

MAS 604 Interfaith Prayers and Services 2 Credit Hours  
Tuesday 1:00-4:00 Fall 2008

(The instructor reserves the right to alter the class schedule  
and/or assigned readings if needs warrant)

Instructor Name	Rev. Kathy Riegelman
Office Hours	By appointment
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Required Texts	Foerster, L Annie. <i>For Praying Out Loud: Interfaith Prayers for Public Occasions</i> . Boston: Skinner House Books, 2003. Grimes, Ronald L. <i>Deeply Into the Bone: Re-Inventing Rites of Passage</i> . Berkley: University of California Press, 2000. Jeffers, Steven. <i>The Spiritual Care Physician's Desk Reference</i> . Not yet published Mosher, Lucinda. <i>Praying: The Rituals of Faith</i> . New York: Seabury Books, 2006. Ramshaw, Elaine. <i>Ritual and Pastoral Care</i> . Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1987.
Other Required Reading	Handouts as noted on syllabus
Recommended Reading	Eck, Diana. <i>A New Religions America: How a "Christian Country" Has Become the World's Most Religiously Diverse Nation</i> . San Francisco: Harper San Francisco, 2001. Fritts, Roger. <i>For as Long as We Both Shall Live</i> . New York: Avon Books, 1993. Fulghum, Robert. <i>From Beginning to End: The Rituals of our Lives</i> . New York: Ivy books, 1995. Klausner, Abraham J. <i>Weddings: A Complete Guide to All Religious and Interfaith Marriage Services</i> . Columbus, OH: Alpha Publishing Company, 1986. Matlins, Stuart M. and Arthur J. Magida, eds. <i>How to Be a Perfect Stranger: The Essential Religious Etiquette Handbook, 4<sup>th</sup> ed</i> . Woodstock, VT: Skylight Paths Publishing, 2006. Seaburg, Carl, ed. <i>Great Occasions: Readings for the Celebration</i>

	<p><i>of Birth, Coming-of-Age, Marriage, and Death</i>. Boston: Skinner House Books, 1998.</p> <p>Searl, Edward. <i>In Memoriam: A Guide to Modern Funeral and Memorial Services</i>, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Boston: Skinner House Books, 2000.</p> <p>Smith, Huston. <i>The World's Religions: Our Great Wisdom Traditions</i>. New York: Harper San Francisco, 1991.</p>
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### Course Description

This course is designed primarily for chaplains and interfaith ministers who need a broad repertoire of prayer and worship skills. Students will explore ecumenical and interfaith prayers and services suitable for a wide variety of special occasions. Cultural and socio-economic factors in choosing prayers and special services will also be addressed.

### Learning Objectives

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Create services and rituals appropriate to the occasion and the faith of the participants
2. Write and select prayers appropriate to the occasion and the faith of the participants
3. Recognize and explain how to serve the spiritual needs of individuals spanning a broad spectrum of religious, cultural, and socio-economic backgrounds.

The above learning objectives partially fulfill the following program outcomes for the Master of Divinity:

The above learning objectives partially fulfill the following program outcomes for the Certificate in Unity Ministry:

The above learning objectives partially fulfill the following program outcomes for the Master of Arts in Religious Studies:

### Class Schedule

Week	Date	Topic	Reading Assignment	Paper/Exam/Activity
1a	9.30.08	Introduction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prayer</li> <li>• Ritual &amp; Rites of Passage</li> <li>• Interfaith: two distinctions</li> </ul>		
2a	10.07.08	Public Prayer Cultural Misappropriation	Barnet: handout Foerster: Intro, 1-33 Mosher: 1-72 Cultural Misappropriation: handouts	2 page reflection paper on your understanding of prayer, include impact of readings
3a	10.14.08	Ritual & Rites of Passage	Grimes: Intro, 1-13 Ramshaw: Intro, 13-54	Write and present a public prayer

Week	Date	Topic	Reading Assignment	Paper/Exam/Activity
4a	10.21.08	World Religions: Overview	Mosher: 73-162 Barnet: World Religions (video to be viewed in class)	2 page reflection paper about rituals and rites of passages practiced in your life
5a	10.28.08	Birth Rituals	Grimes: 16-85	2 page reflection paper on an interfaith experience
6a	11.04.08	Lyceum 2008: No Class		
7a	11.11.08	Adolescence/Coming of Age	Grimes: 88-148 Barnet: Handout	Write and present a birth ritual
8a	11.18.08	Weddings/Unions Divorce	Grimes: 152-214, 320-323 Review Ramshaw: 51-54	Write and present a coming of age service
9a	11.25.08	Death	Grimes: 218-282 Ramshaw: 55-87 Withdrawal of Life Support: Handouts	Write and present and order of service for a wedding, union, or divorce
10a	12.02.08	Ritual and Prayer in the Health Care Setting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sacraments: baptism, anointing, weddings</li> <li>• The Unexpected: addressing public tragedy</li> <li>• Etc.</li> </ul>	Review Ramshaw: 35-41, 59-67 Jeffers: to be determined	Write and present an order of service for a death rite
11a	12.09.08	Final Project Presentations		Take one of above assignments, complete and present in full, Include a 2 page reflection paper on the impact of this class on your ministry

**Assignments for the Master of Divinity:**  
See syllabus

**Grading**

Assignment	Possible Points	Meets Learning Objective
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Reflection papers: 10.07.08, 10.21.08, and 10.28.08 (50 points each)	150	all
Class presentations: 12.14.08, 11.11.08, 11.18.08, 11.25.08, and 12.02.08 (50 points each)	250	all
Final Project: 12.09.08	100	all

**Final Grade Determination:**

- 90-100%     A
- 80-89%     B
- 70-79%     C
- 60-69%     D
- 59% or below F

**Assignments for the Certificate in Unity Ministry:**

See syllabus

**Grading**

Assignment	Possible Points	Meets Learning Objective

**Final Grade Determination**

- 90-100%     A
- 80-89%     B
- 70-79%     C
- 60-69%     D
- 59% or below F

**Assignments for the Master of Arts in Religious Studies:**

See syllabus

**Grading**

Assignment	Possible Points	Meets Learning Objective


**Final Grade Determination**

- 90-100%      A
- 80-89%      B
- 70-79%      C
- 60-69%      D
- 59% or below F

**Incomplete grades:**

In an emergency situation the instructor has the option of assigning the grade of “I” (Incomplete). To receive the grade of Incomplete, a student must petition the instructor *before the end of the course*, stating the reason for the incomplete grade. See student handbook for details.

**Expectations of Students**

Students are expected to come to class having read the assigned material, prepared assignments for presentation, and be prepared to discuss both readings and assignments. Class participation is an essential component of this class. Come to class prepared to engage with the instructor and students.

**Classroom Protocol**

**Late Assignment Policy**

Term papers received after the due date may be assessed a penalty up to 2% per day or 10% per week

**Attendance Policy**

While attendance has no direct impact on the final grade, there is a strong correlation between attendance and success in the class. Students missing a class are responsible for obtaining the handouts, information and/or directions from another student.

**Academic Honesty**

Unity Institute assumes that all students desire to pursue their academic and transformational work with honesty and scholarly integrity. Cheating, plagiarism, facilitating academic dishonesty and misrepresentation of self or other students are prohibited. Students may seek the assistance from others as long as the student submitting the assignment is actually doing the work.

If a faculty member discovers a student violating academic honesty the following penalty may be applied, depending upon the severity of the infraction:

1. A reduced grade for the assignment.
2. A grade of zero for the assignment.
3. An “F” for the course.
4. Remand the decision to the full faculty.

A report will be sent to the faculty, the Dean, as well as kept in the student’s permanent file.

For further information about academic honesty, students are directed to review the Unity Institute Catalog and Unity Institute Student Handbook.

### Special Concerns

If students have any special concerns and/or challenges that may affect their performance in this course, they are encouraged to speak with the instructor immediately so that any accommodations, if necessary, may be made.

### Selected Bibliography

Anderson, Patricia. *Affairs in Order: A Complete Resource Guide to Death and Dying*. New York: Macmillan Publishing Company: 1991.

Appleton, George. *The Oxford Book of Prayer*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1985.

Braun, Kathryn L., James H. Pietsch, and Patricia L. Blanchette, eds. *Cultural Issues in End-of-Life Decision Making*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications, 2000.

Grayling, A.C. *Meditations for the Humanist: Ethics for a Secular Age*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2002.

Heckman, Bud and Rori Picker Neiss, eds. *Interactive Faith: The Essential Interreligious Community-Building Handbook*. Jewish Lights Publishing, 2008.

Kingma, Daphne Rose. *Weddings from the Heart: Contemporary and Traditional Ceremonies for an Unforgettable Wedding*. Berkley: Conari Press, 1995.

Kramer, Kenneth. *World Scriptures: An Introduction to World Religions*. Manwah, NJ: Paulist Press, 1986.

Mosher, Lucinda. *Belonging*. New York: Seabury Books, 2005.

O’Donohue, John. *To Bless the Space Between Us: A Book of Blessings*. Doubleday, 2008.

Roberts, Elizabeth J. and Elias Amidon, eds. *Earth Prayers From around the World: 365 Prayers, Poems and Invocations for Honoring the Earth*. San Francisco: Harper San Francisco, 1991.

Sample, Tex. *White Soul: Country Music, the Church and Working Americans*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1996.

Searl, Edward, col. *Bless This Child: A Treasury of Poems, Quotations and Readings to Celebrate Birth*. Boston: Skinner House Books, 2006.

\_\_\_\_\_. *Life Prayers From Around the World: 365 Prayers, blessings, and Affirmations to Celebrate the Human Journey*. San Francisco: Harper San Francisco, 1996.

\_\_\_\_\_. *Coming of Age: A Treasury of Poems, Quotations and Readings on Growing Up*. Boston: Skinner House Books, 2007.

\_\_\_\_\_. *We Pledge Our Hearts: A Treasury of Poems, Quotations and Readings to Celebrate Love and Marriage*. Boston: Skinner House Books, 2006.

Shannon, Maggie Oman, ed. *Prayers for Healing: 365 Blessings, Poems, and Meditations from Around the World*. Berkeley, CA: Conari Press, 1997.

Turner, Victor. *The Ritual Process: Structure and Anti-Structure*. Ithica: Cornell University, 1979.

Van Gennep, Arnold. *The Rites of Passage*. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1960.