



**MUWM5303 Planning and Leading Worship<sup>[1]</sup>**  
**New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary**  
**Division of Church Ministry**  
**Spring 2023 Hybrid (NOLA2U Live)**  
**(Meetings: 8:00 a.m.-12:00 noon 1/27, 3/3, 3/31, 4/21)**

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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 MINISTRY VISION STATEMENT**

Developing excellence in Kingdom-minded music and worship leaders

**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 theological foundations and historical elements which inform the process of planning and leading corporate worship services in the local church.
2. The student will observe worship services assessing biblical, theological, and historical foundations, as well cultural and aesthetic considerations.
3. The student will increase his/her skill in planning biblically-grounded and culturally-connected worship services which both engage worshipers and disciple them toward the goal of being fully-devoted followers of Christ.
4. 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).
5. The student will become familiar with planning tools and online resources which can aid in the planning and facilitating of corporate worship.
6. The student will intentionally structure her/his life so as to create opportunities for encountering God personally through a life devoted to worshipping Him.

## TEXTBOOKS

### Required:

Sharp, Michael and Smith, Argile. *Holy Gatherings* (Outskirts, 2009)

Cherry, C. M. *The Worship Architect: A Blueprint for Designing Culturally Relevant and Biblically Faithful Services*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2021.

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

### Optional:

Cherry, C.M., Mary M. Brown, and Christopher T. Bounds. *Selecting Worship Songs: A Guide for Leaders*. Marion, IN: Triangle Publishing, 2011.

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.

## CLASS TEACHING METHODOLOGY

The course will involve the following methodologies: Classroom/online discussion of texts, other reading materials, or videos; weekly unit assignments utilizing video and web-based resources; workshop faculty lecture and presentations by faculty and/or students; individual research projects; video-based self-observation. *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.

## 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 *Canvas* forums. Course reading and mini-lectures provided as video-conferences or prerecorded videos will provide the underlying content for online discussions. The Instructor will provide discussion opportunities through *Canvas* encouraging interactions with these materials.  
**Due date: as assigned throughout the semester (see course calendar)**
2. The students will attend four required workshop meetings to be held on the following Fridays from 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM *Central Time*: **January 27, March 3, March 31, and April 21**. The workshops will be offered in New Orleans and as a **NOLA2ULIVE** option.
3. The students will observe two worship services. The first observation should be typed in narrative style and should be at least 1500 words in length. This observation should be

associated with an aesthetic worship service as described in class and the *Holy Gatherings* textbook. For the second observation, the students will use the checklist provided in Appendix B of the textbook *The Worship Architect* to observe a second worship service live or online and evaluate the service plan according to the checklist. This checklist will serve as a guide resulting in a written report at least 1500 words in length. **Due date: Friday, February 10, 2023**

4. The students will design two worship services and provide commentary regarding why the service is designed in the manner chosen. At least one of these services should reflect observation of historical liturgical models. Each service design should be at least 1000 words in length. . **Due date: Friday, February 24, 2023**
5. Each student will be given a topic for research to be shared with the class during the semester in the weekly online units. More details on how to do this assignment will be given at the first workshop. Possible project topics for these presentations may include the following:
  - Worship planning tools (e.g. planningcenteronline.com, LifewayWorship, etc. Choose one to demonstrate)
  - Downloadable musical charts for worship
  - Proper use of click trax and drum loops in worship
  - LifewayWorship.com- musical resources and planning tool
  - Video resources for use in corporate worship (ex. Worship House media, 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*<sup>™</sup>, etc.)
  - Worship planning for multi and intergenerational worship
  - Effective public reading of Scripture in worship gatherings
  - Who can lead? Guidelines and policies for praise-team and choir members
  - Other (with Instructors' approval)

**Due date: As assigned during the semester**

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 the Instructor in outline form by the due date. **Due date: Friday, February 17, 2022 in Canvas assignment folder.**
7. Song analysis project. Select two worship songs and evaluate each according to the theological, lyrical and musical considerations. These factors will be provided and discussed during weeks seven and eight. Provide a one-page written report of the

evaluation. **Due date: April 14, 2023.**

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 third workshop. A VSA self-evaluation form should be completed and placed in the "Assignments" folder in *Canvas* 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: VSA #1 – March 3, VSA #2 due April 21, 2023**
  
9. **Midterm and Final Exam:** The students will be required to complete a midterm and final exam.

### **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.

### **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 this syllabus.
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:

10%	Discussion through <i>Canvas</i>
15%	Observation of two worship services and checklist reports
12%	Worship Designs
7%	Individual research project and presentation in <i>Canvas</i>
7%	Two song analyses
15%	Two VSA projects
5%	Devotional plan
12%	Midterm
15%	Final Exam

## COURSE SCHEDULE

Unit	Week	Course topic	Textbook Reading Assignments:	Other Assignments/ Due dates
			TWA- <i>The Worship Architect</i> AW- <i>The Art of Worship</i> HG- <i>Holy Gatherings</i>	
1	Jan 16 (17)	Course/syllabus overview (Bluejeans mtg) Log on to <i>Canvas</i> ; Developing a plan for personal spiritual growth as a worship leader	Acquire textbooks	Bluejeans mtg (Thu, Jan 19 7:00PM Central Time) <i>Canvas</i>
2	Jan 23	Describing Worship Foundations for corporate worship	HG 1-30 TWA, 1-46	<i>Canvas</i> <b>Fri. Jan 27 IN PERSON</b> 8AM-12PM Central
3	Jan 30	The general order of worship; the gathering	TWA, 47-81	<i>Canvas</i>
4	Feb 6	The Word in worship; the Lord's Table	TWA, 83-114 HG, 57-73	<i>Canvas</i> <b>Worship observations due:</b> Fri, Feb 10 (syll#3)
5	Feb 13	Alternative response to the Word; the Sending	TWA, 115-140	<i>Canvas</i> <b>Personal Devotional Plan due:</b> Fri, Feb 17 (syll#6)
6	Feb 20	Prayer in worship; Music in worship	TWA, 141-167	<i>Canvas</i> <b>Worship service plans due:</b> Feb, 24 (syll #4)
7	Feb 27	Music in worship Selecting Worship Songs: Theological considerations	TWA, 169-226	<i>Canvas</i> <b>VSA #1 Due Fri, Mar 3</b> (syll#8) <b>Fri. Mar 3 IN PERSON</b> 8AM-12PM Central
8	Mar 6	Selecting Worship Songs: Lyrical and musical considerations, Building repertoire;	AW, 55-86	<i>Canvas</i>
	Mar 13-17	<b>SPRING BREAK</b>		
9	Mar 20	Principles of worship style;	TWA, 243-269	<i>Canvas</i>
10	Mar 27	Using a worship team;	AW, 9-54	<i>Canvas</i> <b>Fri. Mar 31 IN PERSON</b> 8AM-12PM Central
11	Apr 3	Service structure; practical planning techniques	AW, 87-120	<i>Canvas</i>

12	Apr 10	Instruments and vocalists in worship Hymns in contemporary context	AW, 121-190	<b>Song analyses report due, Apr 14</b> (syll#7)
13	Apr 17	Rehearsing the worship musicians	AW, 191-217	<i>Canvas</i> <b>VSA #2</b> (syll#8) and <b>VSA presentation due at time of workshop Fri. Apr 21 IN PERSON</b> 8AM-12PM Central
14	Apr 24	Evaluating Worship	HG, 119-131	<i>Canvas</i>
15	May 1-5	FINAL EXAM – May 5		<b>Final reflection paper due Fri, May 5</b> (syll#9)

### **DUE DATES FOR ASSIGNMENTS:**

All assignments are due at the time of the due date. **IMPORTANT! A daily penalty may be applied to all assignments submitted beyond the due date** (Mon-Fri) unless the Instructor has granted an extension request made prior to the due date.

### **WRITING STYLE GUIDE**

Writing assignments should follow the NOBTS/Leavell College Manual of Form and Style (revised August 2019). To access this manual on the seminary website, please use the following link: <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. [www.NOBTS.edu/itc/](http://www.NOBTS.edu/itc/)- Email for general technical questions/support requests.
2. [Selfserve@nobts.edu](mailto:Selfserve@nobts.edu)- Email technical questions/support requests with the [Selfserve.nobts.edu](http://Selfserve.nobts.edu) or [My.nobts.edu](http://My.nobts.edu) site (Access to online registration, financial account, online transcript, Faculty portal, etc.)
3. [Canvas@nobts.edu](mailto:Canvas@nobts.edu) Click on the “Help” button for technical questions/support requests regarding the NOBTS Canvas System. You can also email questions to [Canvas.nobts.edu](http://Canvas.nobts.edu) / [nobts.instructure.com](http://nobts.instructure.com).
4. [Bluejeanshelpdesk@nobts.edu](mailto:Bluejeanshelpdesk@nobts.edu) - Email technical questions/support requests with Bluejeans and NOBTS Bluejeans classrooms (On and Off-Campus).
5. [TelephoneHelpDesk@nobts.edu](mailto:TelephoneHelpDesk@nobts.edu)- Email technical questions/support requests with the NOBTS Nextiva Phone system.
6. [504.816.8180](tel: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).

### **SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY**

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