



**MUWM9304 Contemporary Studies in Ethnodoxology
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
Division of Church Music Ministries
Spring 2021**

Dr. Michael Sharp
Professor of Worship Studies
Occupying the Lallage-Feazel
Chair of Worship Studies
(678) 756-5667
msharp@nobts.edu

Dr. Ed Steele
Professor of Music -Leavell College
Occupying the Lallage Feazel Chair of Music
(504) 282-4455 x3237
Sellers Music Bldg Rm 220 A
esteele@nobts.edu

Mission Statement of the Seminary

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and Leavell College prepare servants to walk with Christ, proclaim His truth, and fulfill His mission.

Course Description

This seminar focuses on the hymnody and Christian congregational worship practices of Asian, African, Latin American, and European cultures. Special attention will be given to comparative analyses of how various cultures employ the elements of worship within their given cultural contexts.

Student Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course the student will:

1. Be able to demonstrate an understanding of various worship practices in of Asian, African, Latin American, and European cultures.
2. Exhibit a greater appreciation for various global Christian worship practices.
3. Be able to evaluate various global Christian worship practices in light of biblical patterns.

Textbooks

Required:

- Krabill, James R. (General Editor) *Worship and Mission for the Global Church: An Ethnodoxology Handbook*. Pasadena, CA: William Carey Library, 2013.
- Black, Kathy. *Worship Across Cultures: A Handbook*. Nashville, TN: Abingdon, 1998.
- Sharp, Michael D. and Edward Steele. "The Song of Cuba's Great Awakening" in *Great Commission Research Journal*, 11 no. 2 (Spring 2020), 8-30.

Supplementary:

- Hawn, C. Michael. *Gather into One: Praying and Singing Globally*. Grand Rapids: W.B. Eerdmans Pub., 2003.

Course Teaching Methodology

The course will involve the following methodologies:

The course will meet in three seminar meetings. Course content will be engaged through reading selected textbooks, direct observation of worship gatherings, interviews with church leaders, original research, student presentations and discussion, and guest lectures.

Course Requirements

1. Course Reading, Presentation of Assigned Material.

Each student will acquire the course textbooks and read the assigned reading list prior

to each seminar meeting. Additionally, for each of the three seminar meetings, the student will be assigned a portion of the text to present to the seminar. In addition to presenting the assigned material, the student should be prepared to lead the seminar in discussion of the material. **(Due date: As assigned)**

2. Interviews and Observations of corporate worship of other cultures.

This is an assignment with two parts: interviews with church leaders and direct observation of a worship service of a specific cultural group. First, each student will interview several church leaders of a specific cultural group (African, Asian, Latin American, or European) regarding Christian congregational worship practices and norms. The interview questions and responses should be reported in transcript form as an appendix to the final paper. After the interviews have been completed, the student will attend/observe a Christian worship service of the same cultural group with the intention of reporting on specific worship practices and usage of hymnody. The observation may be live or via video/livestream. Drawing on data from interviews and direct observation, the student will prepare a written report of cultural features of the focus group. Information contained in the article “Developing Culturally Appropriate Worship” (Rowe, 420-423, in *Worship and Mission for the Global Church*) may be a helpful resource for the interviews and observation. Additionally, the student will present the findings of the paper to the seminar. **(Due date: Time of second seminar meeting)**

3. Formal research paper and seminar presentation. Each student will complete a formal research paper on a topic related to ethnodoxology. The paper should be roughly 2500 words in length and should be written using the NOBTS style guide. A presentation of the paper to the seminar should be approximately 30minutes in length, including discussion. The student should provide a copy of the paper to the other members of the seminar. Use of media (PowerPoint, etc.) to aid the presentation is optional. **(Due date: Time of third seminar meeting)**

4.

Evaluation of Grade

The student's grade will be computed as follows:

Course Reading and three presentations on assigned material	45%
Interviews with church leaders (transcript)	15%
Observation of worship service and report	15%
Formal paper and presentation to the seminar	25%

NOBTS Style Guide

All written papers for this course should conform to the official style guide of NOBTS (based on Turabian). A copy of the approved NOBTS Style Guide can be found in the course Blackboard shell, or can be located online at the Writing Center's page on the seminary website at:

<https://www.nobts.edu/resources/pdf/writing/StyleGuide.pdf>

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](https://www.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](https://www.nobts.edu/blackboard).

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.

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

1. **First Seminar (Thu, Feb 11, 1:00pm-9:00pm; Fri, Feb 12, 8:00am-10:15am)**
First Set of Cultural Presentations (Course requirement #1): [Krabill: 1-95; Black: 1-81; Sharp/Steele article]
2. **Second Seminar (CIV: Thu, Mar 25, 1:00pm-9:00pm; Fri, Mar 26, 8:00am-10:15am)**
Second Set of Cultural Presentations (Course requirement #1): [Krabill: 96-183]
Interviews & Observation Papers (Course requirement #2)
[Black: 82-159]
3. **Third Seminar (Thu, Apr 29, 1:00pm-9:00pm; Fri, Apr 30, 8:00am-10:15am)**
Third Set of Cultural Presentations (Course requirement #1): [Krabill: 183-357]
Research Paper Presentations (Course requirement #3)
[Black 160-230]

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- _____. “How Does one go about Multicultural Worship?” In *What Does “Multicultural” Worship Look Like?* ed. Gordon Lathrop, pp. 24-33. Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress, 1996.
- _____. “Liturgical Music, Culturally Tuned.” In *Liturgy and Music: Lifetime Learning*, ed. Barz, Gregory F. *Performing Religion: Negotiating Past and Present in Kwaya Music of Tanzania*. New York: Editions Rodopi B.V., 2003.
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