

ANSWERING GOD'S CALL

PATH5300: Worship Leadership New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary Pastoral Ministries Division Spring 2019 (hybrid)

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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 *Doctrinal Integrity*: "Knowing that the Bible is the Word of God, we believe it, teach it, proclaim it, and submit to it. Our confessional commitments are outlined in the Articles of Religious Belief and the Baptist Faith and Message 2000." [current *Graduate Catalog*].

Curriculum Competencies

All graduates of NOBTS are expected to have at least a minimum level of competency in the following areas: Biblical Exposition, Christian Theological Heritage, Disciple Making, Interpersonal Skills, Servant Leadership, Spiritual and Character Formation, and Worship Leadership. The 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. [*Graduate Catalog*]

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; and
- 7. Value staff relationships in planning and leading worship.

Embedded Assignment

This assignment is an embedded assignment that will be completed by <u>all students for all the sections</u> of this course. The rubric for grading this assignment is below. <u>Please complete the assignment according to the syllabus and rubric.</u>

Each student will write a minimum 250-word response to **each** of the assigned exam questions. These questions will be posted on Blackboard during the final week of the course.

GRADING RUBRIC FOR PATH5300 EMBEDDED ASSIGNMENT

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 strategies of corporate worship designs.

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.

Grading Scale Criteria

- 4 -- Exceptional quality, demonstrating superior workmanship and scholarship in exegesis of the passage; demonstrates specific, accurate and relevant use of class textbook and course concepts; reflects thoughtful consideration and addresses specific issues appropriately, constructively, and relevantly; follows syllabus instructions and format of the example; work submitted on time
- 3 -- Better quality than the class average; demonstrates that every detail of the assignment has been given careful attention; follows syllabus instructions and format of the example; work submitted on time
- 2 -- Met the requirements satisfactorily; demonstrates a quality at least comparable to the class average; follows syllabus instructions and format of the example; work submitted 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; resources are too few, or only devotional and general in nature

Textbooks

Required:

The Bible

Engle, Paul and Basden, Paul, ed. *Exploring the Worship Spectrum: 6 Views* (Zondervan, 2004; and as an e-book) Sharp, Michael and Smith, Argile. *Holy Gatherings* (Outskirts Press, 2009)

Recommended:

Block, Daniel I. For the Glory of God (Baker Academic, 2014)

Course Teaching Methodology

The course will involve the following methodologies:

- 1. Classroom lectures and discussion as well as materials provided online (recorded lectures, audio supplemented PowerPoint presentations, electronically published materials, and worksheets) will present the principles and methods of worship leadership.
- 2. Assigned readings will summarize principles, perspectives.
- 3. Audios, videos, and web streaming will demonstrate examples.
- 4. Written assignments, live observation of worship services, and student presentations will facilitate experiential

learning of the course content and learning outcomes. Resource persons may be used to share experiences.

- 5. Group discussion boards will stimulate personal insights.
- 6. Eight hybrid class meetings will allow students to interact with the professors and each other to process the course material in a classroom experience.

Course Requirements

- BLACKBOARD: NOBTS ITC will create an account on Blackboard and enroll you in this course Blackboard. You will confirm an account and your enrollment in the course Blackboard. If you are unable to access the course Blackboard or experience technical difficulties, please contact the NOBTS Blackboard Helpdesk. DUE: Beginning of the course
 - Note: All course assignments must be submitted via the course Blackboard. Documents emailed to the professors cannot be accepted.
- 2. <u>EIGHT CLASS MEETINGS</u>: The course will meet in the real-time classroom eight times during the semester on the Main Campus, North Georgia, and Jonesboro extensions. The course will be hosted from the North Georgia Center. The dates of the meetings are: Tuesdays- Jan 22, Feb 5, Feb 19, Mar 12, Mar 26, Apr 9, Apr 23 and May 7. Class times are: 5:00pm to 6:50pm Central (Note: 6:00pm to 7:50pm Eastern).
- 3. <u>ONLINE LEARNING UNITS:</u> For those weeks in the semester during which the class does not meet in the classroom, students will be expected to interact with assignments through online learning units. These units may involve reading assignments, recorded lectures, and discussion forums.
- 4. <u>BOOK REVIEWS:</u> Each student will prepare a review for each of the textbooks. The reviews should include the following: author and bibliographic entry; a <u>brief</u> summation of the material presented (from each of the six divisions of the Engle book addressing the various perspectives); and a personal "take away" section in which the student provides commentary on helpful aspects gleaned <u>from each section</u>. Consult "Guidelines for a Book Review". **DUE DATES: Book Review** #1 *Exploring the Worship Spectrum* Fri, Feb 8; Book Review #2 *Holy Gatherings* Fri, Mar 8.
- 5. <u>WORSHIP ASSESSMENT CRITERIA:</u> 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: Fri, Mar 1**
- 6. A <u>MID-TERM EXAM</u> will cover all of the material covered in the learning units, classroom discussion, and the textbook readings. It will be given in class on **Tue**, **Mar 12**.
- 7. WORSHIP OBSERVATIONS: Each student will attend two (2) distinct Christian worship services (e.g. Eastern Orthodox, Roman Catholic, Lutheran, Charismatic, Vineyard, Episcopalian), including both an aesthetic and a kinesthetic type. Observe as a sincere "seeker of God" and be open to encountering His Presence. Using the biblical worship assessment tool previously developed, each student will provide a written observation of each of the worship services. Strengths and weaknesses as well as recommendations for improvement will be reported in separate 1500-word evaluation essays (one for each of the two services). 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 presentations, and outside sources. The rubric will be the primary instrument to assess the student's submission. **DUE: Fri, Apr 5**
- 8. <u>DESIGN WORSHIP SERVICES:</u> Design three distinct worship services using each of the three following models: aesthetic; kinesthetic; and blended. Information on these models will be provided in course lectures, online materials, and *Holy Gatherings*. Each design should include a <u>worship guide outline</u>, as well as a separate double-spaced, 800-1200-word <u>commentary</u> explaining how the particular worship elements are used and how they should flow in the particular worship plan. Issues such as logistics, sequence of events, planning intention, and potential impact should be noted in the plan.

 A rubric associated with this item reflects information presented in the textbooks, course presentations, and online materials. The rubric will be the primary instrument to assess the student's submission.

DUE: Fri, Apr 19 (Note: this date is Good Friday. The assignment folder will be open at least one week earlier for those who wish to submit before the due date.)

9. <u>COLLABORATIVE PROJECT:</u> 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*. The teams will be assigned, as will the specific worship leadership strategy.

The assumptions for the assignment include: 1) everyone has already read the textbook; **do not simply represent the textbook content**; 2) the persons who worship in that tradition are genuine in their devotion to Christ; 3) you have a totally blank page to work with for designing your presentation; it should be creative, interesting, winsome, effective; you may use video, drama, interviews, Skype, YouTube, blogs, investigative reports, object lessons, examples, PowerPoint, etc.; 4) the intended target for the presentation is a congregation from a different worship tradition and that you are going to take this presentation and give it to the group as part of a 6-part workshop series on major Christian worship practices; and 5) the purpose of your presentation is to educate the listeners on the background, nature, theology, rational, practice, strengths, weaknesses, myths, misunderstandings, questions, emphases, proponents, leaders, examples, etc. of that particular tradition.

Each presentation will be graded by these criteria:

- 1. Is it accurate?
- 2. Does it move beyond the textbook content?
- 3. Is it usable in a local church?
- 4. Does it include the major aspects of the tradition (resources, theology, criteria, etc.)?
- 5. Is it attractive and creative?
- 6. Is it analytical?
- 7. Is it original?

<u>Everyone in your group must contribute to the presentation</u>. The presentation needs to be unified in style, focus, etc. The presentations will be done in our hybrid class meetings on Apr 23 (Groups A,B,C) and May 7 (Groups D,E,F)

A rubric associated with this item reflects information presented in the textbooks, course presentations, and online materials. The rubric will be the primary instrument to assess the student's submission.

DUE: Apr23 and May 7

10. FINAL EXAM:

This assignment is an embedded assignment that will be completed by <u>all students for all the sections</u> of this course. The rubric for assessing this assignment can be found earlier in this syllabus. <u>Please complete</u> the assignment according to the syllabus and this rubric.

Each student will write a minimum 250-word response to **each** of the assigned exam questions. The exam may also include multiple-choice questions. The exam will be posted on Blackboard during the final week of the course. **DUE: Final Exam Week (Exam open in Blackboard Fri through Mon, May 10-13)**

Evaluation of Grade

The student's grade will be computed as follows:

1.	Participation (e.g., class sessions, discussion board contributions)	10%
2.	Book reviews (10% each)	20%
3.	Worship service designs	10%
4.	Group presentation project	10%
5.	Observation and Evaluation of worship services	10%
6.	Midterm Exam	15%
7.	Final Exam	25%

Technical Assistance

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

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

DEADLINES:

Each assignment (exams, papers, projects, etc.) must be submitted by midnight (Central Time) of the published deadline. In fairness to all students, no exceptions are allowed.

<u>Late Work:</u> Because of the nature of this class, no late work is permitted without explicit approval of the professor. 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 one week past the date due without express <u>prior</u> permission of the professors. In such cases a grade of D will be the maximum grade given. In fairness to all students, no exceptions are allowed.

<u>Note:</u> In order to receive credit for the class, all assignments must be completed. No graduating senior will be permitted to graduate unless his or her assignments are submitted in a timely manner.

NETIQUETTE: APPROPRIATE ONLINE BEHAVIOR:

Each student is expected to demonstrate appropriate Christian behavior when working online on the discussion board. 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.

STUDENT / PROFESSOR CONFERENCES:

The professors are available to meet with students by appointment. The teaching assistants are available to answer questions and help students in person, as well as by phone, text, and email consultation.

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.

CLASS POLICIES:

- 1. <u>Late Work:</u> Because of the nature of this class, no late work is permitted without explicit approval of the professors. If you cannot meet a deadline or anticipate being unable to do so, notify the professors. No graduating senior will be permitted to graduate unless his or her assignments are submitted in a timely manner.
- 2. <u>Plagiarism:</u> NOBTS has a no tolerance policy for plagiarism. Plagiarism in certain cases may result in expulsion from the seminary. See the NOBTS Student Handbook and Graduate Catalog for definition, penalties, and policies associated with plagiarism. Students are given the task of writing in order to help them learn how to think critically about the ideas of others and to present the results of their analysis in a readable form. Plagiarism defeats these purposes by cheating the student out of an opportunity to grow. Plagiarism is a failure to distinguish between the work of the student and the work of others, either intentionally or unintentionally. Students that plagiarize will be reported to the Dean of Students and a grade of "F" will be assigned. Remember the words of the proverb: "Whoever walks in integrity walks securely, but he who makes his ways crooked will be found out" (Prov 10:19).

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 better writers.

Plagiarism on Written Assignments

As stated above, 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

(PATH5300 – Spring 2019 hybrid)

Week/Unit	Topic/Assignment Due	
Jan 22-27 (Unit 1)	Class meeting Tue, Jan 22 (What is acceptable worship?)	
Jan 28-Feb 3 (Unit 2)	(Biblical foundations of worship)	
Feb 4-10 (Unit 3)	Class meeting Tue, Feb 5 (Biblical foundations; Worship "in Spirit and in Truth") BOOK REVIEW #1: EXPLORING THE WORSHIP SPECTRUM (DUE: FRI, FEB 8)	
Feb 11-17 (Unit 4)	(True worship v. False Worship; Idolatry and worship)	
Feb 18-24 (Unit 5)	Class meeting Tue, Feb 19 (Three primary purposes of the worship gathering; the historical elements of worship)	
Feb 25-Mar 3 (Unit 6)	(The historical elements of worship, cont'; resources for planning worship) WORSHIP ASSESSMENT CRITERIA (DUE: FRI, MAR 1)	
Mar 4-10 (Unit 7)	(Designing worship services: aesthetic, kinesthetic, blended) BOOK REVIEW #2: HOLY GATHERINGS (DUE: FRI, MAR 8)	
Mar 11-17 (Unit 8)	Class meeting Tue, Mar 12 (Designing worship, cont'; evaluating worship services) MIDTERM EXAM GIVEN IN CLASS MAR 12	
SPRING BREAK (NO ONLINE ASSIGNMENT)		
Mar 25-31 (Unit 9)	Class meeting Tue, Mar 26 (Pastoral considerations in worship; the generations in worship)	
Apr 1-7 (Unit 10)	(Edifying the church and witnessing to the lost in the context of worship services) KINESTHETIC & AESTHETIC OBSERVATIONS (Due: FRI, APR 5)	
Apr 8-14 (Unit 11)	(Worship and expression: does style matter in worship?) Class meeting Tue, Apr 9 (topic)	
Apr 15-21 (Unit 12)	(Selecting songs for worship; healthy staff relationships and worship) KINESTHETIC, AESTHETIC, & BLENDED WORSHIP DESIGNS (DUE: FRI, APR 19)	
Apr 22-28 (Unit 13)	Class meeting Tue, Apr 23 (group presentations) COLLABORATIVE PROJECTS (GROUPS A,B,C,)	
Apr 29-May 5 (Unit 14)	(Making changes in worship; study guide for final exam)	
May 6-9 (Unit 15)	Class meeting Tue, May 7 (group presentations) COLLABORATIVE PROJECTS (GROUPS D,E,F)	
May 10-13 (Final Exam)	FINAL EXAM (May 10-13; Friday thru Monday)	

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY FOR WORSHIP LEADERSHIP

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