

McMASTER DIVINITY COLLEGE COURSE SYLLABUS
MDIV / MTS – MS 3XY3
(SPECIALIZATIONS: PS/CC)

FAITH, WORK, AND WORSHIP

MDIV / MTS WINTER 2022

INSTRUCTOR: WENDY J. PORTER, PHD

McMaster Divinity College
Email: porterw@mcmaster.ca

This course meets in person on Wednesdays from 2:00 – 3:50 p.m.

Course Invitation

In Psalm 86:11 (NIV), the psalmist asks the Lord for an “undivided heart.” Many of us, however, have more experience with a fragmented and disintegrated heart than with an undivided one. We believe that we should engage in the activities of a life of **faith**, that we should do good **work**, and that we should be authentic in our **worship**. 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 know that we are to **worship** God, although opinions abound as to what that means or how it should look and sound. As reflective believers, we might admit that our own lives—and the lives of those that we work with or minister to, lead, or educate—are fragmented and disintegrated, not “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 should 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 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 own life and ministry or for those within your circle of influence;
- **design** a more integrated approach to meaningful life and ministry that comprises these three areas; and
- **implement** an approach to faith, work, and worship that will increase your own wisdom and insight and will provide you with an effective model for others.

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

BEING

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

- **reflect** thoughtfully on how faith, work, and worship have shaped who you are; and
- **risk** having a more integrated engagement in faith, work, and worship and see its potential to re-shape or revitalize who you are within the context of calling and ministry.

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

A Learning Community

My hope for this class is that we will be a mutual learning community, where each of us grows through encouragement, constructive input, and active engagement—with each other, with Scripture, with intellectual ideas, and with practice-based insights. I encourage you to take risks in what you explore, share, and submit, and I will try to foster an environment where we can trust each other with those outcomes. Each of us is in process, so come with an openness to be challenged, reshaped, or re-formed, and to grow through our mutual learning experience. I will try to empower each of you to develop as much as you are willing to, and to treat each of you with respect and dignity. I ask for this in return. I am a fellow learner in this community. I will attempt to offer information, reflection, experience, and questions for each of us to process together, and to shape a welcoming environment for your contributions. I will try to give thoughtful evaluation and feedback to your thinking and to encourage your growth through our collaboration. As a responsible member of our learning community, I expect you to commit yourself to the class throughout the semester that we are together. This means that you will endeavor to treat each person with respect and dignity, and that you will be prepared for and fully engaged in and with the class each week, both in person and through media. Your full participation is required and critical for our learning community to function at an optimal level.

I try to keep class correspondence to weekdays where possible, but I can be reached outside these times and certainly in a crisis. I welcome the opportunity to communicate with you.

Required Textbooks (3)

You may choose the optional book in each category if you have already read the first one, but correspond with the instructor about this first. You may also propose an alternative book, if you can make a good case for it and have not previously read it.

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. Sociologist James Davison Hunter challenges the notions of what it means for Christians to think that they can “change the world.” It should prompt thoughtful reflection. 345 pp.

(optional) Taylor, Charles. *A Secular Age*. Cambridge, MA: Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 2007. Leading philosopher Charles Taylor will expose you to first-rate thinking about issues and challenges that influence the life of Christian faith. This book is not for the faint of heart, but if you would like the challenge of engaging with Taylor’s insights, it will be worth the effort. 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. Let it challenge your ideas as you 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, this book provides a range of contributors who discuss work from perspectives of biblical theology, systematic theology, or practical theology. 255 pp.

Worship:

Wolterstorff, Nicholas. *The God We Worship: An Exploration of Liturgical Theology*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2015. 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 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. If you have never read a substantive theology of worship, this is an excellent place to begin. 585 pp.

Selected Bibliography

MTS and MDiv students should become familiar with about 3000 pages (approx. 15 books) for an MDC course. This means that you should have a grasp of the main content and significance of these books to the field of study (not that you will have read every page). Find books from the suggested list or elsewhere that resonate with or challenge you and that meet your goals for this course, assignments, and program. You will also find numerous academic articles available.

All MDC students have access to many academic articles, chapters, and e-books through McMaster Library, as well as physical copies. See MDC's guide: <https://mcmasterdivinity.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Quick-Guide-to-Library-Resources.pdf>. All MDC students also now have access to the Digital Theological Library (DTL) <https://libguides.thedtl.org/home>, with many e-books, some free download of chapters or entire books, plus thousands of articles. Find your student code in information from the Registrar.

Faith

- Capps, Donald. *The Decades of Life: A Guide to Human Development*. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox, 2008.
- Colorado, Carlos D., and Justin D. Klassen, eds. *Aspiring to Fullness in a Secular Age: Essays on Religion and Theology in the Work of Charles Taylor*. Notre Dame, IN: University of Notre Dame, 2014.
- Davies, Oliver. *Theology of Transformation: Faith, Freedom, and the Christian Act*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2013.
- Edgar, William. *Created & Creating: A Biblical Theology of Culture*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2017.
- Fowler, James W. *Becoming Adult, Becoming Christian: Adult Development and Christian Faith*. San Francisco, CA: Jossey-Bass, 2000.
- Fowler, James W. *Stages of Faith: The Psychology of Human Development and the Quest for Meaning*. San Francisco, CA: Harper & Row, 1981.
- Moltmann, Jürgen. *The Living God and the Fullness of Life*. Trans. by Margaret Kohl. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox, 2015.
- 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.
- 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.
- Tillich, Paul. *Dynamics of Faith*. New York, NY: Harper & Row, 1957. 135 pp.
- Volf, Miroslav, and Dorothy C. Bass, eds. *Practicing Theology: Beliefs and Practices in Christian Life*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2002.
- Volf, Miroslav. *A Public Faith: How Followers of Christ Should Serve the Common Good*. Grand Rapids, MI: Brazos, 2011.

Work

- Atkinson, Clarissa W. *The Oldest Vocation: Christian Motherhood in the Middle Ages*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 1991.
- Bloch, Deborah P., and Lee J. Richmond, eds. *Connections between Spirit and Work in Career Development: New Approaches and Practical Perspective*. New York: Routledge, 2016.
- Cahalan, Kathleen A., and Bonnie J. Miller-McLemore, eds. *Calling All Years Good: Christian Vocation throughout Life's Seasons*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2017.
- Cosden, Darrell. *A Theology of Work: Work and the New Creation*. Paternoster Theological Monographs. Eugene, OR: Wipf & Stock, 2006.
- Cosden, Darrell. *The Heavenly Good of Earthly Work*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2006.
- Dale, Eric Steven. *Bringing Heaven Down to Earth: A Practical Spirituality of Work*. American University Studies Series VII: Theology and Religion 83. New York: P. Lang, 1991.
- Jamison, Christopher. *The Disciples' Call: Theologies of Vocation from Scripture to the Present Day*. New York: Bloomsbury T. & T. Clark, 2013.
- Jones, L. Gregory, and Stephanie Paulsell, eds. *The Scope of Our Art: The Vocation of the Theological Teacher*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2002.
- Kidwell, Jeremy. *The Theology of Craft and the Craft of Work: From Tabernacle to Eucharist*. London: Routledge, 2016.
- Meilaender, Gilbert. *The Freedom of a Christian: Grace, Vocation, and the Meaning of Our Humanity*. Grand Rapids, MI: Brazos, 2006.
- Ostring, Elizabeth Ellen. *Be a Blessing: The Theology of Work in the Narrative of Genesis*. Eugene, OR: Wipf & Stock, 2016.
- Palmer, Parker J. *Let Your Life Speak: Listening for the Voice of Vocation*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2000.
- Placher, William C., ed. *Callings: Twenty Centuries of Christian Wisdom on Vocation*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2005.
- Reed, Esther D. *Work, for God's Sake: Christian Ethics in the Workplace*. Sarum Theological Lectures. London, UK: Darton, Longman and Todd, 2010.
- Smith, Gordon T. *Courage and Calling: Embracing Your God-Given Potential*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 2011.
- Stevens, R. Paul. *Aging Matters: Finding Your Calling for the Rest of Your Life*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2016.
- Stevens, R. Paul. *Work Matters: Lessons from Scripture*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2012.

Worship

- Alikin, Valery A. *The Earliest History of the Christian Gathering: Origin, Development and Content of the Christian Gathering in the First to Third Centuries*. Supplements to *Vigiliae Christianae* 102. Leiden: Brill, 2010.
- Bechtel, Carol M., ed. *Touching the Altar: The Old Testament for Christian Worship*. Calvin Institute of Christian Worship Liturgical Studies Series. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2008.
- Best, Harold M. *Unceasing Worship: Biblical Perspectives on Worship and the Arts*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 2003.
- Borchert, Gerald L. *Worship in the New Testament: Divine Mystery and Human Response*. St. Louis, MO: Chalice, 2008.
- Bradshaw, Paul F. *Early Christian Worship: A Basic Introduction to Ideas and Practice*. 2nd ed. Collegeville, MN: Liturgical, 2010.
- 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.
- Byars, Ronald P. *What Language Shall I Borrow?: The Bible and Christian Worship*. Calvin Institute of Christian Worship Liturgical Studies Series. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2008.
- Hoon, Paul Waitman. *The Integrity of Worship: Ecumenical and Pastoral Studies in Liturgical Theology*. Nashville, TN: Abingdon, 1971.
- McGowan, Andrew B. *Ancient Christian Worship: Early Church Practices in Social, Historical, and Theological Perspective*. Alcuin Club Collections 91. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2014.
- Moule, C. F. D. *Worship in the New Testament*. Ecumenical Studies in Worship 9. Richmond, VA: John Knox, 1961.
- Peterson, David. *Engaging with God: A Biblical Theology of Worship*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1993.
- Porter, Wendy J., ed. *Rediscovering Worship: Past, Present, and Future*. McMaster New Testament Studies. Eugene, OR: Pickwick, 2015.
- Saliers, Don E. *Worship as Theology: Foretaste of Glory Divine*. Nashville, TN: Abingdon, 1994.
- Smith, James K. A. *You Are What You Love: The Spiritual Power of Habit*. Grand Rapids, MI: Brazos, 2016.
- Stringer, Martin D. *A Sociological History of Christian Worship*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 2005.
- Wainwright, Geoffrey, and Karen B. Westerfield Tucker, eds. *The Oxford History of Christian Worship*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press, 2006.
- White, James F. *Introduction to Christian Worship*. 3rd ed. Nashville, TN: Abingdon, 2000.

Required books for this course are available from MDC's book service, READ On Bookstore, located in the Hurlburt Family Bookstore at McMaster Divinity College. For advance and electronic purchase, contact Bernice Quek, READ On Bookstore, 5 International Blvd, Etobicoke, Ontario M9W 6H3: phone 416.620.2934; fax 416.622.2308; email books@readon.ca.

Course Schedule (Wednesdays in-person from 2:00–3:50 p.m.)

Week	Date	Details
1	Jan 12	Welcome and Introduction to the Course, Planning Assignments. Padlet Intro Video: Post a 1–2 min. intro of yourself.

Module 1	FAITH	3 weeks – Read Hunter or alternative book on Faith.
Week 2	Jan 19	Focus: Faith, part 1 Post: <i>Padlet Reflection 1</i> (200–250 words): Faith 1 Read: Hunter, <i>To Change the World</i> , Essay I, pp. 1–96. DUE: Topic for Assignment 1. Consult with professor by email.
Week 3	Jan 26	Focus: Faith, part 2 Post: <i>Padlet Reflection 2</i> : Faith 2 Read: Hunter, <i>To Change the World</i> , Essay II, pp. 97–193.
Week 4	Feb 2	Focus: Faith, part 3 Post: <i>Padlet Reflection 3</i> : Faith 3 Read: Hunter, <i>To Change the World</i> , Essay III, pp. 195–286.

Week 5	Feb 9	DUE: Assignment #1 (Tues). DUE: Class presentations (Wed).
---------------	-------	--

Module 2	WORK	3 weeks – Read Volf or alternative book on Work.
Week 6	Feb 16	Focus: Work, part 1 Post: <i>Padlet Reflection 4</i> : Work 1 Read: Volf, <i>Work in the Spirit</i> , Part I, pp. 1–65.
Week 7	Feb 23	Focus: Work, part 2 Post: <i>Padlet Reflection 5</i> : Work 2 Read: Volf, <i>Work in the Spirit</i> , Part II, pp. 67–156. DUE: Topic for Assignment 2. Consult with professor by email.
BREAK	Mar 2	NO CLASS during Hybrid Intensive Week at MDC
Week 8	Mar 9	Focus: Work, part 3 Post: <i>Padlet Reflection 6</i> : Work 3 Read: Volf, <i>Work in the Spirit</i> , Part II, pp. 157–201.

Module 3	WORSHIP	3 Weeks – Read Wolterstorff or alternative book on Worship.
Week 9	Mar 16	Focus: Worship, part 1 Post: <i>Padlet Reflection 7</i> : Worship 1 Read: Wolterstorff, <i>The God We Worship</i> , chs. 1–4, pp. 1–70.
Week 10	Mar 23	Focus: Worship, part 2 Post: <i>Padlet Reflection 8</i> : Worship 2 Read: Wolterstorff, <i>The God We Worship</i> , chs. 5–7, pp. 71–125. DUE: Assignment #2 (Friday). A2L or email attachment.
Week 11	Mar 30	Focus: Worship, part 3 Post: <i>Padlet Reflection 9</i> : Worship 3 Read: Wolterstorff, <i>The God We Worship</i> , chs. 8–9, pp. 126–70.

Week 12	April 6	DUE: Class presentations. Course wrap-up and course evaluations.
----------------	---------	--

ASSIGNMENTS (3). (You may choose one project instead of a paper.)

Note: *Consider taking a thoughtful risk in one or more of your assignments. This does not guarantee a high mark, but almost always results in the most valuable learning experience.*

1. RESEARCH PAPER or PROJECT #1

MARKS: 35%. Submitted Paper/Project: **30%** + In-Class Presentation: **5%** = **35%**.

Explore faith, work, or worship in a research paper or creative project. You must consult with the instructor by **Week 2** by email before finalizing your plans for either. At least one of your major assignments should contribute to your specialization (explain how it does).

Research Paper: 2500–3500 words.

Research one of our three themes that is significant to you. Your approach may be biblical, historical, theological, cultural, arts-based, practice of ministry, etc. Conform to MDC Style Guide. Include substantive content and write at the level of a graduate student. Interact with the authors of at least **8–10** academic resources but show that you are doing your own thinking.

Project. Thoughtfully design a project that explores significant issues or challenges or expressions of one of our topics and merits 35%. **Reflection.** Include a short insightful reflection (**700 words**) on your project, personal risks, and what you learned in the process.

PAPER OR PROJECT DUE: Tuesday, February 8, midnight (30%). A2L or email.

IN-CLASS PRESENTATION DUE: Wednesday, February 9, in class (5%).

Summarize briefly for the class what you did for your assignment and something about your personal learning in the process, including any risk. Presentations will be short and informal.

2. RESEARCH PAPER or PROJECT #2

MARKS: 40%. Submitted Paper/Project: **35%** + In-Class Presentation: **5%** = **40%**.

Explore faith, work, or worship in a research paper or creative project. You must consult with the instructor by **Week 7** by email before finalizing your plans for either. At least one of your major assignments should contribute to your specialization (explain how it does).

Research Paper: 3500–4500 words.

Dig deeply into one or two of our themes. Your approach may be biblical, historical, theological, cultural, arts-based, practice of ministry, etc. Use MDC Style. Include substantive content and write at the level of a graduate student. Interact with the authors of at least **10–12** academic resources but show that you are doing your own thinking.

Project. Thoughtfully design a project that explores significant issues or challenges or expressions of one of our topics and merits 40%. **Reflection.** Include a short insightful reflection (**850 words**) on your project, personal risks, and what you learned in the process.

PAPER OR PROJECT DUE: Friday, March 25, by midnight (35%). A2L or email.

IN-CLASS PRESENTATION DUE: Wednesday, April 6, in class (5%).

Summarize briefly for the class what you did for your assignment and something about your personal learning in the process, including any risk. Presentations will be short and informal.

3. WEEKLY PADLET REFLECTION**MARKS: 25%.**

Post a weekly *Padlet Reflection* (200–250 words each). Respond graciously to at least two other posts each week (50–75 words each). Thoughtfully interact with course material, readings, etc. Be as open as possible about your own questions and learning. This makes for a warm and supportive learning community. Optional: You may include a relevant resource (e.g. art, music, poetry). There are 9 posts plus the intro video of yourself on the first week.

Grading: Highest grades for this assignment are available to those who contribute each of the posts, who do so on time, whose posts are thoughtful and well-written, and who respond to at least two other students' posts. Late or missed posts cannot be made up later.

DUE: Weekly Post by Tuesdays 5:00 p.m.

DUE: Responses to at least two other posts by Thursdays 5:00 p.m.

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 <https://mcmasterdivinity.ca/resources-forms/mdc-style-guide/>. 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 assignments may be docked incrementally up to 2% per calendar day. Assignments are to be submitted electronically to Avenue to Learn or directly by email to the professor.

If there are any issues that could prevent your timely or successful completion of an assignment, please be in touch with the instructor immediately to discuss possible alternatives. Be proactive—do not leave this to the last minute.

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 as necessary.