Purpose:
The process of healing engages all aspects of mind, body and soul. Healing can occur gradually or instantaneously, consciously or unconsciously. The proof of healing is in its fruits. In this course we will observe healing as it takes place in the particular contexts of play and ritual. Our consideration of play will focus on healing in play therapy but can also include aspects of healing through recreation or leisure play. We will consider the 20th century origins of play therapy in the work of Freud, Jung, Anna Freud, Melanie Klein and D.W. Winnicott. Ritual will be considered from the standpoint of historians of religion like Mircea Eliade, anthropologists like Victor Turner and Van Gennep and pastoral care givers like Elaine Ramshaw.

Objectives:
By the end of the course students should be prepared to articulate their understanding of healing - what it is and how it takes place in the context of play and/or ritual. Students should be able to identify the healing elements of play or ritual and be aware of variables in time or space that serve to promote or thwart healing. Learning will take place experientially, through class exercises and videos, and also through reflection on class readings and the students own writing and research.

Required texts:
Eliade, Mircea (1959/?). The Sacred and the Profane.
Louisville, KY: Westminster.

Recommended texts:
Winnicott - Maturational Processes and the Facilitating Environment
Davis and Wallbridge - Boundary and Space: An Introduction to the Work of D.W.
Winnicott
Klein, Melanie - Three volume collected works
Ricoeur - The Symbolism of Evil
Van Gennep - Rites of Passage
Edinger - Ego and Archetype
Victor Turner (1977) - The Ritual Process
_______ Ed. (1982) - Celebration: Studies in Festivity and Ritual
Catherine Bell (1992) - Ritual Theory, Ritual Practice
Erik Erikson - The Life Cycle Completed
Requirements:

1) A 5 Page Reflection Paper due Tuesday 7/17:

This paper serves to encourage your reflection on healing. You may 1) describe an experience of healing in your own life, 2) healing you have observed in someone else's life, 3) healing you wish for, how wounding occurred and how you imagine you will be different as healing occurs. You will be evaluated on accuracy and detail of your observation. 20%

2) Small group project due 7/24 or 7/31:

The class will form two groups to lead a service focus on some aspect of healing. The services will be conducted in the CTS chapel and will be open for the community to attend. The group will be evaluated on their effectiveness in addressing their healing focus and clarity of expression. 15%

3) A 10 page research paper due 7/31:

The topic for your research paper will ideally be related to your bibliography topic (see below). Chose an aspect of healing through play and/or ritual that you wish to explore. Decide on your topic by Tuesday 7/17. Your paper should include the following: 1) a statement of what healing is and how it occurs, 2) a clear explanation of the healing modalities, through play or ritual, that your paper addresses, 3) an exploration of the elements in time and space that are optimal for healing to take place. You will be evaluated on the degree of fit between your resources and your topic, your use of resources - both through research and experientially, and your clarity in relating your resources to your chosen focus of healing. 25%

4) An annotated bibliography due 8/2:

Each week, one hour of class time will be devoted to library research, Wednesdays from 9-10. On 7/11 and 18 the class with meet with Jeff Siemons for instruction. On 7/25 and 8/1 you will be free to work on your own with library staff available to answer your questions.

An annotated bibliography on some aspect of healing through play and/or ritual will be due the morning of 8/2. You should plan to declare your focus topic by 7/17. The bibliography should include a minimum of twelve resources including but not limited to recent books and articles. Following the references in APA style, an annotation of 2-3 sentences should give a basic description of this resource.

You will be evaluated on the degree of fit between your chosen topic and your resources, the creativity of your research, the quality of your resources and the clarity of your annotations. 25%
5) Class participation:

This includes attendance at all sessions, including library sessions (students missing more than 3 full class sessions will not receive credit for the course).

It includes preparation through reading and attention to assignments. You are expected to participate in class discussions but also to listen attentively to those around you.

Options: Each participant is encouraged to sign up for one or more of the following:

1) leading a prayer or meditation at the beginning of class (2-10 minutes max.)
2) lead the class in an experiential exercise (10-20 minutes max.)
3) lead the class in a ritual (10-20 minutes max.)
4) lead the class in play (10-20 minutes max.)

All of the above should have a focus on some aspect of healing. The presenter should be able to articulate this at the end of the exercise. 15%

OR: Substitute for 1, 2 or 5 above:


The book should relate to play (as in play therapy for leisure play) and healing through ritual (as in traditional healing rituals, Christian or other traditions and "modern" healing rituals, especially those that address gaps in the tradition). The book reviewed should have some enduring value beyond current pop culture or run of the mill "self-help", at the very least a book worth owning that one would recommend to others. Be prepared to submit a first draft of your review to the class for comment.

All book reviews will be submitted for publication to the Journal of Religion and Health. 15-20%.

General Evaluation Criteria:
All papers should be double-spaced, 12 point font. Please be sure to insert page numbers and include a title for the paper and your name on the first page.

Bibliographies should be in APA style. All references must be complete.

Papers will be evaluated on:
1) clarity of writing
2) clarity of thought
3) use of resources
4) originality

Class structure:
Generally 3 50-minute hours with 10 minute breaks between each hour ending by 2:45 on Tuesdays and 11:45 on Wednesdays and Thursdays.
Course Outline

Week One

Tuesday, 7/10, Noon-2:45pm

1) Overview of course and introduction to each other
2) Learning contracts re: healing through play and ritual
3) Video: Essentials of Play Therapy with Abused Children - Eliana Gil
   Reading: Ulanov - Introduction and chapter One
   Axline - Parts One

Wednesday, 7/11, 9am-11:45: Sign up for presentations, group projects and book reviews.

1) Meet in library for research
2) Worship at 10:15, group discussion
3) Video: Play Therapy for Severe Psychological Trauma - Eliana Gil
   Reading: Ulanov - Chapters 2
   Axline - Part Two

Thursday, 7/12, 9am-11:45 Opening meditation -

1) Play therapy founders:
   Freud, Jung, Anna Freud, Melanie Klein, D.W. Winnicott
2) Mask-making
3) Group conversation and week review

Reading: Eliade - Chapters 1 and 2 - Sacred space and time
   Ramshaw - Chapter 1
   Winnicott - Chapters 1 & 4

Week Two

Tuesday, 7/17: Topics for research paper and annotate bibliographies due

Opening meditation -

1) Defining ritual
2) Review of research topics
3) Play therapy video - ritual themes

Readings: Ulanov, chapter 3
          Winnicott, chapter 9
Wednesday, 7/18

1) Meet for library research with
2) Worship at 10:15 led by members of our class
3) Experiential - - hats
4) Review of research topics, worship groups and readings

Readings: Axline, part 3
Winnicott, chapters 5 and 10

Thursday, 7/19

1) Opening meditation:
2) Experiential: - God images
3) Book Review:
4) Week review

Readings: Eliade, chapter 3 - Nature and Cosmic Religion
Ramshaw, chapter 2
Winnicott, chapters 8 and 3

Week Three: Theme: Healing from Hate and Aggression

Tuesday, 7/24

1) Group led worship - 2) Experiential: - God's eyes
3) Review of readings

Readings: Ulanov chapter 4
(Additional suggested readings on God images - Rizutto and Armistead)

Wednesday, 7/25

1) Library research?
2) Worship at 10:15
3) John Kixmiller - Labyrinth at St. Lukes

Readings: Klein and Riviere, chapter one
Winnicott chapters 2 and 6
Thursday, 7/26
1) Opening meditation:
2) Experiential: - bubble play
3) Week review
Readings: Eliade, chapter 4  
Ramshaw chapter 3  
Ulanov, chapter 5  
Riviere and Klein, chapter 2

Fourth and Final Week: Theme: Redemption and Resurrection

Tuesday, 7/31: Research papers due
1) Group led worship:
2) Review of readings
3) Play therapy video
Readings: Ulanov, chapter 6 - Resurrection

Wednesday, 8/1
1) Library research?
2) Community worship (there was none)
3) Review of readings
4) Guided meditation - FBK
Readings: (Ramshaw chapter 3)  
Winnicott, chapter 6 and 7

Thursday, 8/2: Annotated bibliographies due
- meditation (guided imagery)
- experiential - collage: How God sees us
1) Dean's evaluations and course evaluations
2) Discussion of research projects
3) Class review
4) Closing worship for the course -