be discussed in advance with the professor and a written statement describing the specific contemporary context targeted, the passage that is being re-presented, the goal of the project and the approach **due on March 26**.

Some suggestions include:

- A sermon on devotional practices
- A study guide that will assist young adult learners in exploring or understanding biblical practices of devotion. Include questions, explanations, directions and other material that both enlightens the theme in its historical context and helps learners to connect the text with life today
- A movie presentation, critical review and discussion which encapsulates the practice of devotion in a modern context*
- A parable, allegory or practice that utilizes significant or powerful contemporary imagery, symbols or metaphors for the practice of devotion*
- A collection of poetry or songs that explore thought, themes and/or emotions in devotional practice*
- A devotional experience for a church or small groups that simulates the situation of the early church and the devotional practices*
- A description of connections between the characters, contexts and themes in your life story and the theme of devotion in the NT*

D. Grading Summary

1. Reading	10%
2. Participation	10%
3. Research Paper	40%
4. Profile Project	30%
5. Presentation of Project	10%

IV. Requirements for 5XD5 & 6XD5

Each DPT/MA/PhD student will compose a syllabus that is suitable for practice-led research, their professional approach and objectives and meet the general requirements for DPT courses as outlined on the “Application for A Doctor of Practical Theology Advanced Elective.”

V. Textbooks and Materials

A. Required

1. Hurtado, Larry W. *Lord Jesus Christ: Devotion to Jesus in Earliest Christianity*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2003.
2. A modern version of the NT.

B. Recommended

1. Hurtado, Larry W. *At the Origins of Christian Worship: The Context and*

2. *Character of Earliest Christian Devotion*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1999.
Hurtado, Larry W. *How on Earth Did Jesus Become A God? Historical Questions about Earliest Devotion to Jesus*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2005.

C. Textbook Purchase

All required textbooks for this class are available from the College's book store.

D. Additional Materials

Handouts for lectures and class discussion will be made available during class and/or through the course DropBox or Avenue.

VI. Classroom Behavior

A. Attendance

1. Students should be on time to class or be prepared to offer an explanation to the professor.
2. Students are expected to stay for the entire class session, unless arranged in advance.
3. More than 2 absences may result in a penalty. More than 4 absences will result in a failure of the course.

B. Participation

1. Please respect the opinions of others without disrespect or ridicule, even if you do not agree with them. However, feel free to respond logically and critically in an orderly manner.
2. Students are not expected to be doing work on any other subject except that which is appropriate in the course outline.
3. Students are not to carry on off-topic conversations in class.
4. Students are not to access e-mail, send or receive text messages, surf the net, etc., while class is in session
5. Students may eat or drink in class if they do not distract others and they clean up their desks.

Students who fail to respect these guidelines may lose participation points and/or be dismissed from the class.

C. Academic Honesty

Academic dishonesty is a serious offence that may take any number of forms, including plagiarism, the submission of work that is not one's own or for which previous credit has been obtained, and/or unauthorized collaboration with other students. Academic dishonesty can result in severe consequences, e.g., failure of the assignment, failure of the course, a notation on one's academic transcript, and/or suspension or expulsion from the College.

Students are responsible for understanding what constitutes academic dishonesty. Please refer to the Divinity College Statement on Academic Honesty:

<https://www.mcmasterdivinity.ca/programs/rules-regulations> and the McMaster University Academic Integrity Policy, specifically Appendix 3:
www.mcmaster.ca/senate/academic/ac_integrity.htm
[All papers will be analysed for plagiarism by TurnItIn.](#)

D. Gender Inclusive Language

McMaster Divinity College uses inclusive language for human beings in worship services,

student written materials, and all of its publications. In reference to biblical texts, the integrity of the original expressions and the names of God should be respected. The NRSV and TNIV are examples of the use of inclusive language for human beings. It is expected that inclusive language will be used in chapel services and all MDC assignments.

Appointments

Contact me if I can assist you in any way via E-mail: westfal@mcmaster.ca
(When in my office) Phone: 905-525-9140 ext. 23605
Friend me on Facebook and message me!

Office hours: Will adjust when I move back into my office
Before and after class
By appointment

***Disclaimer on Syllabi posted on the web:

Please Note: This syllabus is the property of the instructor and is prepared with currently available information. The instructor reserves the right to make changes and revisions up until the first day of class.

DATE	CLASS SESSION	Hurtado	NT & Activities
Jan 8	Introduction to the course Specializations 1 st century vs. 21 st century worldview		
Jan 15	Greco-Roman & Jewish Contexts vs. our context	1–53	Table fellowship The dynamics of household worship
Jan 22	A relationship with the historical Jesus	53–78	Communion/eucharist
Jan 29	Jesus and the OT	563–602	Use of the OT
Feb 5	Stories about Jesus	217–348, 427–86	Mt, Mark, Luke, John Memorization, story telling
Feb 12	Jewish-Christian Devotion	155–216	Catholic Epistles Use of the calendar Symbolism Space/place
Feb 19	Book Week		
Feb 26	Paul & Worship Research papers due March 1, 11:59 p.m.	79–154	Pauline Epistles themes Exercising spiritual gifts, Dreams, prophecy
March 5	Johannine Worship	349–426	Themes in John, 1, 2, 3 John, Rev Confession
March 12	Forms of Worship Proposal for Project due 11:59 p.m.	606–613	Experiencing multifaceted worship practices
March 19	Prayer & worship in practice	613–19	Prayer
March 26	Martyrdom	619–24	Sacrifice (lent), fasting
Apr 2	Doctrinal Developments & Diversity	519–562; 625–48	Role of theology
Apr 9	Projects Due class time Presentations during class Reading Reports due at 11:59 p.m.		