

TESP 106  
TESP 106: Christian Symbol and Ritual

Fall, 2015

Dr. Gary Macy

MWF 1:00-2:05  
Kenna 111

Office: Kenna 300i  
Office hours: Monday 2:15-3:15  
Wednesday 11:30-12:30

**Description:**

This course will look first at how all people use symbol and ritual to define and create their world and themselves. Based on the insights gained in this first section, the course will investigate and, hopefully, experience how Christians celebrate and create their worldview.

**Core Learning Objectives:**

Students will:

- 3.1 Identify diverse perspectives and evaluate ethical positions on contemporary questions.
- 3.2 Evaluate and apply insights from the study of religion to open-ended questions facing contemporary society.

**Objectives for the Course:**

Students will

- 1) Recognize symbols and ritual behavior in everyday life
- 2) Students will recognize and appreciate the variety of Christian symbols and rituals that play a role in various communities

**Required Reading:**

Bernard Cooke and Gary Macy, *Christian Symbol and Ritual*  
Joseph Martos, *The Sacraments*  
Other readings as assigned on Camino

**Requirements and Grading:**

1. Attendance and active participation at all sessions
2. Short papers on visits to one secular ritual
3. Short papers on visits to two Christian rituals
4. A longer research project and presentation

**Rubrics:**

1. Attendance and Participation: Students will be expected to
  - a. attend all classes
  - b. have all the materials prepared for class
  - c. be prepared for all discussions as assigned in Camino and the syllabus
2. Discussion of one secular ritual  
Choose a ritual that you notice in secular society. Describe and analyze it using the tools you have studied in class. What is the ritual? What are the purposes of the ritual? What role does it play in society? How does it support and/or undermine the structure of the society? Satisfies Core objective 3.1
3. St. John's Bible Report  
In one page, describe one set of symbols in the St. John's Bible. Explain how those symbols combine modern symbols with the message in the Bible to which they refer.
4. Short Papers and discussion on attendance at rituals:  
Short paper here means 3-5 pages. Pretend you are an anthropologist visiting a foreign village. Describe the ritual as such an anthropologist might. I do not want to know what your personal feelings are about the ritual. This is not a reflection paper; it should be an "objective" description and analysis. Satisfies Core objective 3.1 and 3.2

**\*\*Be sure to check out proper etiquette for the communities you are visiting and ALWAYS ask first if it is all right to attend. Dress appropriately and be polite. You are guests. Your guides here are *How to be a Perfect Stranger*, vols 1 and 2.**

5. Longer Research Project  
Get creative. Use film, Powerpoint, music, art or whatever works for you to capture the meaning of one Christian ritual with which you are not familiar (not a symbol, but a ritual). This will be what that ritual means to you.
  - a. Explain what the ritual is and what the attendants think it means
  - b. Explain what it means to you (important to you, important to them, silly, just crazy, etc.)
  - c. Explain how it feels to you (moving, creepy, familiar, foreign, etc.).Satisfies Core objective 3.1 and 3.2

### **University Policies (the small print)**

#### Academic Honesty Policy

Plagiarism or academic dishonesty in any form (as described in the Student Conduct Code) will result in a failed grade for the project, and possibly for the course. All allegations of academic dishonesty will be reported to the department chair and Office of Student Life. For a full presentation of University policies concerning plagiarism, see: <http://www.scu.edu/studentlife/resources/academicintegrity/>

In order to avoid the sanctions applied to cases of academic dishonesty, please make sure that you properly cite all sources that you utilize in your writing, including works that are directly quoted or paraphrased, as well as works used as a source of information. This includes both print and online sources. Your paper submissions must consist of your own writing, and any direct

quotations or paraphrasing from other works must be properly cited.

Disability Accommodations Policy:

To receive academic accommodations for a disability, students must contact Disability Resources located in Benson 216. The phone number is 408-554-4109 or inquiries can be emailed to Robin Cole, Administrative Associate, rcole@scu.edu. Students must register with Disabilities Resources and provide documentation of a disability to Disabilities Resources prior to receiving academic accommodations.

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES ON STUDENT APPEALS OF GRADES

On November 15, 1978, the Faculty Senate approved the report of the Ad Hoc Committee I. Policy Guidelines

A. Grades are not negotiable. There should be no questioning of a faculty member's academic judgment on a grade. In registering for a class, students implicitly agree to allow the faculty member to make a qualitative judgment of their command of the subject matter, which will be expressed as a letter grade. Any questioning or appeal of a grade should therefore be limited to procedure, e.g., to computational efforts of failures to follow grading policies set forth in the syllabi.

**Modules One**

September 21 Introduction  
September 23 Read: Cooke and Macy, Chapters 1-2  
September 25 Discussion on secular rituals  
                  Read Martos, Chapter 1  
September 28 Read Martos, Chapter 2  
September 30 Ricky Manalo  
October 2 St. John's Bible Visit  
October 5 St. John's Bible Report Due  
October 7 Read Martos, Chapter 3  
October 9 Secular Rituals Paper Due

**Module Two**

October 11 Discussion of videos on Camino  
October 14 Read: Cooke and Macy, 3  
October 16 NO CLASS  
October 19 First Christian Ritual Paper Due  
October 21 Read: Cooke and Macy, 4  
October 23 Read: Cooke and Macy, 5  
October 26 Read: Martos, 4  
October 28 Read: Martos, 5  
October 30 Second Christian Ritual Paper Due

**Module Three**

November 2 Discussion of videos on Camino  
November 4 Martos, 6  
November 6 Martos, 7  
November 9 Cooke and Macy, 6  
November 11 Cooke and Macy, 7  
November 13 Cooke and Macy, 8  
November 16 Class Summary  
November 18 Presentations  
November 18 Presentations  
November 20 Presentations  
THANKSGIVING  
November 30 Presentations  
December 2 Presentations  
December 4 Presentations