Course Syllabus
EMP 3121 HF
“Worship and Theology: Dislocating Perspectives”
Emmanuel College
Toronto School of Theology
Summer 2017

Instructor Information
Instructor: William Kervin, Associate Professor, with Becca Whitla, ThD Candidate with faculty from Seminario Evangélico de Teología [SET] de Matanzas
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Course Identification
Course Number: EMP31XX HF
Course Format: In-class
Course Name: Worship and Theology: Dislocating Perspectives
Course Location: Emmanuel College and Seminario Evangélico de Teología [SET] de Matanzas, Cuba
Class Times:
- Compulsory Preparation Seminar: Sat., April 29, 10am-6pm, Emmanuel College
- Classes: Fri., May 12 – Sun., May 21, SET, Cuba
- Compulsory Reflection Seminar: Sat., June 17, 10am-6pm, Emmanuel College
- Information meeting: Thurs., November 24 (2016), 4-5pm
- Pre-registration meeting: Tues., January 24, 4:30-5:30pm
Prerequisites: EMP1101, EMT1101, or an introductory course in both worship/liturgy and theology, or by permission of the instructors

Course Description
Emerging trends and possibilities in worship and theology including: worship and liturgy; liturgical theology and praxis; culture and context; prayer and politics. Located at the Seminario Evangélico de Teología (SET), in Matanzas, Cuba, May 12-21, TST and Cuban students will together explore intercultural, liberative, post- and de- colonial threads in theology and liturgy. Two compulsory full-day Preparation and Reflection Seminars in Toronto (April 29 and June 17); participation in local Cuban worshipping communities; intercultural worship planning and celebration. Classroom learning in Matanzas will consist of lectures, seminars, group work and discussion, including translation where necessary. Students should complete most readings in advance of the course. Case Study 10%; Participation and group work 20%; Critical Reflection 25%; Final Integrative Project 45%. Cost: approx. $1800.00 (flight and accommodation), in addition to the regular cost of tuition for one course. Deposit and Early/Pre-registration required through Emmanuel College Registrar’s Office. Further information will be made available via a course website after November 15.
Course Resources

Required Course Texts/Bibliography

- Digital Course Reader [English/Spanish]

Course Website

- tba

Course Learning Objectives/Outcomes

Emmanuel College Learning Outcomes
Students successfully completing this course will be able to demonstrate the following learning outcomes.

**Religious Faith and Heritage**
Name, describe, interpret and analyze various aspects of the relationship between Christian worship and theology, their biblical, historical, theological and pastoral aspects, with particular attention to cultural and contextual dimensions.

**Culture and Context**
Identify and employ theories of culture and context in theological reflection, liturgical analysis, and worship evaluation, including intercultural, liberative, post- and de-colonial perspectives.

**Spiritual/Vocational and Faith Formation**
Employ and practice intercultural liturgical and theological perspectives and resources in personal and communal spiritual practices.

**Ministerial and Public Leadership**
Practice intercultural skill and sensitivity in worship planning, design, preparation, leadership and evaluation.

TST BD Level Learning Outcomes
Students successfully completing this course will be able to demonstrate the following learning outcomes.

(A) In respect of general academic skills
Demonstrate critical and constructive reading, research and writing skills in written and oral communication and group work through participation in an intercultural learning environment.

(B) In respect of the understanding of the content of one or more theological disciplines
Name, describe, interpret and analyze various aspects of the relationship between Christian worship and theology, their biblical, historical, theological and pastoral aspects, with particular attention to cultural and contextual dimensions.
(C) In respect of personal and spiritual formation
Employ and practice intercultural liturgical and theological perspectives and resources in personal and communal spiritual practices.

(D) In respect of ministerial and public leadership
Practice intercultural skill and sensitivity in worship planning, design, preparation, leadership and evaluation.

Evaluation

Requirements

Preparation Seminar: compulsory
A day-long workshop/seminar, held at Emmanuel College on Sat., April 29, 10am-6pm, including orientation, travel information/logistics, lecture/presentation, intercultural preparation led by staff of Canadian Churches Forum and others.

Participation 20 %
Full participation in all aspects of the course is required, including: Preparation and Reflection Seminars at Emmanuel College (April 29 and June 17), class attendance, discussion and group work in Cuba (May 12-21). Participation also assumes punctual, regular, informed and engaged attendance and participation in all class sessions (see Emmanuel College Attendance Policy in 2016-17 Emmanuel College Student Handbook). Responsible participation entails evidence of adequate preparation, intercultural sensitivity, self-awareness in group discussion (i.e., sharing equal time, not monopolizing or dominating the conversation), attentive and respectful listening, constructive and collegial contributions to discussions, openness to learning and feedback, evidence of the integration of knowledge, learning and practice, as well as taking responsibility for one’s own need for reflection, debriefing and support, as needed. To that end, opportunities for individual and group reflection will be provided, and Rev. Dr. Belky Casas Aragon, a graduate of TST and minister in Matanzas, will be available to participants for conversation, theological reflection, spiritual direction and pastoral support.

Case Study: A Reflection on Worship, Culture and Context 10 % (due at Preparation Seminar, April 29)
Length: 3-4 pages, double-spaced, 12 font Times New Roman
Read the “Nairobi Statement on Worship and Culture” (Digital Course Reader). Describe part(s) of a worship service in your own context from a cultural perspective (e.g., a hymn, a prayer, a reading, a sacrament, some art?). Consider some of the following questions: What elements can you identity as cultural? Which culture do they represent? Has your community tried to embrace new cultural elements, and if so how? If not, can you suggest ways in which this might be possible? What were the strengths and weaknesses, benefits or challenges, of the particular worship practice which you describe? What are its theological implications? The goal of the assignment is to consider your own community or location and start to think creatively and critically about worship practices in relation to various cultural contexts.

Note also: for the preparation seminar, read the following, to also inform your reflections.
Reflection Seminar: compulsory
A day-long workshop/seminar, held at Emmanuel College on Sat., June 17, 10am-6pm, including debriefing the experience, integration of learnings, presentation of Critical Reflections, worship.

Critical Reflection 25 % (due at post-Cuba Reflection Seminar)
Length: 7-8 pages, double-spaced, 12 font Times New Roman
Write a reflection on your experience in Cuba, to share in summary form at the final Reflection Seminar. Critically engage in and reflect upon your experience by employing at least two key readings from the course as tools for self-reflexive analysis and constructive critique. Relate your reflection to one or two themes from the course (e.g., worship and culture, theology and worship, worship and praxis, prayer and politics, liberative, post- and de-colonial perspectives, intercultural worship, etc.). What gifts did you discover about yourself that you bring to the task of intercultural worship and learning? What are your learning edges? Where is there room for growth? What will you do to cultivate and nurture these in your work and/or ministry?

Final Integrative Project: 45 % (due June 30)
Length: 10-12 pages, excluding annotated liturgy, double spaced, 12 font Times New Roman
Plan and design a worship service incorporating and putting into practice learnings from the course. Identify, employ, analyze and reflect upon the key issues and themes from the course that inform and shape your service. Include an analysis and evaluation of the service (or its actual celebration). Provide a fully annotated version of the entire liturgy, with commentary on the relevant elements of the service. (Further information will be provided at the reflection seminar.)

Grading System
- A+ (90-100)
- A (85-89)
- A- (80-84)
- B+ (77-79)
- B (73-76)
- B- (70-72)
- Failure

Please see the appropriate handbook for more details about the grading scale and non-numerical grades (e.g. SDF, INC, etc).

Late work (BD). Basic Degree students are expected to hand in assignments by the date given in the course outline. [The instructor should stipulate the penalty for late work.] This penalty is not applied to students with medical or compassionate difficulties; students facing such difficulties are kindly requested to consult with their faculty adviser or basic degree director, who should make a recommendation on the matter to the instructor. The absolute deadline for the course is the examination day scheduled for the course. Students who for exceptional reasons (e.g., a death in the family or a serious illness) are unable to complete work by this date may request an extension (SDF = “standing deferred”) beyond the term. An SDF must be requested from the registrar’s office in the student’s college of registration no later than the last day of classes in which the course is taken. The SDF, when approved, will have a mutually agreed upon deadline that does not extend beyond the conclusion of the following term. If a student has not completed work but has not been granted an SDF, a final mark will be submitted calculating a zero for work not submitted.

Course grades. Consistently with the policy of the University of Toronto, course grades submitted by an instructor are reviewed by a committee of the instructor’s college before being posted. Course grades may be adjusted where they do not comply with University grading policy (http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/grading.htm) or college grading policy.
Policies

**Chaplain.** Rev. Dr. Beidy Casas Aragon, a graduate of TST and minister in Matanzas, will be available to participants in the course for conversation, theological reflection, spiritual direction and pastoral support.

**Accessibility.** Students with a disability or health consideration, whether temporary or permanent, are entitled to accommodation. Students must register at the University of Toronto’s Accessibility Services offices; information is available at [http://www.accessibility.utoronto.ca/](http://www.accessibility.utoronto.ca/). The sooner a student seeks accommodation, the quicker we can assist.

**Plagiarism.** Students submitting written material in courses are expected to provide full documentation for sources of both words and ideas in footnotes or endnotes. Direct quotations should be placed within quotation marks. (If small changes are made in the quotation, they should be indicated by appropriate punctuation such as brackets and ellipses, but the quotation still counts as a direct quotation.) Failure to document borrowed material constitutes plagiarism, which is a serious breach of academic, professional, and Christian ethics. An instructor who discovers evidence of student plagiarism is not permitted to deal with the situation individually but is required to report it to his or her head of college or delegate according to the TST Basic Degree Handbook and the Graduate program Handbooks (linked from [http://www.tst.edu/academic/resources-forms/handbooks](http://www.tst.edu/academic/resources-forms/handbooks) and the University of Toronto Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters [http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/AssetFactory.aspx?did=4871](http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/AssetFactory.aspx?did=4871). A student who plagiarizes in this course will be assumed to have read the document “Avoidance of plagiarism in theological writing” published by the Graham Library of Trinity and Wycliffe Colleges [http://www.trinity.utoronto.ca/Library_Archives/Theological_Resources/Tools/Guides/plag.htm](http://www.trinity.utoronto.ca/Library_Archives/Theological_Resources/Tools/Guides/plag.htm).

**Other academic offences.** TST students come under the jurisdiction of the University of Toronto Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters [http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/behaveac.htm](http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/behaveac.htm).

**Back-up copies.** Please make back-up copies of essays before handing them in.

**Obligation to check email.** At times, the course instructor may decide to send out important course information by email. To that end, all students in conjoint programs are required to have a valid utoronto email address. Students must have set up their utoronto email address which is entered in the ACORN system. Information is available at [www.utorid.utoronto.ca](http://www.utorid.utoronto.ca). The course instructor will not be able to help you with this. 416-978-HELP and the Help Desk at the Information Commons can answer questions you may have about your UTorId and password. **Students should check utoronto email regularly** for messages about the course.

**Forwarding** your utoronto.ca email to a Hotmail, Gmail, Yahoo or other type of email account is not advisable. In some cases, messages from utoronto.ca addresses sent to Hotmail, Gmail or Yahoo accounts are filtered as junk mail, which means that emails from your course instructor may end up in your spam or junk mail folder.

**Email communication with the course instructor.** The instructor aims to respond to email communications from students in a timely manner. **All email communications from students should be sent from a utoronto email address.** Email communications from other email addresses are not secure, and also the instructor cannot readily identify them as being legitimate emails from students. The instructor is not obliged to respond to email from non-utoronto addresses.
Course Schedule

Preparation Seminar: Sat., April 29, 10-6 pm, Emmanuel College, Toronto.
A day-long workshop/seminar, including orientation, travel information/logistics, lecture/presentation, intercultural preparation led by staff of Canadian Churches Forum and others.

Readings:
“Nairobi Statement on Worship and Culture” (Digital Course Reader).

Friday, May 12: Arrival

Saturday, May 13: Orientation to Seminario Evangélico de Teología (SET) and Matanzas, Cuba

Daily Schedule of Classroom Lectures, Seminars in SET, Matanzas, Cuba:
Mornings: 8:30-9:30; Chapel and break 9:45-10:45; 10:45-12:15
Afternoons: 2:00-3:30; Break 3:30-4:00; 4:00-5:30
Evenings: various, including reflection opportunities—individually, as a class and with local groups
Note: Rev. Dr. Beidy Casas Aragon, graduate of TST and minister in Matanzas, will be available to participants in the course.

Sunday, May 14: Travel to and Worship with Local Congregations

Monday, May 15: Worship & Theology: An Introduction
Including Cuban Faculty: Rev. Francisco Marrero, Dean of SET

Readings from the Course Reader TBD

Tuesday, May 16: Worship, Culture and Context
Including Cuban Faculty: Dr. Clara Ajo, professor of theology and hymnwriter

“Nairobi Statement on Worship and Culture” http://worship.calvin.edu/resources/resource-library/nairobi-statement-on-worship-and-culture-full-text
“Declaración de Nairobi sobre Culto y Cultura” http://worship.calvin.edu/resources/resource-library/nairobi-statement-on-worship-and-culture-spanish
Wednesday, May 17: Emerging Approaches to Worship I
(e.g., Postcolonial, Decolonial, Liberative, Dis/Ability, Emancipatory, Expansive)
Including Cuban Faculty: Dr. Ary Fernández Albán, professor of theology

Albán, Ary Fernández “De-colonial Thought: An Exploration of Its Developments and Implications for Latin American Liberation Theologies” (unpublished; published as: DES-COLONIALIDAD Y TEOLOGÍA DE LA LIBERACIÓN: una exploración del desarrollo del “pensamiento des-colonial” y sus implicaciones para las teologías latinoamericanas de la liberación).


Thursday, May 18: Emerging Approaches to Worship II—Case Studies
(e.g. the themes from Wednesday in hymns/songs, prayers/liturgies, sacraments/practices)


Friday, May 19: Praxis and Practices
(group work and case studies)


Saturday, May 20: Day Off for Canadian Students
(to visit local projects & for leisure time)

Reflection Seminar: Sat., June 17, 10am - 6pm, Emmanuel College, Toronto
A day-long workshop/seminar, including debriefing the experience, integration of learnings, presentation of Critical Reflections, worship.
Bibliography

Albán, Ary Fernández “De-colonial Thought: An Exploration of Its Developments and Implications for Latin American Liberation Theologies” (unpublished; published as: DES-COLONIALIDAD Y TEOLOGÍA DE LA LIBERACION: una exploración del desarrollo del “pensamiento des-colonial” y sus implicaciones para las teologías latinoamericanas de la liberación).


Fennell, Rob, ed. Intercultural Visions: Called to Be the Church. Toronto: UCPH, 2012.


