



Theology of Worship MUWM5300
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
Division of Church Ministry
Fall Semester 2023 (Hybrid)

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Mission Statement

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

Church Music Ministries Vision Statement

Developing excellence in Kingdom-minded music and worship leaders

Course Description

This course will explore the subject of worship from a biblical perspective, emphasizing the major texts of the Old and New Testaments dealing with worship practices. Emphasis is given to the Hebrew and Greek words that are translated "worship" and their meaning within the biblical context. Note: No musical background is required for participation in this course.

Student Learning Outcomes

1. At the conclusion of the course the student should be able to apply his/her knowledge and comprehension of the theological foundations of worship and worship practice as evidenced in the Old and New Testament scriptures in order to disciple local congregations in the area of worship ministry.
2. At the conclusion of the course, the student should understand the theological context of Christian worship as beginning with the Old Testament covenantal law, but eventually centered in the gospel (through the new covenant) as made possible through Jesus Christ.
3. At the conclusion of the course, the student should understand and value the idea of authentic worship as possessing the character of "in Spirit and in truth." (John 4:24)
4. At the conclusion of the course, the student should be able to evaluate the lyrics of congregational worship songs as to theological content and emphases using resources from the class.

Embedded Assignment

As a course summary assignment, each student will complete a multiple-choice section of the final exam covering concepts encountered during the course.

Textbooks

Required:

Block, Daniel. *For the Glory of God: Recovering a Biblical Theology of Worship*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2014.

Peterson, David. *Engaging with God: A Biblical Theology of Worship*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 1992/2002.

Course Teaching Methodology

The course will involve the following methodologies: Classroom/online discussion of texts; weekly unit assignments utilizing video and web-based resources; four real-time classroom meetings featuring lecture/discussion and presentations by faculty and students; and individual research projects. Canvas will be used as the communication platform for the course. All students registered for the course will be automatically enrolled in Canvas. Canvas 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.

This course will be delivered throughout the semester in two primary environments: internet-assisted through the use of Canvas and four short intensive class meetings scheduled for Fridays, 8am to 12pm Central Time (9am-1pm Eastern) on the following dates: [Aug 25](#), [Sept 22](#), [Oct 27](#), [Nov 17](#). The course will be offered from Main Campus and as a NOLA2ULive class offering.

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 threaded discussion entries on assigned course materials; and through individually-assigned research topics.

Course Requirements

1. Enrollment in course. Students will be automatically enrolled in the course through Canvas.
2. Participation in class meetings and reading assignments 10%. Although the course will not meet every week in the physical classroom, the course will meet in the classroom on four occasions. Additionally, students are expected to attend the course each week through *the virtual classroom* hosted in Canvas. New material and assignments will be ready every week on Monday. (For an overview of course content, see the course schedule below.) Keeping up with weekly coursework and deadlines is the responsibility of the student and will ensure a successful experience in the course. Active engagement in the course through discussion forum participation is an integral part of the learning process. Additionally, face to face learning opportunities with other classmates will be provided through the four mandatory intensive onsite (or live video) class meetings.
3. Discussion forums: During most weeks of the course, students will be asked to write responses to a reflection topic or specific discussion questions requiring written interaction with other students through the online forums. Participation in these assignments is not optional and will reflect 15% of the student's grade in the course. Specific assignment instructions will be provided in each of the weekly online units of study.
4. Research paper: For this course, each student will write a paper on a topic related to the theology of worship. The paper is to be minimally 2000 words in length (7-8 pages double-spaced), with a minimum of 8 academic works cited, to include academic books and peer-reviewed journal articles. **Topics should be approved by the professor by Sept 29. and the final paper is due Nov 13.** Papers are to be typed (Times New Roman 12-point font) and double-spaced with bibliographic entries and a title page. Attention is to be given to Turabian format, including correct spelling, grammar, and punctuation. Use the NOBTS Style Guide for this assignment. An assignment rubric will be made available to the student

at the beginning of the course reflecting the following criteria for evaluation: (1) content value in the area of worship and theology; (2) creativity in approach to the subject matter; and (3) clarity and accuracy of writing style.

5. [Individual book review](#): Students will read and write a critical review of a book from the list below. The review should be 5-7 pages in length (double spaced), in Times New Roman, 12pt font, Turabian format. The review should include the following elements:
 - a) A bibliographic entry at the top of the page
 - b) A biographical sketch of the author
 - c) A summary of contents of each article
 - d) A statement of the author's purpose and the extent to which the purpose was realized
 - e) A consideration of the uniqueness of the book
 - f) A description of the author/essayists' style and biases
 - g) A concluding evaluation including a statement about the book's contribution to the study of the theology of worship as well as personal take-aways about relevance to the field.

Note: A review is not a report. The student must engage with the material, detailing areas of weakness, strength, agreement, and disagreement with the author.

Available book titles:

1. Anderson, Cameron J. *The Faithful Artist: A Vision for Evangelicalism and the Arts*. Downers Grove: IVP Academic, 2016.
2. Aniol, Scott. *Worship in a Post-Christian Culture*. Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Publications, 2015.
3. Beale, G. K. *We Become What We Worship: A Biblical Theology of Idolatry*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2008.
4. Best, Harold. *Unceasing Worship: Biblical Perspectives on Worship and the Arts*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2003.
5. Boswell, Matt (ed.). *Doxology and Theology: How the Gospel Forms the Worship Leader*. Nashville: Broadman and Holman, 2013.
6. Costen, Melva Wilson. *African American Christian Worship*. Abingdon Press, 2007.
7. Duck, Ruth. *Worship for the Whole People of God: Vital Worship for the 21st Century*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2013.
8. Hawn, C. Michael. *One Bread, One Body: Exploring Cultural Diversity in Worship*. Bethesda, MD: The Alban Institute, 2003.
9. Kauflin, Bob. *True Worshipers: Seeking What Matters Most to God*. Crossway Books, 2015.
10. Labberton, Mark. *The Dangerous Act of Worship: Living God's Call to Justice*. Downers Grove: IVP, 2007.
11. Parry, Robin. *Worshipping Trinity: Coming Back to the Heart of Worship*. Waynesboro, GA: Authentic Media, 2005.
12. Pierce, Timothy M. *Enthroned on Our Praise: An Old Testament Theology of Worship*. Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 2008.
13. Smith, James K. A. *Imagining the Kingdom: How Worship Works*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2013.
14. Torrance, James B. *Worship, Community, and the Triune God of Grace*. Downers Grove, IL: Intervarsity Press, 1996.
15. Van Dyk, Leanne (ed.). *A More Profound Alleluia: Worship and Theology in Harmony*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2005.
16. Webber, Robert. *Ancient-Future Worship: Proclaiming and Enacting God's Narrative*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2008.

6. Congregational song lyric analysis project: Each student will complete a doctrinal content analysis project of congregational song in the student's home church over a six-week period of worship services. As a beginning point, the student will be collecting a list of all congregational songs used in corporate worship over the six-week period of time. (This will be referred to as the *corpus*.) If the church has multiple services or time formats, only one service per week should be considered. All data should be confined to the same service time (for example: 11:00 AM Sunday services for the six consecutive weeks). More information on this assignment will be given in the first workshop meeting. As a result of the project, a written document should report the findings, highlighting particularly the significant observations, including high percentages, low percentages, and surprises. The student should also offer some commentary and interpretation as a part of the observation process. Length as needed (min. expectation would be 1200 words). A sample paper will be provided as a guideline for the assignment. The student will present the findings during either the third or fourth workshop (**Oct 27/Nov 17**). **The due date for this assignment is Oct 20.** including the written report and any visual aids the student wishes to utilize in the presentation. Names will be drawn at random to determine which students present at which workshop. Due to the scope of this assignment, it is weighted as 20% of the final grade. (15% content, 5% presentation). The short presentation made in the class meeting may include visual aids, such as PowerPoint, etc. **Any use of musical video in the presentation must be communicated prior to the day of the presentation.**
7. Final Exam: The last course assignment is the final exam. Questions for the exam will be selected from the required readings and/or concepts presented in class meetings. As an embedded assignment, there will be a number of multiple-choice questions included within the final exam that will be used for assessment for accreditation purposes. **The due date will be Friday, December 1, 2023.**

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 "Absences" category in the website catalog at: <https://catalog.nobts.edu/generalinfo/academicpolicies>.)
3. Technical issues will not be considered a valid reason for missing a class session.

Evaluation of Grade

The student's grade will be computed as follows:

Participation	10%
Completion of weekly online forum discussions	15%
Paper on theology of worship topic	20%
Book Review	15%
Lyric content analysis paper and presentation	20%
Final Exam	20%

Due dates for assignments:

All assignments are due at the time of the due date. One letter grade per day will be applied to all assignments submitted beyond the due date unless the professor has granted an extension request made prior to the due date.

ASSIGNMENT PACING GUIDE:

Monday, Aug 14 Fall semester begins

Sun, Aug 20	Begin compiling data for lyric content analysis project (this gives 9 weeks to gather the 6 weeks of material and compile the report/presentation)
Monday, Sept 25	Book review due
Friday, Sept 29	Topic for research paper due
Friday, Oct 20	Content analysis project/paper due
Monday, Nov 13	Research paper due
Friday, Dec 1	Final Exam due

Attendance Policy

Students are expected to attend and participate in the class sessions. Because of the nature of the hybrid, students who miss more than four hours may receive a grade of "F" for the course.

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 or My.nobts.edu site (Access to online registration, financial account, online transcript, etc.)
2. Canvas@nobts.edu - Email for technical questions/support requests with the NOBTS Canvas Learning Management System (Faculty/Students/Staff) www.Canvas.NOBTS.edu
3. Bluejeanshelpdesk@nobts.edu - Email for technical questions/support requests with the Bluejeans & NOBTS Bluejeans classrooms (On and Off-Campus)
4. TelephoneHelpDesk@nobts.edu - Email for technical questions/support requests with the NOBTS On-Campus Phone system.
5. ITCSupport@nobts.edu - Email for technical questions/support requests in the Flex classrooms and for general technical questions/support requests. If you are not sure who to contact, use this email address!
6. 504.816.8180 - Call for any technical questions/support requests. (Currently available Mon-Thurs 7:00am-9:00pm & Fri 7:00-7:00pm Central Time)
7. www.NOBTS.edu/itc/ - General NOBTS technical help information is provided on this website.

Writing Style Guide

A copy of the approved NOBTS Style Guide can be found in the course Canvas 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>

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	Date)	Course topic	Textbook Reading	Assignments
1	Aug 14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Course materials in Canvas Unit 1 Course begins 	Block, 1-27 (Ch. 1) Peterson, 55-79	Reading in textbooks Biblical Foundations of Worship

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Introduction Video (Course Overview) ▪ Worship and Creation ▪ A worship word study 	(Ch. 2)	View video (course overview) Canvas forum (introduce yourself)
2	Aug 21 Aug 25 hybrid mtg #1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Idolatry ▪ The Object of our worship ▪ Acceptable worship 	Block, 29-80 (Ch. 2-3) Peterson, 147-151 (Ch 5)	Reading in textbooks Attendance at Hybrid class meeting #1 (8am-12pm CST) Assignment of individually-assigned book
3	Aug 28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Worship and Covenant in the First Testament ▪ Tabernacle/Temple and Priesthood in First Testament ▪ Sacrificial System ▪ Offerings in worship 	Peterson, 23-54 (Ch. 1) Block, 247-263 (Ch.10)	Reading in textbooks Canvas materials
4	Sep 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Worship and the Ten Commandments ▪ Worship and Holy Living in the First Covenant ▪ The Dimensions of True Worship of YHWH ▪ Worship within the Family Structure 	Block , 81-139 (Ch. 4-5)	Canvas
5	Sep 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sacred Space and Worship ▪ Tabernacle/Temple ▪ Jesus and the New Temple ▪ Worship in Spirit and in Truth 	Block, 297-332 (Ch 12) Peterson, 80-102 (Ch 3); and 136-144 (Ch 5)	Canvas
6	Sep 18 Sep 22 hybrid mtg #2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ OT priesthood ▪ Jesus Christ as our High Priest 	Block, 333-360 (Ch 13) Peterson, 228-254 (Ch 8)	Canvas
7	Sep 25 Book Review due	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The ordinances of Baptism and the Lord's Supper as worship 	Block, 141-167 (Ch 6) Peterson, 108-130 (Ch 4); and 215-218 (Ch 7)	Topic for research paper to professor for approval due by Sept 29
	Oct 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No class (FALL BREAK) 		No assignment
8	Oct 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ God's Word in worship 	Block, 169-192 (Ch 7)	Canvas
9	Oct 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Prayer as worship 	Block, 193-220 (Ch 8)	Canvas Lyric analysis project due Oct 20 (paper and PPT)

10	Oct 23 Oct 27 hybrid mtg #3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Music as worship 	Block, 221-245 (Ch 9)	Canvas Lyrical analysis student presentations in class
11	Oct 30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Serving God in the corporate gathering 	Peterson, 194-221	Canvas
12	Nov 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A multicultural approach to worship 	Block, 271-296 (Ch 11) Additional as assigned	Canvas
13	Nov 13 Research Paper due Nov 17 hybrid mtg #4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Worship in the heavenly realm 	Peterson, 261-279 (Ch 9)	Lyrical analysis student presentations in class Canvas
	Nov 20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No class (THANKSGIVING) 		
14	Nov 27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Worship as life and ministry 	Peterson, 166-188 (Ch 6)	Canvas Final exam due Fri, Dec 1

Selected Bibliography

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Aniol, Scott. *Worship in a Post-Christian Culture*. Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Publications, 2015.

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Berkeley, James D., ed. *Leadership Handbooks of Practical Theology*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1992. vol. 1: Word and Worship.

Best, Harold M. *Music through the Eyes of Faith*. San Francisco: Harper, 1993.

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Braun, Joachim. *Music in Ancient Israel/Palestine*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2002.

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Hurtado, Larry W. *At the Origins of Christian Worship: The Context and Character of Earliest Christian Devotion*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans Publishing, 1999.

Jones, Cheslyn, Geoffrey Wainwright, and Edward Yarnald. *The Study of Liturgy*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1978.

- Kauflin, Bob. *True Worshipers: Seeking What Matters Most to God*. Crossway Books, 2015.
- Kendall, R.T. *Before the Throne*. Nashville: Broadman and Holman, 1993.
- Kim, Eunjoo Mary. *Christian Preaching and Worship in Multicultural Contexts: A Practical Theological Approach*. Collegeville, MN: Liturgical Press, 2017.
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