



## **MUWM5303 Planning and Leading Worship**

### **New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary**

### **Division of Church Music Ministries**

### **Fall Semester 2020 (Hybrid with Workshops)**

Dr. Michael Sharp, PhD  
Professor of Worship Studies  
Phone: (678) 756-5667  
Email: msharp@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.

#### **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 *Mission Focus*.

#### **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: Worship Leadership; Servant Leadership; Interpersonal Skills.

#### **Course Description**

This course will focus on training worship leaders in the art of designing and leading corporate worship services. Emphasis is given to practical aspects of worship leadership, such as planning worship services, administrating logistical considerations, and rehearsing musical groups such as choirs, vocal ensembles, and instrumental groups.

#### **Student Learning Outcomes**

1. The student will understand the basic philosophical foundations and historical elements which inform the process of planning and leading corporate worship services in the local church.
2. The student will increase his/her skill in planning and leading worship services that both engage worshipers and disciple them toward the goal of being fully-devoted followers of Christ.
3. The student will develop an appreciation for leadership issues related to human resources in worship planning (worship planning teams, pastoral collaboration, and vocal and instrumental rehearsals).
4. The student will become familiar with planning tools and online resources which can aid in the planning and facilitating of corporate worship.
5. The student will intentionally structure her/his life so as to create opportunities for encountering God personally through a life devoted to worshipping Him.

#### **Course Teaching Methodology**

The course will involve the following methodologies: Classroom/online discussion of texts; weekly unit assignments utilizing video and web-based resources; workshop faculty lectures; presentations by faculty and students; individual research projects; video-based self-observation. Blackboard ([www.nobts.blackboard.com](http://www.nobts.blackboard.com)) will be used as the communication platform for the course. All students registered for the course will be automatically enrolled in Blackboard. Blackboard will provide the platform for the course structure, including announcements and information, as well as weekly unit assignments. All course assignments should be uploaded to this site in the appropriate folders.

#### **Textbooks**

Required:

Cherry, C. M. *The Worship Architect: A Blueprint for Designing Culturally Relevant and Biblically Faithful Services*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2010.

Cherry, C.M., Mary M. Brown, and Christopher T. Bounds. *Selecting Worship Songs: A Guide for Leaders*. Marion,

IN: Triangle Publishing, 2011.  
Scheer, Greg. *The Art of Worship: A Musician's Guide to Leading Modern Worship*.  
Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2006.

Optional:

Cherry, C. M. *The Special Service Worship Architect: Blueprints for Weddings, Funerals, Baptisms, Holy Communion, and Other Occasions*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2013.  
Noland, Rory. *The Worshiping Artist: Equipping You and Your Ministry Team to Lead Others in Worship*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2007.

## Course Requirements

1. Students will read the three required texts (see textbook list above) and will participate in weekly online discussion throughout the course through Blackboard forums. Course reading and mini-lectures posted by the professor will provide the underlying content for online discussions. The reading requirement is worth 10% of the grade in the course. At the conclusion of the semester, students will be asked to provide documentation for *on-time and full completion of the reading assignments*. **Due date: as assigned throughout the semester (see course calendar)**
2. The student will be given weekly unit assignments through Blackboard. Beyond participation in online discussion these weekly assignments will include observation of online videos of worship leadership, exercises in planning worship services with specific parameters, and personal critique of worship leading in live contexts. **Due date: weekly due dates (see course calendar)**
3. Four required workshop meetings will be held during the semester: **Fri, Sep 4; Fri, Oct 9; Fri, Oct 30; and Fri, Dec 4, 2020** (all class meetings are 1:00PM to 5:00PM *Central Time*). The in-class workshops will be offered in New Orleans and North Georgia, as well as synchronous participation via Bluejeans. According to guidelines in the Graduate Catalogue, students are allowed only one class absence. Absences beyond that will preclude students from passing the course. **NOTE: At this time, due to health considerations, the seminary is requiring that the final hybrid meeting (Dec 4) be held via Bluejeans for ALL students in the course.**
4. Using the checklist provided in Appendix B of the textbook *The Worship Architect*, the student will observe two full services online (two different churches) and evaluate the service plan according to the checklist. A written report of each service should be submitted for each service. This assignment will be **due at the first workshop** (Sep 4) and students should be prepared to share excerpts of the online service along with personal observations from the checklist.
5. Each student will be given a topic for research to be shared with the class during the second workshop meeting (Fri, Oct 9). More details on how to do this assignment will be given at the first class meeting. Possible project topics for these presentations may include the following:
  - Worship planning tools (e.g. [planningcenteronline.com](http://planningcenteronline.com), [LifewayWorship](http://LifewayWorship.com), etc.-Choose one to demonstrate)
  - Downloadable musical charts for worship
  - [LifewayWorship.com](http://LifewayWorship.com)- musical resources and planning tool
  - Video resources for use in corporate worship (ex. [Worship House media](http://WorshipHouse.com), etc.)
  - Online resources for helping your instrumentalists
  - Resources for vocal rehearsals (including warm-ups)
  - Developing a worship choir
  - Musical arrangements for church choirs
  - Worship leadership in multi-site congregational settings
  - Resources for planning services for The Lord's Supper
  - Training your team in the (non-program specific) production and operation of media-presentations for worship (ideas, resources, guidelines) or overview of a specific media presenter product (eg: *ProPresenter™*, etc.)
  - Effective public reading of Scripture in worship gatherings
  - Who can lead? Guidelines and policies for praise-team and choir members
  - Other (with professors' approval)**Due date: Fri, Oct 9**
6. Personal Devotional Goals Plan. Toward the beginning of the semester, the student will develop a semester-length personal devotional/worship plan which encompasses the following elements: personal Bible Study, prayer, ministry and service, and Sabbath. The student should prayerfully structure the plan with clear, concise goals. A reflection journal is encouraged for recording insights and spiritual progress. Submit the plan to professor in outline form by the due date. **Due date: Friday, Sep 25 in Blackboard assignment**

**folder.**

7. Song analysis project. Select two worship songs and evaluate the lyrics according to the rubric provided in the text *Selecting Worship Songs*. Provide a one page written report of the evaluation. **Due date: Third workshop meeting, Fri, Oct 30, 2020.**
8. Each student is expected to provide musical worship leadership in the context of a local church during this semester or have the opportunity to lead group worship through music at least two times. This will provide the context for the video self-assessment (VSA) experiences. The student will be expected to prepare video recordings of two different *recent* worship services which she or he has led. (Note: For the purpose of this assignment, every effort should be made to focus the recording on the student's leadership in the service.) The recordings should then be uploaded to YouTube. Access to the YouTube videos should be made available at the second workshop. A VSA self-evaluation form should be completed and placed in the "Assignments" folder in Blackboard for each of the two VSA recordings, noting positive strengths and areas for improvement as well as specific challenges related to the specific worship context. Information included on the form should also include a link to the YouTube video. A sample self-observation form will be made available, but the student is encouraged to augment the form with any other pertinent information for analysis applicable to the leadership context. **Due dates: Oct 9; Dec 4**
9. Final Reflection Paper. The topic and details for this paper TBA. **Due date: Fri, December 11, 2020** (in lieu of a final exam). Paper should conform to the NOBTS Style guide provided in Blackboard.

### **Evaluation of Grade**

The student's grade will be computed as follows:

- 10% Required reading
- 15% Weekly unit assignments in Blackboard
- 15% Observation of two worship services and checklist reports
- 10% Individual research project and presentation in Blackboard
- 10% Two song analyses
- 20% Two VSA projects (10% each)
- 5% Devotional plan
- 15% Final reflection paper

Extra credit: Up to 5% additional credit may be earned by attending one conference for worship leaders during the semester AND by submitting a brief report of insights gained regarding worship leadership/planning (min. 500 words). The report must be submitted by the last day of class for credit. The NOLA Worship Conference hosted by the Music Division of NOBTS and the Getty *Sing!* Conference (online) both provide an extra-credit opportunity.

### **Due dates for assignments:**

All assignments are due at the time of the due date. **IMPORTANT! A half-letter grade per day will be applied to all assignments submitted beyond the due date** (Mon-Fri) unless the professor has granted an extension request made prior to the due date.

### **NOLA2U Live**

If you are taking this course as a NOLA2U Live student, please note the following attendance policies:

1. The course on the New Orleans campus will be connected synchronously via Web conferencing with Internet students. These courses will require weekly attendance at the stated class meeting times.
2. Students are only allowed to miss the amount of class time specified in the NOBTS attendance policy as stated in the graduate catalog. (See page 184 in the graduate catalog: <https://www.nobts.edu/resources/pdf/academics/GraduateCatalog.pdf>).
3. Technical issues will not be considered a valid reason for missing a class session.

### **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). [BlackboardHelpDesk@nobts.edu](mailto:BlackboardHelpDesk@nobts.edu) - Email for technical questions/support requests with the NOBTS Blackboard Learning Management System [NOBTS.Blackboard.com](https://www.nobts.edu/resources/pdf/writing/StyleGuide.pdf).

## 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

Unit/Week	Week beginning:	Course topic	Textbook Reading Assignments/Due dates TWA- <i>The Worship Architect</i> SWS- <i>Selecting Worship Songs</i> AW- <i>The Art of Worship</i>	Other Assignments/ Due dates
1	Aug 24	Course/syllabus overview (Bluejeans mtg) Log on to Blackboard; Developing a plan for personal spiritual growth as a worship leader	Acquire textbooks	Bluejeans mtg (Tue, Aug 25 7:00PM Central Time) Blackboard
2	Aug 31	Foundations for corporate worship	TWA, 1-33	Fri, Sep 4 First hybrid class meeting
3	Sep 7	The general order of worship; the gathering	TWA, 35-66	Blackboard
4	Sep 14	The Word in worship; the Lord’s Table	TWA, 67-96	Blackboard
5	Sep 21	Alternative response to the Word; the Sending	TWA, 97-121	Blackboard <b>Personal Devotional Plan due: Fri, Sep 25 (syll#6)</b>
6	Sep 28	Prayer in worship; Music in worship	TWA, 123-177	Blackboard
7	Oct 5	Music in worship Selecting Worship Songs: Theological considerations	TWA, 179-203 SWS, 1-27	Fri, Oct 9 Second hybrid class meeting <b>Topic presentation (syll#5) Due Fri, Oct 9</b> <b>VSA #1 (syll#8) Due Fri, Oct 9</b>
8	Oct 12	Selecting Worship Songs: Lyrical and musical considerations	SWS, 29-57	Blackboard
	Oct 19	FALL BREAK		
9	Oct 26	Principles of worship style;	TWA, 219-242	<b>Song analyses due (syll#7) Due Fri, Oct 30</b> Fri, Oct 30 Third hybrid class meeting
10	Nov 2	Using a worship team;	AW, 9-54	Blackboard
11	Nov 9	Building repertoire;	AW, 55-86	Blackboard
12	Nov 16	Service structure; practical planning techniques;	AW, 87-120	Blackboard
	Nov 23	THANKSGIVING BREAK		
13	Nov 30	Instruments and vocalists in worship Hymns in contemporary context	AW, 121-190	Fri, Dec 4 Fourth hybrid class meeting <b>VSA #2 (syll#8) VSA presentation due a time of class meeting</b>
14	Dec 7	Rehearsing the worship musicians	AW, 191-217	Blackboard
15	Dec 11-17	FINAL EXAM PERIOD		<b>Final reflection paper due Fri, Dec 11 (syll#9)</b> <b>Reading report due by Fri, Dec 11 (syll#1)</b>

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