



## **PATH5300 Worship Leadership**

**New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary**  
**Divisions of Pastoral Ministries and Church Music Ministries**  
**Spring 2017 – Hybrid (Class meets 1/27, 2/17, 3/31, 4/28)**

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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: Doctrinal Integrity, Spiritual Vitality, Mission Focus, Characteristic Excellence, and Servant Leadership. The core value focus for this academic year is 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.

### **Curriculum Competencies**

All graduates of NOBTS are expected to have at least a minimum level of competency in each of the following areas: Biblical Exposition, Christian Theological Heritage, Disciple Making, Interpersonal Skills, Servant Leadership, Spiritual and Character Formation, and Worship Leadership. The curriculum competencies addressed in this course are: Servant Leadership – To serve churches effectively through team ministry; and Worship Leadership – To facilitate worship effectively.

### **Course 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.

### **Student Learning Outcomes**

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
7. Value staff relationships in planning and leading worship.

### **Embedded Assignment**

*The final exam is an embedded assignment that will be completed by all students for all sections of this course. The grading rubric for this assignment is attached to the syllabus.. Please complete the assignment according to the syllabus and the grading rubric.*

## Textbooks

- *The Holy Bible*
- Engle, Paul and Basden, Paul (eds.) *Exploring the Worship Spectrum: 6 Views* (Zondervan, 2004)
- Sharp, Michael and Smith, Argile. *Holy Gatherings* (Outskirts Press, 2009) (Available from the LifeWay campus bookstore in New Orleans, Barnes & Noble, and Amazon.com)

## Course Teaching Methodology

This course will be delivered throughout the semester in two primary environments: four in-class sessions and weekly internet-assisted modules through the use of Blackboard. The course meets on the main campus of NOBTS as well as at the North Louisiana location at Broadmoor Baptist Church, Shreveport, LA, and the Southwest Louisiana location at The Bayou Baptist Church, Lafayette, LA, through CIV technology.

During the online portion of the course, the students will engage with course content through weekly assigned reading from the textbooks plus additional course materials; through posting thoughtful discussion forum entries on assigned course materials; through course reading and book reviews; through direct observation of worship services in local churches, and through small group student presentations.

## Course Requirements

1. All students enrolled in the course are automatically enrolled in Blackboard which will be used for receiving announcements, hosting online discussions, submission of assignments, and for the final exam.  
**Important Note:** *Please post all assignments in the appropriate Blackboard folder. 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. **Discussion Questions/Online Interactions:** Each student will interact with weekly assignments, either in-class or online. For online discussions, student interactions must result in two substantial contributions per week on average. Students will be required to submit 14 original threads and 14 responses for a total of 28 posts for the semester.
3. **Book Review:** Each student will prepare a review of the textbook *Exploring the Worship Spectrum* by Paul Engle (editor). The review should be at least 5 pages and 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. A rubric associated with this item will be the primary instrument that determines the student's grade for this item.
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.
5. **Worship Observations:** This assignment is Part 2 of the assignment described in #4 above. 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. The student should observe the services as a sincere seeker of God and be open to encountering His Presence. Strengths and weaknesses as well as recommendations for improvement will be reported in one single document (two 5 page evaluation essays placed together in one document for the assignment. An on-site observation of the worship services is required rather than video observation. A rubric associated with this item reflects information presented in the textbooks, online lectures, and outside sources. The rubric will be the primary instrument that determines the student's grade for this item and will be provided early in the course.
6. **Design Worship Services:** Design two distinct worship services, one each using the two following models: (1) *aesthetic* and (2) *kinesthetic using a theme-enhanced approach*. 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, 4 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 worshippers should be noted in the plan. A rubric associated with this item reflects information presented in the textbook, lectures, and outside sources. The rubric will be the

primary instrument that determines the student's grade for this item. This will be provided early in the semester.

7. **Group Project Presentation:** Students will collaborate in six 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 worship perspectives.
8. **Final Exam:** Each student will write a 1 page response to **each** of the assigned questions. These questions will be posted on Blackboard during the final week of the course.

Note: *The final is an embedded assignment that will be completed by all students for all the sections of this course. The rubric for grading this assignment is included at the bottom of this syllabus. Please complete the assignment according to the syllabus and this rubric.*

## Evaluation of Grade

The student's grade will be computed as follows:

Class participation and Discussion Forums	10%
Book review	15%
Worship assessment criteria and observation reports of two worship services (2)	20%
Worship service designs (3)	30%
Group presentation project	10%
Final Exam	<u>15%</u>

## Technical Assistance

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

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

## Policies

**Academic Honesty Policy:** All graduate and undergraduate NOBTS students, whether on-campus, internet, or extension center students, are expected to adhere to the highest Christian standard of honesty and integrity when completing academic assignments for all courses in every delivery system format. The Bible provides our standard for academic integrity and honesty. This standard applies whether a student is taking tests, quizzes, exams, writing papers, completing Discussion Boards, or any other course requirement.

**Assignment Formatting:** Unless otherwise noted, all assignments are to follow Turabian 8<sup>th</sup> edition. All written assignments must be Word documents, written in third person unless otherwise instructed, and created in 12 pt. Times New Roman font. PDFs will not be accepted.

**Grading Scale:** Your final grade will be based on your total accumulation of points as indicated under the *Assignments and Evaluation Criteria* section of this syllabus according to the grading scale in the NOBTS 2015-2016 catalog.

A 93-100      B 85-92      C 77-84      D 70-76      F 69 and below

**Late Work:** Assignments are due by midnight on Mondays on the specific dates listed. 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.

**Netiquette: Appropriate Online Behavior:** Each student is expected to demonstrate appropriate Christian behavior when working online. The student is expected to interact with other students in a fashion that will promote learning and respect for the opinions of others in the course. A spirit of Christian charity is expected at all times in the online environment.

## 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.

**Withdrawal from the Course:** The administration has set deadlines for withdrawal. These dates and times are published in the academic calendar. Administration procedures must be followed. You are responsible to handle withdrawal requirements. A professor can't issue a withdrawal. You must do the proper paperwork to ensure that you will not receive a final grade of "F" in the course if you choose not to attend once you are enrolled.

## Additional Information

**Blackboard and SelfServe:** You are responsible for maintaining current information regarding contact information on Blackboard and SelfServe. The professor will utilize both to communicate with the class. Blackboard and SelfServe do not share information so you must update each. Assignment grades will be posted to Blackboard. You will be need to enroll in the course on Blackboard.

## In Case of a Declared Campus Evacuation

Students are to check the NOBTS electronic Blackboard at [www.nobts.edu](http://www.nobts.edu) within four days of evacuation.

**NOBTS Emergency Text Messaging Service:** Once you have established a SelfServe account you may sign up for the NOBTS emergency text messaging service by going to <http://nobts.edu/NOBTSEmergencyTextMessage.html>.

**Special Needs:** If you need an accommodation for any type of disability, please set up a time to meet with the professor(s) to discuss any modifications you may need that are able to be provided.

## 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

Dates:	Topics:	Assignments due:
Unit 1 Jan 24-30	Syllabus Overview What Is Worship? (pt. 1)	Class meeting Jan 27
Unit 2 Jan 31-Feb 6	What Is Worship? (pt. 2)	
Unit 3 Feb 7-13	What Is Worship? (pt. 3)	
Unit 4 Feb 14-20	What Is Worship? (pt. 4)	Class meeting Feb 17 (6:00PM-9:50) <b>Book review due Feb 20</b>
Unit 5 Feb 21-27	The Elements of Corporate Worship	
Unit 6 Feb 28-Mar 6	Designing Corporate Worship (pt. 1)	<b>Worship Assessment Criteria due Mar 6</b>
Unit 7 Mar 7-12	Designing Corporate Worship (pt. 2)	
Mar 13-19	SPRING BREAK	
Unit 8 Mar 21-27	Evaluating Worship (pt. 1)	
Unit 9 Mar 28-Apr 3	Evaluating Worship (pt. 2)	Class meeting Mar 31 (6:00PM-9:50) <b>Worship Observations due Apr 3</b>
Unit 10 Apr 4-10	Worship in relation to other pastoral responsibilities (pt. 1)	
Unit 11 Apr 11-17	Worship in relation to other pastoral responsibilities (pt. 2)	
Unit 12 Apr 18-24	Transition in worship (pt. 1)	<b>Worship Designs Due Apr 24</b>

Unit 13 Apr 25-May 1	Transition in worship (pt. 2)	Class meeting Apr 28 (6:00PM-9:50) <b>Group presentations due Apr 28 by class time</b>
Unit 14 May 2-4	Worship and other ministry tasks	<b>Final Exam due May 2-5</b>
May 5-11	FINAL EXAM WEEK	

### **Selected Bibliography**

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## PATH5300 WORSHIP LEADERSHIP

### RUBRIC FOR ASSESSING STUDENT PERFORMANCE ON EMBEDDED ASSIGNMENT

Professor: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Semester: \_\_\_\_\_

Delivery System: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Understanding:

0 1 2 3 4 Student understands biblical guidelines and specific biblical texts for worship leadership.

0 1 2 3 4 Student understands the major critical issues and challenges in corporate worship leadership.

0 1 2 3 4 Student understands the differences among major types of Bible study resources (devotional, critical, homiletical, etc.)

#### Application:

0 1 2 3 4 Student applies ideas discussed in class and textbooks.

0 1 2 3 4 Student develops appropriate, specific, detailed corporate worship plans, reflective of a biblical theology.

0 1 2 3 4 Student uses appropriate corporate worship elements.

#### Communication:

0 1 2 3 4 Student expresses himself/herself with clarity, coherence, relevance, and professionalism.

0 1 2 3 4 Student organizes material in a logical manner.

#### Assessment Scale Criteria

4 -- Exceptional quality, demonstrating superior workmanship, critical thinking, assimilation, and scholarship; exam completed on time; demonstrates specific, accurate and relevant use of class textbook and course concepts; reflects thoughtful consideration and addresses specific issues appropriately, constructively, and relevantly

3 -- Better quality than the class average; exam completed on time; demonstrates that every detail of the exam has been given careful attention

2 -- Met the requirements satisfactorily; demonstrates a quality at least comparable to the class average; met minimum expectations; exam completed on time

1 -- Low passing; below the quality of the class average; student is not prepared for advanced work

0 -- Unsatisfactory work; reflects little or no use of specific references to class textbook and course lectures; no evidence of critical thinking and assimilation of concepts