

Saint Mary's College High School Religious Studies

Course Outline

Course Name Ritual and Worship	Teacher Mr Chris Trinidad
Room Number 317	Period 4
Trimester Winter	Contact Information ctrinidad@stmchs.org

Course Description

In *Ritual and Worship*, we will examine the role of rituals in our daily lives and we will seek to become aware of the ways in which rituals and their extant signs and symbols help to reflect and to shape our individual and communal identities and beliefs.

We will also examine certain rituals from the secular cultural (ceremonial) traditions of the United States and the liturgical and sacramental traditions of the Catholic Church in an effort to help us better understand the role of ritual in society. In addition, we will critically examine the ritual actions and the acts of worship present in current United States popular culture and how these affect and influence our ideologies, philosophies, and theories on life and living.

While our class will often refer to Catholic rites and rituals, students enrolled in this class need not be Catholic in order to positively engage in open-minded academic discourse, and honest, personal inquiry regarding religion and spirituality.

Finally, our class sessions are formatted to reflect the philosophy of the course. As ritual actions and acts of worship are regular activities in everyday life, and to promote ongoing reflective inquiry, our class sessions are framed as experiences in regular ritual.

Big Ideas

Symbols and signs are all around us.

Ritual actions and acts of worship (ceremonial or liturgical) are present in everyday life and are not merely restricted to particular practices of religion or spirituality.

The practices of religion and spirituality cannot be isolated from one another.

At the heart of any human experience is the making sense and meaning in relation to other experiences and knowledge we have acquired and the larger human narrative.

The rites and rituals of the Catholic liturgical and sacramental tradition are quotidian, proletarian, and communitarian.

Essential Questions

What is ritual? What is worship?

What is the difference between a sign and a symbol? Are we aware of how rituals are symbols-in-action?

In what ways do ritual actions and acts of worship reflect and shape individual and communal identities and beliefs?

Why are ritual actions and acts of worship often centered on rites of passage?

Why is a vision of a sacramental reality important for Catholic worship?

Core Tasks

Each student will engage in ongoing reflection activities designed to reveal the *quotidian* nature of ritual and the meaning-making of human experience.

Each student is invited to engage in acquiring the virtues of a scholarly mind and heart through curious inquiry, with thoughtful intentions, and through mindful actions.

Each student will continually develop the critical thinking skills required to understand the nuances, subtleties, and complexities of religion and spirituality.

Each student will continually develop the analytical and creative writing skills required to effectively express their thoughts, feelings, and ideas about religion and spirituality.

Each student will continually develop the rhetorical verbal skills required to justify their convictions, experiences, and values about religion and spirituality.

Required Materials

Text:

All reading materials will be provided by the teacher.

Writing and Reflecting:

A reflection journal dedicated to *Ritual and Worship*;

An organized and dedicated binder for *Ritual and Worship*;

Sufficient loose leaf paper [3 hole punched and *not* spiral bound notebook paper];

A dark blue or black ink pen [no neon gel pens and no pencils, please!];

Project Work:

Access to computers, multimedia software, and the Internet [available on campus]

Academic Expectations

Plagiarism is academic fraud. All grades are earned. Do the right thing.

All assignments and projects are due on the assigned date. No late assignments are accepted unless accompanied with an excused absence note. Each student is responsible for submitting assignments or completing tests *in advance* if an extra

curricular or co curricular activity prevents the student from attending the class in which the assignment is due or in which the test is written.

Under sections 2.5 (Culminating Assessments and Final Exams) and 3.3 (Deficient Grades) our handbook clearly states: "The mark of 'I' may be reported for any assessment when a student does not submit the assessment. In such cases, the 'I' mark indicates that the student has not provided evidence of learning, thus preventing the teacher from making a determination of the student's level of achievement of the course outcomes being assessed. In such cases, the mark of 'I' is the equivalent of an 'F' mark."

The culminating assessment for this course is mandatory and lack of submission will result in the student receiving a final grade of "Incomplete" (I), which will be treated as an F in computing a student's Grade Point Average (GPA) resulting in no credit for the course.

Behavioral Expectations

You are Juniors and Seniors. By now, I expect behavior that is consistent with the *privilege* of matriculated status. Mutual respect is the foundation of relationship and community building. Your full cooperation and mindful attention is expected and appreciated. Success in this course requires active engagement with all activities. In other words, sleep on your own time and not in my class.

There are times when we may use technology to support our learning. There are other times where I will ask that you "stow away" your electronic devices. In any event, please silence your devices. If any device goes off during class or is out when I explicitly asked that they be put away, I reserve the right to collect them and to hand them over to Mr Shum for retrieval.

You have two exit passes for this trimester, so please use them wisely. Plan and think ahead. You may use this to retrieve something from your locker, or to use the restroom in an emergency. Otherwise, please handle your business at the appropriate time.

Grading Categories

Basic Conceptual Knowledge: each student can recall essential basic conceptual knowledge and foundational details related to the course.
(25%)

Analysis and Comprehension: each student can understand the relationships between basic conceptual knowledge and prior knowledge or experience. Each student can also interpret and analyze ideas using appropriate terminology or key ideas.
(25%)

Synthesis and Self Knowledge: each student can apply and evaluate essential basic conceptual knowledge and prior knowledge or experience using appropriate synthesis and summarization skills to create new knowledge for the benefit of self and others.
(25%)

Communication and Presentation: each student can effectively communicate to others through written, graphical, or verbal means.
(25%)

Grading Guidelines

A [Outstanding: 90 – 100]

... completes all assignments and projects; participates consistently in class activities as an active questioner, commentator, and listener; exhibits superior comprehension and organizational ability in testing, speaking, and writing; exhibits unusual insight or originality in work; is consistently and actively engaged and self-directed for learning; a model citizen in attendance and behavior.

B [Very Good: 80 - 89]

... completes all assignments and projects; generally participates in class activities as an active questioner and listener or as an occasional commentator; exhibits good comprehension and organizational ability in testing, speaking, and writing; exhibits consistently good work, but is not characterized as unusually insightful or original; shows initiative, but tends to rely on teacher direction.

C [Satisfactory: 70 – 79]

... completes most assignments and projects; participates in class activities as an interested learner or an infrequent commentator; exhibits fair comprehension and organizational ability in testing, speaking, and writing; sees what is explicit but reveals little insight or originality; relies on teacher direction.

D [Minimum Achievement: 60 - 69]

... does not complete all assignments and projects on time or at all; participates in class activities as a listener, and comments only if prompted; exhibits minimum comprehension or organizational ability in testing, speaking, and writing; often misses explicit connection between content and themes; relies on teacher direction.

F [Failure due to Unsatisfactory Achievement: 0 - 59]

... does not complete assignments and projects; rarely or never participates in class activities in any capacity; exhibits little comprehension; consistently misses explicit connection between content and themes; relies upon but fails to follow teacher direction.

Acknowledgment

Please sign and date this course outline and have a parent or guardian do the same to acknowledge that this course outline has been read and understood.

[student signature]

[date]

[parent or guardian signature]

[date]