WORSHIP LEADERSHIP

“... you shall not worship any other god, for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God—otherwise you might make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land and they would play the harlot with their gods and sacrifice to their gods, and someone might invite you to eat of his sacrifice, ...” (Exodus 34:14-15; NASB)

“Ascribe to the LORD, O families of the peoples. Ascribe to the LORD glory and strength. Ascribe to the LORD the glory due His name; Bring an offering, and come before Him; Worship the LORD in holy array.” (1 Chron 16:29; NASB)

“Come, let us worship and bow down. Let us kneel before the LORD our Maker. For He is our God, and we are the people of His pasture and the sheep of His hand.” (Psalm 95:6-7; NASB)

“... an hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers. God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.” (John 4:23-24; NASB)

“And they sang the song of Moses, the bond-servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, ‘Great and marvelous are Your works, O Lord God, the Almighty; Righteous and true are Your ways, King of the nations! Who will not fear, O Lord, and glorify Your name? For You alone are holy; For ALL THE NATIONS WILL COME AND WORSHIP BEFORE YOU, FOR YOUR RIGHTEOUS ACTS HAVE BEEN REVEALED.’” (The Revelation 15:3-4)

“We believe that the Bible is the Word of God in the highest and fullest sense, and is the unrivalled authority in determining the faith and practice of God’s people; ...” NOBTS Articles of Religious Belief (Article I – Sole Authority of Scriptures)

“[The Holy Bible] reveals the principles by which God judges us, and therefore is, and will remain to the end of the world, the true center of Christian union, and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and religious opinions should be tried. ... The first day of the week is the Lord’s Day. It is a Christian institution for regular observance. It commemorates the resurrection of Christ from the dead and should include exercises of worship and spiritual devotion, both public and private. Activities on the Lord’s Day should be commensurate with the Christian’s conscience under the Lordship of Jesus Christ.” The Baptist Faith and Message 2000 (Article I – The Scriptures; Article VIII – The Lord’s Day)
DESCRIPTION:
This introductory course will enable the student to plan, facilitate, and give spiritually-directed leadership to people in worship by studying theological and historical foundations, church music, and worship practices. Additional attention will be given to platform behavior.

COMPETENCIES ADDRESSED:
Servant Leadership -- To serve churches effectively through team ministry; and
Worship Leadership -- To facilitate worship effectively.

CORE VALUES:
spiritual vitality, characteristic excellence, doctrinal integrity

COURSE METHODS:
Recorded lectures, WebEx, discussion threads, book reviews, worksheets, DVDs, and student presentations will be used.

REQUIRED TEXTS:
The Bible
Sharp, Michael and Smith, Argile. Holy Gatherings (available from the authors, LifeWay campus bookstore in New Orleans, Barnes & Noble, and Amazon.com)

OBJECTIVES:
By the end of the course the student who satisfactorily fulfills the requirements should be able to:

1. Understand the biblical, theological, and historical foundations of Christian worship as a form of religious expression;

2. Appreciate the forms of biblical worship in the light of the broader cultural environment in which Israel and the Church expressed their faith;

3. Understand the worship elements, as well as various designs and philosophies, used in the planning of Christian worship in evangelical churches;

4. Evaluate a variety of worship forms in light of a biblical theology of Christian worship;

5. Appreciate important worship issues facing local churches today;

6. Lead worship in a local church based upon principles for faithful worship that brings glory to God and transformation to those worshipping; and
7. Value staff relationships in planning and leading worship.

REQUIREMENTS:
1. BLACKBOARD: You will create an account on Blackboard and enroll in this course, using the authorization code given by the professors via an initial email to successfully enrolled students. Please make sure to register on Blackboard in the correct PATH5300 section. **DUE: First Friday of Semester**

   **Important Note:** Please post all assignments in the appropriate Blackboard section. Because of inherent date-stamp limitations, need for teaching assistants to access materials, and the enormous volume of daily emails, documents emailed to the professors will not be accepted.

2. WebEx DISCUSSIONS: Each student MUST attend and participate in the three WebEx class sessions. These sessions will take place during weeks one (1), seven (7), & thirteen (13). **DUE: Weeks 1, 7, & 13**

3. BOOK REVIEW: Each student will prepare a review of the textbook *Exploring the Worship Spectrum* by Paul Engle (editor). The review should include the following: author and bibliographic entry; a brief summation of the material presented from each of the six divisions of the book addressing the various perspectives; and a personal “take away” section in which the student provides commentary on helpful aspects gleaned from each section. Consult “Guidelines for a Book Review”. **DUE Week 5**

4. WORSHIP ASSESSMENT CRITERIA: Based on course readings and sample assessment tools as well as outside resources, students will develop a 2 – 3 page worship assessment instrument to be used in the observation and written evaluation of two distinct worship services. **DUE Week 8**

5. WORSHIP OBSERVATIONS: Attend and construct a written observation of two distinct worship services (e.g., Jewish, Eastern Orthodox, Roman Catholic, Charismatic, Vineyard, Episcopalian). Using the biblical worship assessment tool developed, each student will attend and observe both an aesthetic and a kinesthetic worship service. Observe as sincere “seeker of God” and be open to be open to encountering His Presence. Strengths and weaknesses as well as recommendations for improvement will be reported in separate 1500-word evaluation essays (one for each of the three services). An on-site observation of the worship services is required rather than video observation. **DUE Week 10**

6. DESIGN WORSHIP SERVICES: Design three distinct worship services using each of the three following models: aesthetic; kinesthetic; and blended, using a theme. Information on these models will be provided in course lectures and *Holy Gatherings*. Designs should include a worship guide outline as well as a double-spaced, two- to three-page commentary explaining how the particular worship elements are used and how they should flow in the particular worship service plan. Issues such as logistics, sequence of
events, planning intention, and potential impact upon worshipers should be noted in the plan.

DUE Week 12

7. GROUP PROJECT PRESENTATION: Students will collaborate in small groups to explore and present material related to issues of worship as presented in the text Exploring the Worship Spectrum. Group presentations will focus on engaging the class in a discussion of the assigned topics.

DUE Week 14

8. FINAL EXAM: Each student will write a 250 word response to each of the assigned questions. These questions will be posted on Blackboard during the final week of the course.

DUE Week 14

FINAL GRADE: determined as follows . . .

1. WebEx attendance, participation, and meaningful contributions to class discussion 10%
2. Book review 10%
3. Worship service designs 20%
4. Group presentation project 10%
5. Observation and Evaluation of two worship services 25%
6. Final Exam 25%

Late Work: Assignments turned in past the date due will incur a minimum penalty of one letter grade per day. Assignments will not be accepted more than two weeks past the date due without express prior permission of the professors. In such cases a grade of D will be the maximum grade given. Note: In order to receive credit for the class, all assignments must be completed.

DISCLAIMER:
Flexibility is a critical attitude to ministry faithfulness. Therefore, students will be expected to keep a good attitude when things change. This syllabus proposes a course of study for a given time period. However, occasionally things change. The professors reserve the right to adjust the syllabus when they reasonably think that doing so will enhance the learning experience of the students.

IN CASE OF A DECLARED CAMPUS EVACUATION, students are to check the NOBTS electronic Blackboard at www.nobts.edu within four days of evacuation.
SUPPLEMENTAL TEXTS:


Preuss, H.D. “*hwj hwh hwj[T@v]hi*” *TDNT* 4.248-56.


