

McMASTER DIVINITY COLLEGE COURSE SYLLABUS
MDIV / MTS — MS 3XY3 INTERSESSION HYBRID INTENSIVE
(SPECIALIZATIONS: CW/CC/PS)

FAITH, WORK, AND WORSHIP MDIV / MTS HYBRID – WINTER 2020

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Online begins: Wednesday, January 8, 2020
Face-to-Face Days: Friday and Saturday, February 21–22, 2020
Online resumes: Wednesday, February 26
Online ends: Wednesday, April 8

Course Invitation

In Psalm 86:11(NIV), the psalmist asks the Lord for an “undivided heart.” Many of us have more experience with a fragmented and disintegrated heart than with an undivided one. We believe that we should be authentic worshipers, that we should engage in the activities of a life of faith, and that we should do good work. We think we know what a life of **faith** is “supposed” to look like, whether we live up to that or not. We all **work**, whether that work is valued by others or not, whether we value it ourselves or not, whether we are remunerated or not, and whether we think we are fulfilling a calling or vocation or not. We recognize that we are to **worship** God, although opinions abound on how that should look or sound. As reflective believers, we may admit that our own lives—as well as the lives of those that we work with or that we are ministering to, leading, or educating—are fragmented and disintegrated rather than “undivided.” What would it look like to be wholehearted and thoroughly integrated believers? This course will provide the opportunity to investigate and evaluate the three core areas of Faith, Work, and Worship, to address challenges and opportunities for meaningful integration in our lives and to explore how we might live and minister from a place of wholeness and wholeheartedness.

Learning Outcomes**KNOWING**

By the end of this course, you will be able to

- **analyze** how your experience and understanding of the life of faith, a theology of work, and an approach to worship has shaped the way you have done ministry in the past and how it contrasts with other approaches that we will explore; and
- **examine** the effectiveness of the inter-relationships between faith, work, and worship in your life and ministry and understand how they might be better integrated or reshaped.

What is your own **KNOWING** goal for this course?

DOING

By the end of this course, you will be able to

- **solve** some problems of inconsistency and fragmentation/disintegration in your life and ministry or for those within your circle of influence;
- **design** a more integrated approach to meaningful life and ministry that comprises all three areas;
- **implement** an approach to integration that will provide you with an effective model both for yourself and others.

What is your own **DOING** goal for this course?

BEING

By the end of this course, you will be able to

- **reflectively evaluate** how your understanding about faith, work, and worship have shaped who you are; and
- **risk creating** a more integrative approach to faith, work, and worship that influences your being within the context of calling and ministry.

What is your own **BEING** goal for this course?

Required Textbooks:

Faith:

Hunter, James Davison. *To Change the World: The Irony, Tragedy, and Possibility of Christianity in the Late Modern World*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press, 2010. In this work, sociologist James Davison Hunter challenges the notions of what it means for Christians to think that they can “change the world.” It should prompt some thoughtful reflection. 345 pp.

(optional) Taylor, Charles. *A Secular Age*. Cambridge, MA: Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 2007. This book by leading philosopher Charles Taylor will expose you to first-rate thinking about issues and challenges that influence the life of Christian faith. Talk to me about extra credit if you choose this book. 850 pp.

Work:

Volf, Miroslav. *Work in the Spirit: Toward a Theology of Work*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1991. This book by theologian and public intellectual, Miroslav Volf, comprises his PhD research. It is a substantial and thoughtful approach to developing a theology of work. Use it to challenge your own ideas and develop your own theology of work. 225 pp.

(optional) Loftin, Keith R., and Trey Dimsdale, eds. *Work: Theological Foundations and Practical Implications*. London, UK: SCM, 2018. If you have previously read Volf’s theology of work, choose this book as your first alternative. It provides you with a range of contributors to the discussion of work, each from one of three approaches: biblical theology, systematic theology, and practical theology. 255 pp.

Worship:

Wolterstorff, Nicholas. *The God We Worship: An Exploration of Liturgical Theology*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2015. In this book, philosopher and liturgical theologian Nicholas Wolterstorff embarks on a new approach to liturgical theology in order to make “explicit the understanding of God implicit in Christian worship” (2). Regardless of your own worship practices or traditions, you can apply his principles to investigate the beliefs and perceptions about God that are inherent in your practices and statements. 170 pp.

(optional) Wainwright, Geoffrey. *Doxology: The Praise of God in Worship, Doctrine, and Life*. London, UK: Epworth / New York, NY: Oxford University Press, 1980. 585 pp. If you have never read a substantive theology of worship, this is an excellent place to begin.

Additional Reading Resources

NOTE: You are to read approximately 3000 pages for a MDiv/MTS course, so select books from this list, or elsewhere, that resonate with or challenge you in some aspect of each of our three areas. Consider books that meet your own goals for this course and your program. If you have questions, please email me. Once you have assembled your reading list, please send it to me, including full (and accurate) bibliography, following MDC style guide, with approximate page extents. At the end of the semester, please email me to confirm that you have appropriately read through the books on your reading list and have good working knowledge of their contents.

Faith:

Capps, Donald. *The Decades of Life: A Guide to Human Development*. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox, 2008. 220 pp.

Fowler, James W. *Stages of Faith: The Psychology of Human Development and the Quest for Meaning*. San Francisco, CA: Harper & Row, 1981. 320 pp.

- Fowler, James W. *Becoming Adult, Becoming Christian: Adult Development and Christian Faith*. San Francisco, CA: Jossey-Bass, 2000. 120 pp.
- Moltmann, Jürgen. *The Living God and the Fulness of Life*. Trans. by Margaret Kohl. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox, 2015. 230 pp.
- Niebuhr, H. Richard. *Christ and Culture*. New York, NY: Harper & Row, 1951. 255 pp.
- Osmer, Richard R., and Friedrich L. Schweitzer, eds. *Developing a Public Faith: New Directions in Practical Theology*. St. Louis, MO: Chalice, 2003. 250 pp.
- Sayers, Dorothy L. *Christian Letters to a Post-Christian World: A Selection of Essays*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1969. 230 pp. Later published as *The Whimsical Christian: 18 Essays*. New York, NY: Collier, 1987. 275 pp.
- Tillich, Paul. *Dynamics of Faith*. New York, NY: Harper & Row, 1957. 135 pp.
- Volf, Miroslav. *A Public Faith: How Followers of Christ Should Serve the Common Good*. Grand Rapids, MI: Brazos, 2011. 165 pp.
- Volf, Miroslav, and Dorothy C. Bass, eds. *Practicing Theology: Beliefs and Practices in Christian Life*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2002. 260 pp.

Work:

- Cosden, Darrell. *The Heavenly Good of Earthly Work*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2006. 150 pp.
- Jones, L. Gregory, and Stephanie Paulsell, eds. *The Scope of Our Art: The Vocation of the Theological Teacher*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2002. 260 pp.
- Smith, Gordon T. *Courage and Calling: Embracing Your God-Given Potential*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 2011. 270 pp.
- Stevens, R. Paul. *Work Matters: Lessons from Scripture*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2012. 170 pp.
- Stevens, R. Paul. *Aging Matters: Finding Your Calling for the Rest of Your Life*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2016. 160 pp.

Worship:

- Best, Harold M. *Unceasing Worship: Biblical Perspectives on Worship and the Arts*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 2003. 225 pp.
- Bradshaw, Paul F. *The Search for the Origins of Christian Worship: Sources and Methods for the Study of Early Liturgy*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press, 1992. 205 pp.
- Hoon, Paul Waitman. *The Integrity of Worship: Ecumenical and Pastoral Studies in Liturgical Theology*. Nashville, TN: Abingdon, 1971. 350 pp.
- Saliers, Don E. *Worship as Theology: Foretaste of Glory Divine*. Nashville, TN: Abingdon, 1994. 250 pp.
- Smith, James K. A. *You Are What You Love: The Spiritual Power of Habit*. Grand Rapids, MI: Brazos, 2016. 205 pp.
- Stringer, Martin D. *A Sociological History of Christian Worship*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 2005. 255 pp.
- Wainwright, Geoffrey, and Karen B. Westerfield Tucker, eds. *The Oxford History of Christian Worship*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press, 2006. 865 pp.

Textbook Purchase: All required textbooks for this class are available from the College's book service, READ On Bookstore, Room 145, McMaster Divinity College. Texts may be purchased on the first day of class. For advance purchase, you may contact READ On Bookstore, 5 International Blvd, Etobicoke, Ontario M9W 6H3; phone 416.620.2934; fax 416.622.2308; email books@readon.ca. Other book services may also carry the texts.

Class Schedule:

Week	Date	Road Map / Schedule
1	Jan 8 (Wednesdays)	Welcome and Intro to Faith, Work, and Worship Syllabus: Course Road Map Assignments: Major Papers/Projects (2) <i>Weekly Resource and Reflection</i> (12) Technology: Avenue to Learn (A2L), Padlet, Pebble Pad, WebEx, Learning Portfolio Post: Personal Introductions this week
Module 1	FAITH	(3 weeks)
2	Jan 15	Thought Prompter: Focus on Faith 1 Post: <i>Resource and Reflection #1</i> (250–300 words): Faith 1
3	Jan 22	Thought Prompter: Focus on Faith 2 Post: <i>Resource and Reflection #2</i> : Faith 2 Due: Email Proposal for Paper or Project #1
4	Jan 29	Thought Prompter: Focus on Faith 3 Post: <i>Resource and Reflection #3</i> : Faith 3
Module 2	WORK	(4 weeks, including Face-to-Face week)
5	Feb 5	Thought Prompter: Focus on Work 1 Post: <i>Resource and Reflection #4</i> : Work 1
6	Feb 12	Thought Prompter: Focus on Work 2 Learning Portfolio: entry re your Paper or Project #1 Post: <i>Resource and Reflection #5</i> : Work 2 Due: Email Proposal for Paper or Project #2 Due: Paper or Project #1, Tuesday, February 18, midnight.
7	Feb 21 + 22 Face-to-Face Days Attendance is required for the full class days to successfully complete this course.	Friday, February 21, 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Morning (9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.) <i>Opening Worship</i> 1. Theology of Work (topic of work continued from online) Break-Outs 2. Theology of Work Share: <i>Resource and Reflection #6</i> : Work 3 Afternoon (1:00 – 4:00 p.m.) Student Presentations: Paper or Project #1 – brief summaries of what you did learned in the process (timing TBA) 3. Dynamics of Faithful Presence <i>Closing Worship</i> Saturday, February 22, 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Morning (9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.) <i>Opening Worship</i> 4. Notions of Worship Vitality Break-Outs 5. Towards Integrating Faith, Work, and Worship Share: Proposals for Paper or Project #2 (very brief) <i>Closing Worship</i> (DPT + MTS/MDiv)

—	Feb 26 – Break	No postings. Use this week to move ahead on Assignment #2
8	Mar 4	MODULE 2 (cont.): WORK Thought Prompter: Focus on Work , wrap up Post: <i>Resource and Reflection #7: Work 4</i>
Module 3	WORSHIP	(3 Weeks)
9	Mar 11	Thought Prompter: Focus on Worship 1 Post: <i>Resource and Reflection #8: Worship 1</i> Video Update Post: Let us know how you are progressing on your final paper or project.
10	Mar 18	Thought Prompter: Focus on Worship 2 Post: <i>Resource and Reflection #9: Worship 2</i>
11	Mar 25	Thought Prompter: Focus on Worship 3 Post: <i>Resource and Reflection #10: Worship 3</i> Due: Paper or Project #2, Tuesday, March 31, midnight.
Module 4	INTEGRATION	(2 Weeks)
12	Apr 1	Thought Prompter: Integrating Faith, Work, and Worship Post: <i>Resource and Reflection #11: Integrating Faith, Work, Worship (at least 2 of the 3)</i> Due: Video Final Post, April 7. What you did for your final paper or project, any risks you took, what you learned in the process, any final greetings.
13	Apr 8	Wrap-Up: Integrating Faith, Work, and Worship

ASSIGNMENTS:

MDiv/MTS students are to write approximately 6,000–7,000 words per course. Here is a breakdown of three options to fit this range within your assignments:

Option 1: Assignments #1 and #2 are both papers. You may use the lower range of word count for both papers, as well as for the weekly reflection.

Assignment #1: Paper = 2000 words (approx.)

Assignment #2: Paper = 3000 words (approx.)

Weekly Reflection: 150 words x 11 reflection posts = 1650 words (approx.)

Total: 6650 words (approx.)

Option 2: Assignment #1 is a paper. Assignment #2 is a project (reflection of 850 words).

Choose the larger range of words for the paper (3000) and weekly reflection (200).

Assignment #1: Paper = 3000 words (approx.)

Assignment #2: Project + Reflection = 850 words (approx.)

Weekly Reflection: 200 x 11 = 2200 words (approx.)

Total: 6050 words (approx.)

Option 3: Assignment #1 is a project (reflection of 700 words). Assignment #2 is a paper.

Choose the larger range of words for the paper (4000) and weekly reflection (200).

Assignment #1: Project + Reflection = 700 words (approx.)

Assignment #2: Paper = 4000 words (approx.)

Weekly Reflection: 200 x 11 = 2200 words (approx.)

Total: 6900 words (approx.)

1. RESEARCH PAPER or PROJECT #1

MARKS: 30% (In-Class Presentation: 5% + Submitted Paper/Project: 25% = 30%)

Choose and explore one or more of the topics of this course, either in a research paper or creative project. **You must consult with the instructor before finalizing your plans for either a paper or a project.** Submit an email proposal of your ideas for this assignment by Week 3 of the course. You are encouraged to take risks on your papers or projects. Although this does not guarantee success in the assignment, it will be noted in your grade.

Research Paper: 2000 / 3000 words. (See Options 1, 2, and 3 to select word count.)

Research an area of our topics that is significant to you and ministry. This may be biblical, historical, theological, cultural, arts-based, practice of ministry, etc. Conform to MDC Style Guide. Include substantive content. Use **10–12** serious resources.

Project. Thoughtfully design a project to address issues or challenges or expressions of one of our topics. **Reflection Paper.** Write a short paper (**700 words** approx.) that provides insight into your project, any risks, and thoughtful reflection on what you learned in the process.

Specializations: Connect *at least* one research paper or project to your Specialization (Christian Worldview/Church and Culture/Pastoral Studies) and be able to show how you accomplish this.

PAPER OR PROJECT DUE: Tuesday, February 18, midnight.

PRESENTATION DUE: Friday, February 21, Face-to-Face Class.

Present an **in-class** summary of what you did in your paper or project, and what you learned in the process. Articulate any kind of risk you took in approaching or completing this assignment. If there is time, expect questions and interaction following your presentation. Timing for presentations will be based on the class size.

2. RESEARCH PAPER or PROJECT #2

MARKS: 40% (Video Final Post: **5%** + Submitted Paper/Project: **35%** = **40%**)

Choose and explore one (or two) of the three topics of the class, either through a substantive research paper or a creative project. **You must consult with the instructor before finalizing your plans for either a paper or a project.** You are encouraged to take risks on your papers or projects. Although this does not guarantee success in the assignment, it will be noted in your grade. Share your proposal for this assignment in-class on the second of our face-to-face days.

Research Paper: 3000 / 4000 words. (See Options 1, 2, and 3 to select word count.)

Research an area of faith, work, or worship, or an intersection of these areas that is significant to you and ministry. This may be biblical, historical, theological, cultural, arts-based, practice of ministry, etc. Conform to MDC Style Guide. Include substantive content. Use **12–15** serious resources.

Project. Thoughtfully design a project to address issues or challenges or expressions of one of our topics. **Reflection Paper.** Write a short paper (**850 words** approx.) that provides insight into your project and thoughtful reflection on what you learned in the process.

Specializations: Connect *at least* one research paper or project to your Specialization (Christian Worldview/Church and Culture/Pastoral Studies) and be able to show how you accomplish this.

Video Update Post: Post an informal report on how you are doing on your final assignment.

DUE: Wednesday, March 11.

Assignment Submission:

DUE: Tuesday, March 31, by midnight.

Video Final Post: Post a final short video that tells us what you did for this final assignment, any risks you took, what you learned in the process of doing this assignment, and any final greetings (5%).

DUE: Tuesday, April 7, by midnight.

3. WEEKLY RESOURCE AND REFLECTION

MARKS 30%

Post a weekly *Resource and Reflection* (approx. 150–200 words each) and respond to a minimum of two other student postings each week (likely using Padlet). Your “resource” may be a link to anything that you find that is relevant to our topic, or you may create it yourself. The range of possibilities include links to a good article or short interview, a piece of art or a poem or photograph, a prayer or specific liturgy, etc. If you are an artist or musician or poet, you may want to post your own work. There are 11 Resource and Reflection posts. Note that there are also two video posts related to your final assignment. See the class schedule.

DUE: Weekly Postings on Thursday, following each Wednesday online class.

DUE: Responses to at least two other posts by Monday of each class week.

Style

All stylistic considerations (including but not limited to questions of formatting, footnotes, and bibliographic references) must conform to the McMaster Divinity College Style Guidelines for Essays and Theses <http://mcmasterdivinity.ca/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/mdcstyleguide.pdf> Failure to observe appropriate form will result in grade reductions.

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://mcmasterdivinity.ca/rules-regulations/>

Gender Inclusive Language

McMaster Divinity College uses inclusive language for human beings in worship services, student written materials, and all its publications. It is expected that inclusive language will be used in chapel services and all MDC assignments. In reference to biblical texts, the integrity of the original expressions and the names of God should be respected, but you will need to use gender-inclusive language for humans, and you will need to quote from a gender-inclusive version such as the following: NRSV (1989), NCV (1991), TEV/GNB/GNT (1992), CEV (1995), NLT (1996), TNIV (2005), and the Common English Bible (CEB 2011).

Deadlines and Late Submission Penalty

Assignments are due on the date and by the time indicated, after which they will be considered late. Late submission of assignments may be penalized up to 2% per calendar day. Assignments are to be submitted electronically to Avenue to Learn or directly by email.

Disclaimer

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 at any time.