



MUHI9300 Theology of Contemporary Hymnody
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
Division of Church Music Ministries
Fall 2017

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Mission Statement

The mission of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary is to equip leaders to fulfill the Great Commission and the Great Commandments through the local church and its ministries.

Core Value Focus

The seminary has five core values.

- 1. Doctrinal Integrity:** Knowing that the Bible is the Word of God, we believe it, teach it, proclaim it, and submit to it. This course addresses Doctrinal Integrity specifically by preparing students to grow in understanding and interpreting of the Bible.
- 2. Spiritual Vitality:** We are a worshiping community emphasizing both personal spirituality and gathering together as a Seminary family for the praise and adoration of God and instruction in His Word. Spiritual Vitality is addressed by reminding students that a dynamic relationship with God is vital for effective ministry.
- 3. Mission Focus:** We are not here merely to get an education or to give one. We are here to change the world by fulfilling the Great Commission and the Great Commandments through the local church and its ministries. This course addresses Mission Focus by helping students understand the biblical foundations for fulfilling the Great Commission and the Great Commandments.
- 4. Characteristic Excellence:** What we do, we do to the utmost of our abilities and resources as a testimony to the glory of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Characteristic Excellence is addressed by preparing students to excel in their ability to interpret Scripture, which is foundational to effective ministry.
- 5. Servant Leadership:** We follow the model of Jesus and exert leadership and influence through the nurture and encouragement of those around us. Servant Leadership is modeled by classroom deportment.

The core value focus for this academic year is Servant Leadership.

Curriculum Competencies

NOBTS faculty members realize that all ministers need to develop specific competencies if they are going to have an effective ministry. To increase the likelihood of NOBTS graduates having an effective ministry, the faculty developed a competency-based curriculum after identifying seven essential competencies necessary for effective ministry. All graduates are expected to have at least a minimum level of competency in all of the following areas:

- 1. Biblical Exposition:** to interpret and communicate the Bible accurately.
- 2. Christian Theological Heritage:** To understand and interpret Christian theological heritage and Baptist polity for the church.
- 3. Disciple Making:** To stimulate church health through mobilizing the church for missions, evangelism, discipleship, and church growth.
- 4. Interpersonal Skills:** To perform pastoral care effectively, with skills in communication and conflict management.
- 5. Servant Leadership:** To serve churches effectively through team ministry.
- 6. Spiritual and Character Formation:** To provide moral leadership by modeling and mentoring Christian character and devotion.
- 7. Worship Leadership:** To facilitate worship effectively.

The curriculum competencies addressed in this course are: *Doctrinal Integrity*, *Characteristic Excellence*, and *Spiritual Vitality* most directly. Special attention is given to clear thinking and critical reflection on the theological nature of the texts of contemporary hymnody. Students in the course will be called evaluate texts based on their theological merit.

Course Description

This course is a study of the theology of the texts of songs composed in the late Twentieth and early Twenty-first Centuries as they relate to the basic doctrines of the church and worship.

Student Learning Outcomes

The student will be able to:

1. To analyze representative texts from various contemporary authors concerning doctrines presented and to evaluate their usefulness in congregational worship.
2. To compare trends in doctrinal issues presented as compared to those presented twenty years prior.
3. To recognize doctrinal strengths and weaknesses in the texts of contemporary authors.
4. To evaluate the implications of the doctrinal issues presented as they relate to worship for contemporary church music ministry.
5. Students will demonstrate knowledge of instruments and performance practice of worship in the Bible.
6. Students will demonstrate a capacity to make application of principles of biblical worship and music to the worship and music of the twenty-first century church.

Course Teaching Methodology

The course will involve the following methodologies: reading assignments, book and article reviews, class discussion of the reading, a research paper, personal presentations and research paper critiques.

Textbooks

Erickson, Millard. *Introducing Christian Doctrine*. 2nd ed. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2001.

Olson, Roger S. *The Story of Christian Theology*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 1999.

Begbie, Jeremy S. and Steven R. Guthrie. *Resonant Witness: Conversations Between Music and Theology*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2011.

Wood, Robert and Brian Walrath. *The Message in the Music: Studying Contemporary Praise and Worship*. Nashville: Abingdon, 2007.

Course Requirements

1. Students will read the four required textbooks. In addition, students are expected to read widely from the works listed in the seminar bibliography. Reading assignments in other books and journals will be made throughout the semester.
2. Students will write two critical reviews in consultation with the instructor. The first review will be based on sections of the Erickson and Olson texts. Assignments of these will be emailed the first week of class. For the second review, the student will choose from an approved list and will make a presentation during the second class meeting.

The reviews should be written in acceptable style and be 10-14 double-spaced pages following the guidelines of the current edition of Turabian. A presentation from the reviews be made in each seminar session with discussion from other students and faculty following. The Erickson/Olson reviews will be given during the first meeting and the reviews from the reading lists will be given during the second. The reviews should include:

Summary of contents (5-6 pages)

Statement of author's purpose and critical analyses of the author's success or failure to realize the purpose.

Consideration of the uniqueness of the book [or chapters]

Concluding evaluation, including an assessment of the book's contribution to worship, music, and biblical

studies.

3. Students will complete and present one formal paper which will evaluate ten texts of one of the listed contemporary composers/groups, providing a theological evaluation of the following: [a] what doctrines are presented and [b] whether the texts are narrative, systematic or scriptural (or some mixture of the three) in their content. *[For a description of narrative, systematic and scriptural, refer to "Theological Themes in Contemporary Hymnody" by Dr. Steele, a paper presented at the ETS, 2010.]* **Papers are due two weeks before presentation and be emailed to all other students 2 weeks before the last meeting** to allow time to prepare a response. Authors/groups from which to choose:

Lenny LeBlanc	Paul Baloche	Chris Tomlin	Tim Hughes	Big Daddy Weave
Matt Redman	Michael W. Smith	Twila Paris	Brenton Brown	Laura Story
Darlene Zschech	Dennis Jerrigan	Billy Foote	Rich Mullins	Travis Cottrell
Graham Kendrick	Keith Getty	Stuart Townend	Israel Houghton	Tommy Walker
David Crowder	Christy Knockels	Bethel Music	Cari Job	Jeremy Riddle
Brian Doerkson	Rebecca St. James	Hillsong United		

The paper should be written in acceptable style and be 20-25 double-spaced pages of text, following the guidelines of the current edition of Turabian. Each student will make a presentation of their paper [45 minutes in length] and prepare a 2-page critical response of every other paper submitted. Each student will be selected to present his/her Critical Response of one of the papers during the Seminar [15 minutes]. The Critical Response must include commentary on the following: [a] strengths, [b] weaknesses, [c] Turabian format, and [d] research.

Evaluation of Grade

The student's grade will be computed as follows:

Article Discussions, and Readings	25%
Critical Response Papers	25%
Book Reviews	25%
Formal Paper and Presentation	25%

Technical Assistance

For assistance regarding technology, consult ITC (504-816-8180) or the following websites:

1. Selfserve@nobts.edu - Email for technical questions/support requests with the Selfserve.nobts.edu site (Access to online registration, financial account, online transcript, etc.)
2. BlackboardHelpDesk@nobts.edu - Email for technical questions/support requests with the NOBTS Blackboard Learning Management System NOBTS.Blackboard.com.
3. ITCSupport@nobts.edu - Email for general technical questions/support requests.
4. www.NOBTS.edu/itc/ - General NOBTS technical help information is provided on this website.

[Other paragraphs might be included, such as: expectations for reading assignments, policy on late assignments, academic honesty, classroom demeanor, extra credit]

Help for Writing Papers at "The Write Stuff"

NOBTS maintains a Writing Center designed to improve English writing at the graduate level. Students can receive writing guides, tips, and valuable information to help in becoming a better writer.

Plagiarism on Written Assignments

NOBTS has a no tolerance policy for plagiarism. Plagiarism in certain cases may result in expulsion from the seminary. See the NOBTS Student Handbook for definition, penalties, and policies associated with plagiarism.

Course Schedule

Session 1: Overview of Systematic Theology, Historical Theology [September 22-23, 2017]

Reading Reviews:

- Review 1: Erickson, Parts 1-4
- Review 2: Erickson, Parts 5-8
- Review 2: Erickson, Parts 9-12
- Review 3: Olson, Parts, III, IV,
- Review 4: Olson, Parts VII, VIII

Research Paper Assignments: Composer Selection for Theological Text Analysis

Session 2: [October 27-28, 2017] Reading Reviews

Group Discussion: *Resonant Witness: Conversations Between Music and Theology*

The entire book must be read, focused discussions will be student lead and center around the following chapters:

Discussion I

- 1. Augustine and the Art of Music
- 4. Created Beauty: The Witness of J. S. Bach

Discussion II

- 9. The Integration of Music and Theology of Music in Vocal Composition of J. S. Bach
- 13. Faithful Feelings: Music and Emotion in Worship

Discussion III

- 15. The Wisdom of Song
- 17. Afterword

Reading Review List:

- Jeremy S. Begbie, *Theology, Music and Time*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2000.
- D. A. Carson and John D. Woodbridge, *Scripture and Truth*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1992.
- John W. Cooper, *Body, Soul, and Life Everlasting: Biblical Anthropology and the Monism-Dualism Debate*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2000.
- John W. Cooper, *Panentheism: The Other God of the Philosophers From Plato to the Present*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2006.
- Bruce Demarest. *The Cross and Salvation: The Doctrine of Salvation*. Wheaton: Crossway, 1997.
- Millard J. Erickson, *God in Three Persons: A Contemporary Interpretation of the Trinity*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2005.
- _____, *God the Father Almighty: A Contemporary Exploration of the Divine Attributes*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1998.
- _____, *The Word Became Flesh: A Contemporary Incarnational Christology*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1996.
- Sinclair Ferguson, *The Holy Spirit*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 1997.
- Anthony Hoekema, *Created in God's Image*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1994.
- _____, *Saved by Grace*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1994.
- Cornelius Plantinga, *Not the Way It's Supposed to Be: A Breviary of Sin*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1995.
- John R. W. Stott, *The Cross of Christ*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 2006.
- _____, *Baptism and Fullness: The Work of the Holy Spirit Today*. IVP Classics. Grand Rapids: InterVarsity, 2007.
- Richard Viladesau, *Theology and the Arts: Encountering Music, Art and Rhetoric*. New York: Paulist Press, 2000.
- N. T. Wright, *Justification: God's Plan and Paul's Vision*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 2009.
- _____, *Surprised by Hope: Rethinking Heaven, the Resurrection, and the Mission of the Church*. San Francisco: HarperOne, 2008.

Session 3:[December 1-2, 2017] Research Paper Presentations of the Analysis of Texts and Responses and Critical Response presentations

Read: Woods & Walrath, *The Message and the Music*

Research Papers will be due **November 17**, and sent to each student as well as professors.

The Critical Response paper will be due the day of the Seminar.

Selected Bibliography

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Beale, G. K. *We Become What We Worship: A Biblical Theology of Idolatry*. Downers Grove, IL, IVP Academic, 2008.

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Bethune-Baker, James Franklin. *An Introduction to the Early History of Christian Doctrine: to the Time of the Council of Chalcedon*. London: Methuen, c1949.

Bettenson, Henry and Chris Maunder, ed. *Documents of the Christian Church*. 3rd ed. New York: Oxford University Press, 1999.

Beuving, Mark. *Resonate: Enjoying God's Gift of Music*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2014.

Brown, Harold O.J. *Heresies: Heresy and Orthodoxy in the History of the Church*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1998.

Bultmann, Rudolf. *Theology of the New Testament*. New York: Scribners, 1951-55, reprint edition by Baylor University Press, 2007.

Chapell, Bryan. *Christ-Centered Worship: Letting the Gospel Shape Our Practice*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2009.

Chung, Sung Wook, ed. *Alister McGrath and Evangelical Theology: A Dynamic Engagement*. Carlisle, UK: Paternoster, 2003.

Colyer, Elmer M. *Evangelical Theology in Transition: Theologians in Dialogue with Donald Bloesch*. Downers Grove: IVP, 1999.

Dyrness, William A. *A Primer on Christian Worship: Where We've Been, Where We Are, Where We Can Go*. Grand Rapid, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2009.

Elwell, Walter A., ed. *Evangelical Dictionary of Theology*. 2nd ed. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 2001.

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Eskew, Harry and Hugh T. McElrath. *Sing with Understanding: An Introduction to Christian*

- Hymnology*. Nashville: Church Street Press, 2nd edition, 1995.
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- Green, Joel B. and Max Turner, eds. *Jesus of Nazareth Lord and Christ*. Grand Rapids: Wm. B Eerdmans, 1994.
- Heaney, Maeve Louise. *Music as Theology: What Music Has to Say about the Word*. Eugene, OR: Pickwick Publications, 2012.
- Hanson, R. P. C. *The Search for the Christian Doctrine of God: The Arian Controversy 318-381*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2005.
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- Luttenberger, Gerard H. *An Introduction to Christology: In the Gospels & Early Church*. Twenty-Third Publications, 1998.

- Marsh, Clive and Vaughan S. Roberts. *Personal Jesus: How Popular Music Shapes Our Souls*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2012.
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- _____. *Historical Theology: An Introduction to the History of Christian Thought*. Malden, MA: Blackwell Publishing, 1998.
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