

ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

PTH 640 Weddings, Funerals and Other Services (One Credit Course)

Charles D. Arsenault

Fall 2008

COURSE SYLLABUS

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course examines the formative and transformative functions that ceremonies serve in the life of the church, offers insights for planning them, and provides practice in conducting them. Ceremonies include: water baptism, the Lord's Supper, wedding ceremonies, infant dedications, and funeral services. Suggestions for worship services, pastoral care, business and board meetings will also be offered.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. Comprehension of the functions that ceremonies serve in the church.
2. Ability to plan and conduct a worship service
3. Ability to plan and conduct a communion service
4. Ability to plan and conduct a water baptism service
5. Ability to plan and conduct a funeral service
6. Ability to plan and conduct a wedding
7. Ability to plan and conduct a baby dedication
8. Acquisition of knowledge in a relevant area of ministry interest

REQUIRED TEXT

Sourcebook of Funerals

Sourcebook of Weddings

COURSE OUTLINE

October 31, 2008	Worship services & communion
November 7, 2008	Pre-marital counseling, legal requirements, wedding coordination
November 14, 2008	Funeral services & pastoral care
November 21, 2008	Baby dedications; insights for pastoral ministry

METHODOLOGY

Classroom presentations, on-site demonstrations, student practice, and guest lecturers.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Attend class on-time and participate in all class sessions.
2. Course paper: Choose a topic from the following options and prepare a paper of 7 to 8 pages of content, using a minimum of five sources. Use Turabian format, 12 point font, and one inch margins. Include at least eight footnotes or endnotes and a bibliography.
 - Premarital counseling
 - Pastoring the bereaved
 - Approaches to worship (planning)
 - Wedding and funeral message (actual manuscript, six minutes each)
 - Student choice (upon professor's approval)

GRADING PROCEDURE

Class attendance and participation	30%
Class project	70%

SPECIFIC DATA:

Prepared by Charles D. Arsenault, July 2008