CMWL 8301 (ProDoc Seminar)
Revitalizing Corporate Worship
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
Division of Church Music Ministries
Fall Trimester (Oct 19-20, 2020)

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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 and Servant Leadership.

Seminar Description
This professional doctoral seminar is designed to investigate the opportunities and challenges of encouraging Spirit-led worship revitalization in the context of the local church. Specific attention will be given to the processes by which leadership can encourage a deepening understanding and practice of vibrant corporate worship within a congregation. Seminar sessions will examine the role of worship in the life of a congregation as well as leadership principles in facilitating change. Students will also study the value of a congregation’s worship heritage and how that relates to the dual tasks of planning and leading worship experiences. Attention will be given to possible resources for engaging the congregation as a body of intentional worship participants.

Seminar Objectives
At the conclusion of this seminar, students will be able to:
1. Identify biblically-affirmed characteristics of corporate worship practice in evangelical churches as well as possible barriers to authentic worship in the local church setting.
2. Assess the dynamics of the specific congregational contexts in which they serve, with a view toward identifying any practical needs related to corporate worship as well as identifying possible strategies for meeting those needs.
3. Reflect theologically on developing biblical responses to leadership issues that affect worship renewal in the church and develop a deepening appreciation for the values related to authentic worship characterized as “in spirit and in truth.” (John 4:24)
4. Discuss practical strategies for the promotion of discipleship through the discipline of authentic, Christ-centered worship within the church body.
Teaching Methodology
Through assigned reading, case study and group discussion, and seminar presentations on selected topics, students will be encouraged to think critically about the seminar theme. Students will engage in descriptive research (using interviews, video-recordings of services and printed documents, etc) and will report their findings to the group in individual presentations. Seminar lectures, discussion of assigned reading and integrated subject papers will provide platforms for learning and practical application of course materials to the student’s ministry context.

Required Textbooks (All students read these three texts)

Required Textbooks (Individually selected- each student selects one to read)

Pre-Seminar Assignments
The course syllabus is available to you through the ProDoc office prior to registration. Blackboard will be the central clearinghouse for course related materials and submission of assignments.

1. As a first assignment, the student should prepare a worship questionnaire designed to evaluate specific areas in corporate worship regarding a healthy, vital worship life for the congregation. For each of the following categories, pose at least four or five questions which might help church leaders think about healthy corporate worship. Be as specific as possible in your questions.
   1. Biblical-theological alignment of corporate worship: ask questions that assess whether (and to what extent) the focus and content of congregational worship is aligned with a biblical view of worship that supports the central purposes of the worship gathering (be specific).
   2. The use of appropriated 'methodologies' in corporate worship: ask questions that assess the various methods used for planning and leading worship services (for example: the elements, styles, and/or processes used in the service); are they appropriate to the task? Are they effective in the particular cultural context (relevant)? (Be specific.)
   3. A 'gospel-shaped' gathering: ask questions that reveal whether or not opportunities "to hear again about God's character and His will for our lives," are present in the service; and, whether or not opportunities to hear again the "good news" of Christ's death, burial, resurrection, and imminent return are present in the service.

   (Provide a title page for the assignment. The assignment does not need to be presented as a narrative paper, but simply as a questionnaire, with questions in three categories. Due by the start of the seminar (Oct 19) submit under “My Assignments” in the folder labeled "Worship Questionnaire" in Blackboard.)
2. Each student will read Encountering God Together by David Peterson and prepare a substantial question for discussion in the seminar for each of the ten chapters. These questions are due at the time of the first seminar meeting and must be submitted to the appropriate assignment folder in Blackboard as the seminar begins. (Due in Blackboard folder at the time of the seminar: Oct 19)

3. Each student will read the following two texts and identify various principles that the student believes could be usefully applied in his/her ministry context. These ideas should be reported in a single 2000-word ministry application reflection paper (incorporating ideas from both books). NOTE: This assignment is a reflection paper and not a formal book review. Rather than providing a summary of the material in the texts, the student should seek to reflect on impactful ideas and concepts presented in the texts, revitalization concepts which the student finds helpful in her/his specific church context. Use Turabian 8th edition style guide for all papers. (Due in Blackboard folder at the time of the seminar, Oct 19)

4. Each student should choose one of the following texts and write a book review (1000-1500 words), noting the strengths and weaknesses of the book. (Note: if you know of another text that is relevant to the topic of revitalization of the church in worship ministry, please email the professor for permission to use a resource not on this list.) You will have the opportunity to share some of your insights gleaned from the book during the seminar. Please email the professor with your specific choice:

5. Church Worship Heritage paper. Each student will research and prepare a 1200-word (minimum) written overview of his/her church’s heritage as regards worship practice (describing both practice and significant influences) in the life of the congregation over time. Please limit the paper to worship heritage of the church. Research may include personal interviews with long-time (or past) members of the congregation, written documents, and/or other relevant sources (please cite these sources in footnotes). The breadth of this assignment may vary, depending upon the age of the church. The student will present this historical overview to the seminar, focusing on the worship life of the congregation. Note: Some students have found it helpful to video interviews with people who have historical knowledge and use segments of the videos as a part of the seminar presentation. Note: This worship heritage paper will be graded by the Writing Assessment Coordinator for Turabian 8th edition form and style. The format for this paper must include: (1) A cover page, (2) no Table of Contents, (3) use each section as a main heading, not a chapter heading, (4) use footnotes for any referenced material, and (5) pagination according to Turabian guidelines. The paper should be double-spaced. First person should be avoided. (Due in Blackboard at the time of the seminar, Oct 19)

6. Case Study of Model Church. After research and study, each student should select one evangelical church of similar size as the church in which the student serves which, in the student’s opinion, demonstrates healthy spirit and truth worship within its fellowship. Using investigative resources (website, articles, videos, documents, personal interviews, etc.) the student is to prepare a report (approx. 1500 words) briefly describing the church context, followed by a description of the primary strategies/practices
of the church regarding the nurturing of Christ-followers through corporate worship. This paper will be presented to the seminar. (Due in Blackboard at the time of the seminar, Oct 19)

**During Seminar Assignments**
1. Each student will attend all seminar sessions.
2. Each student will be prepared to participate in all seminar discussion.
3. Each student will make the following presentations to the seminar:
   a. Sharing your worship questionnaire on healthy worship. (See Pre-seminar Assignment #1)
   b. Lead discussion of two of the chapters from *Encountering God Together* by Peterson. (See Pre-seminar Assignment #2)
   b. Book reflections (as time permits each student will be given the opportunity to share insights from this written assignment). (See Pre-seminar Assignment #3)
   c. Sharing insights gained from your individually-selected book. (See Pre-seminar Assignment #4)
   d. Church heritage assignment report (see Pre-seminar Assignment #5) (20 min)
   e. Church case-study assignment (see Pre-seminar Assignment #6) (20 min)

**Post-Seminar Assignment**
The student will write a 1500 to 2000-word individualized action plan in regard to worship and leadership issues, as discussed in the seminar, which potentially affect “spirit and truth” worship. This assignment should be targeted toward the student’s home church context. The plan format should include goals, a rationale for each goal, specific objectives for each goal, and a time frame to implement each specific objective. (Due date: Nov 20, 2020 in the Blackboard folder.)

**Course Evaluation**

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<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
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<tr>
<td>Pre-seminar Questionnaire (Assignment #1)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Questions/leading discussion from</td>
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<td><em>Encountering God Together</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Ministry reflection paper (Kauflin, Iorg)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Individually-selected text book review</td>
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<td>Church Heritage Paper/presentation</td>
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<td>Case study church: Paper/presentation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Post-seminar action plan paper</td>
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**Other Important Information**
Assignments must be on-time for full credit.

**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 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.
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.
Bibliography (Selected)

Theology of Worship

General and Historical Works

Worship Renewal

Multicultural Worship
DeYmaz, Mark. *Disruption: Repurposing the Church to Redeem the Community*. Nashville, TN:

**Contemporary Worship/Culture**


**Music in Worship**


York, Terry. *The Voice of Our Congregation: Seeking and Celebrating God’s Song for
**Worship Leadership/Discipleship**


**Intergenerational Worship**


**Visual Arts/Media**


**Change Leadership**


