

**Christian Initiation:
Baptism and Confirmation
LIT-D511 Spring 2014**

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Course Description:

This course is primarily a study of the contemporary Roman Catholic rites of baptism and confirmation in light of the history and theology of these rites. Special emphasis will be given to the *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults* and its pastoral implementation. Select issues in current pastoral practice such as the normativity of adult baptism, infant baptism, the age of confirmation and the sequence of the sacraments will also be addressed.

Learning outcomes:

Objective	Learning Outcome	Means of Assessment
Become knowledgeable of the history of Christian initiation practice	The student will be able to identify and express the major contours of initiation history from the NT to the present	Mid-term exam 40%
Develop the ability to analyze a liturgical rite	The student will be able to analyze a liturgical text for its theological content and its ritual structure	1 essay on the theology and liturgical practice of the RCIA Order 20%
Develop the ability to use liturgical history to understand present practice	The student will be able to extrapolate from liturgical history and present experience a position on one pressing issue of the initiation practice	A position paper on one initiation issue 30%
Develop verbal skills in expressing the history and theology of Christian initiation practice	The student will be able to speak knowledgably about initiation practice through familiarity with history, the ritual and theological reflection	Class participation 10%
During the semester the students will...	Habitus engaged	
Accept the responsibility of reading required texts with care	Close reading of texts	Thoughtful and informed participation, exam, papers
Engage in class discussions by asking questions and/or answering questions posed	Collaboration	Thoughtful and informed participation

Required texts:

Johnson, Maxwell E. ed. *Living Water, Sealing Spirit*. New York: Pueblo Publishing Co., 1995.

Johnson, Maxwell. *The Rites of Christian Initiation*. New York: Pueblo Publishing Co., 2007.

Morris, Thomas. *The RCIA: Transforming the Church*. Rev. ed. NY: Paulist Press, 1997.

Turner, Paul. *Hallelujah Highway*. Chicago: LTP, 2000.

Turner, Paul. *Confirmation: The Baby in Solomon's Court*. NJ: Paulist Press, 1993.

Rites: **Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults*. ICEL/USCC 1988. (English or Spanish)

*Additional Articles will be available from the Library Electronic Reserve
Password: initiation

You will also need access to the following rites:

Rite of Baptism of Children. 1969

Rite of Confirmation. 1971

They are available separately or in the collection *The Rites of the Catholic Church* by Pueblo Publishing Co. This is suitable so long as you use the 1990 edition. I suggest you borrow these rites or get them from the library.

SUMMARY OF ASSIGNMENTS AND EVALUATION

I Historical section:

Mid-term exam 40%

II RCIA section:

a) a 2 page essay on the ecclesiology or theology of initiation as presented in General Introductions to the ritual Ordo 20%

Due:

III Pastoral Issues section:

Final Paper: position paper on infant baptism, on confirmation of those baptized as infants but not confirmed, or on the sequence of the initiation sacraments. **Due: May 7** 30%

IV Class Participation:

Grading of class participation will be judged on your efforts to enhance class discussion through informed reflection on reading assignments, and on your efforts to make connections with your pastoral experience or with other course work. Questions are welcomed as much as emerging insights. 10%