



**MUHI9300 Theology of Contemporary Hymnody**  
**New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary**  
**Division of Church Ministry**  
**Fall 2021**

Dr. Bob Stewart  
Professor of Philosophy & Theology  
Dodd 112  
282-4455 ext. 3245  
[rstewart@nobts.edu](mailto:rstewart@nobts.edu)

Dr. Ed Steele  
Professor of Music  
Sellers 220A  
282-4455 ext. 3237  
[esteele@nobts.edu](mailto:esteele@nobts.edu)

**Mission Statement**

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

**Course Description**

This course is a study of the theology of the texts of songs composed in the late Twentieth and early Twenty-first Centuries as they relate to the basic doctrines of the church and worship.

**Student Learning Outcomes**

The student will be able to:

1. To analyze representative texts from various contemporary authors concerning doctrines presented and to evaluate their usefulness in congregational worship.
2. To compare trends in doctrinal issues presented as compared to those presented twenty years prior.
3. To recognize doctrinal strengths and weaknesses in the texts of contemporary authors.
4. To evaluate the implications of the doctrinal issues presented as they relate to worship for contemporary church music ministry.
5. Students will demonstrate knowledge of instruments and performance practice of worship in the Bible.
6. Students will demonstrate a capacity to make application of principles of biblical worship and music to the worship and music of the twenty-first century church.

**Textbooks**

Erickson, Millard. *Introducing Christian Doctrine*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2001. ISBN 9780801022500

Olson, Roger S. *The Story of Christian Theology*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 1999. ISBN 9780830815050

Okholm, Dennis. *Learning Theology through the Church's Worship: An Introduction to Christian Belief*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2018. ISBN 9781540960016

Putman, Rhyme. *The Method of Christian Theology: A Basic Introduction*. Nashville: B & H Academic, 2021. ISBN 9781535933339

## Course Teaching Methodology

The course will involve the following methodologies: reading assignments, book and article reviews, class discussion of the reading, a research paper, personal presentations and research paper critiques.

## Course Requirements

1. Students will read the four required textbooks. In addition, students are expected to read widely from the works listed in the seminar bibliography. Reading assignments in other books and journals will be made throughout the semester.
2. For each Seminar each student will complete all readings and a QQTP based on specific assigned sections of the readings in the Erickson, Olson, Putman, and Okholm texts. An example of a QQTP is in Blackboard.
3. Students will write a critical review in consultation with the instructor. For the review, the student will choose from an approved list and will make a presentation during the first class meeting. Assignments of these will be emailed the first week of class

The reviews should be written in acceptable style and be 8-10 double-spaced pages following the guidelines of the current edition of Turabian. A presentation from the reviews be made in each seminar session with discussion from other students and faculty following. The reviews should include:

Biographical sketch of the author [brief]

Summary of contents (3-4 pages)

Statement of author's purpose and critical analyses of the author's success or failure to realize the purpose. [Substantiate comments from text.] [one page]

Consideration of the uniqueness of the book [or chapters] [one page]

Concluding evaluation, including an assessment of the book's contribution to worship, music, and biblical studies. [ 2-3 pages]

4. Students will complete and present one formal paper which will evaluate ten texts of one of the listed contemporary composers/groups, providing a theological evaluation of the following: [a] what doctrines are presented and [b] whether the texts are narrative, systematic or scriptural (or some mixture of the three) in their content. *[For a description of narrative, systematic and scriptural, refer to "Theological Themes in Contemporary Hymnody" by Dr. Steele, a paper presented at the ETS, 2010.]* **Papers are due two weeks before presentation and be emailed to all other students 2 weeks before the last meeting** to allow time to prepare a response. Authors/groups from which to choose:

Lenny LeBlanc	Paul Baloche	Chris Tomlin	Tim Hughes	Big Daddy Weave
Matt Redman	Michael W. Smith	Twila Paris	Brenton Brown	Laura Story
Darlene Zschech	Dennis Jerrigan	Billy Foote	Rich Mullins	Travis Cottrell
Graham Kendrick	Keith Getty	Stuart Townend	Israel Houghton	Tommy Walker
David Crowder	Christy Knockels	Bethel Music	Cari Job	Jeremy Riddle
Brian Doerkson	Rebecca St. James	Hillsong United	[or another	approved by professor]

The paper should be written in acceptable style and be 20-25 double-spaced pages of text, following the guidelines of the current edition of Turabian. Each student will make a presentation of their paper [45 minutes in length] and prepare a 2-page critical response of every other paper submitted. Each student will be selected to present his/her Critical Response of one of the papers during the Seminar [15 minutes]. The Critical Response must include commentary on the following: [a] strengths, [b] weaknesses, [c] Turabian format, and [d] research.

## Evaluation of Grade

The student's grade will be computed as follows:

QQTP and Readings	25%
Book Review	25%
Formal Paper and Presentation	25%
Critical Response Papers	25%

## Technical Assistance

For assistance regarding technology, consult ITC (504-816-8180) or the following websites:

1. [Selfserve@nobts.edu](mailto:Selfserve@nobts.edu) - Email for technical questions/support requests with the [Selfserve.nobts.edu](http://Selfserve.nobts.edu) site (Access to online registration, financial account, online transcript, etc.)
2. [BlackboardHelpDesk@nobts.edu](mailto:BlackboardHelpDesk@nobts.edu) - Email for technical questions/support requests with the NOBTS Blackboard Learning Management System [NOBTS.Blackboard.com](http://NOBTS.Blackboard.com).
3. [ITCSupport@nobts.edu](mailto:ITCSupport@nobts.edu) - Email for general technical questions/support requests.
4. [www.NOBTS.edu/itc/](http://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

### Session 1: Overview of Systematic Theology, Historical Theology [September 10-11, 2121]

*Students are required to read all texts, not just the parts of their assigned presentations.*

For each Seminar each student will complete all readings and a QQTP based on specific assigned sections of the readings in the Erickson and Olson texts. An example of a QQTP is in Blackboard.

### Group Discussion: QQTP - Questions, Quotations & Talking Points

In response to *the Erickson and Olson texts*, write a one-page paper for each text including each of the following:

- **Questions:** Note the points at which a question comes to mind as you read. For each chapter/section, write a thoughtful question that invites analysis, synthesis, or evaluation of the material, or makes connections between the readings and previous readings.
- **Quotation:** For each chapter/section, select a quotation that is especially pertinent or relevant to the main points of the readings. The quotation should be neither too short (1-2 lines), nor too long (10-12 lines). Cite the source.
- **Talking Points.** Write talking points for each chapter/section that show that you have thought seriously and critically about the readings. You do not need to answer your question here, but you may talk about it if you wish. Write at least *three* detailed talking points, covering several different topics from the reading.

1. Erickson, Parts 1-3	Chris Smith
2. Erickson, Parts 4-6	Augustine Hui
3. Erickson, Parts 7-9	Elina Cho
4. Erickson, Parts 10-12	Juliana Handy
5. Olson, Part III	Sarah Waters
6. Olson, Part IV	Joy Valui
7. Olson, Part VII	Traci Prichard
8. Olson, Part VIII	Chris Young

**Assignments:** [1] Reading Review assignments & Composer Selection for Theological Text Analysis

**Session 2: [October 15-16, 2021] Reading Reviews**  
**[See Course requirements for instructions for reviews.]**

**Assignment 1. Reading Review List:**

- Jeremy S. Begbie, *Theology, Music and Time*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2000.
- D. A. Carson and John D. Woodbridge, *Scripture and Truth*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1992.
- John W. Cooper, *Body, Soul, and Life Everlasting: Biblical Anthropology and the Monism-Dualism Debate*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2000.
- John W. Cooper, *Panentheism: The Other God of the Philosophers From Plato to the Present*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2006.
- Bruce Demarest. *The Cross and Salvation: The Doctrine of Salvation*. Wheaton: Crossway, 1997.
- Millard J. Erickson, *God in Three Persons: A Contemporary Interpretation of the Trinity*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2005.
- \_\_\_\_\_, *God the Father Almighty: A Contemporary Exploration of the Divine Attributes*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1998.
- \_\_\_\_\_, *The Word Became Flesh: A Contemporary Incarnational Christology*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1996.
- Sinclair Ferguson, *The Holy Spirit*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 1997.
- Anthony Hoekema, *Created in God's Image*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1994.
- \_\_\_\_\_, *Saved by Grace*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1994.
- Cornelius Plantinga, *Not the Way It's Supposed to Be: A Breviary of Sin*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1995.
- John R. W. Stott, *The Cross of Christ*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 2006.
- \_\_\_\_\_, *Baptism and Fullness: The Work of the Holy Spirit Today*. IVP Classics. Grand Rapids: InterVarsity, 2007.
- Richard Viladesau, *Theology and the Arts: Encountering Music, Art and Rhetoric*. New York: Paulist Press, 2000.
- N. T. Wright, *Justification: God's Plan and Paul's Vision*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 2009.
- \_\_\_\_\_, *Surprised by Hope: Rethinking Heaven, the Resurrection, and the Mission of the Church*. San Francisco: HarperOne, 2008.

**Assignment 2. QQTP :** Putman, Rhyne. *The Method of Christian Theology*  
 Follow guidelines for the QQTP for this assignment.

**Session 3:[December 3-4, 2021 ] [1] Research Paper Presentations of the Analysis of Texts and Responses and [2] a QQTP of Dennis Okholm's Learning Theology through the Church's Worship."**

**Selected Bibliography**

- Barnes, Michel R. and Daniel H. Williams. *Arianism After Arius: Essays on the Development of the Fourth Century Trinitarian Conflicts*. Edinburgh: T&T Clark, 1993.
- Beale, G. K. *We Become What We Worship: A Biblical Theology of Idolatry*. Downers Grove, IL, IVP Academic, 2008.
- Begbie, Jeremy S. *Theology, Music and Time*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2000.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *Resounding Truth: Christian Wisdom in the World of Music*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2007.
- Begbie, Jeremy S. and Steven R. Guthrie, eds.. *Resonant Witness: Conversations Between Music and Theology*. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2011.
- Bethune-Baker, James Franklin. *An Introduction to the Early History of Christian Doctrine: to the Time of the Council of Chalcedon*. London: Methuen, c1949.
- Bettenson, Henry and Chris Maunder, ed. *Documents of the Christian Church*. 3rd ed. New York: Oxford University Press, 1999.
- Beuving, Mark. *Resonate: Enjoying God's Gift of Music*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2014.
- Brown, Harold O.J. *Heresies: Heresy and Orthodoxy in the History of the Church*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1998.
- Bultmann, Rudolf. *Theology of the New Testament*. New York: Scribners, 1951-55, reprint edition by Baylor University Press, 2007.
- Chapell, Bryan. *Christ-Centered Worship: Letting the Gospel Shape Our Practice*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2009.
- Chung, Sung Wook, ed. *Alister McGrath and Evangelical Theology: A Dynamic Engagement*. Carlisle, UK: Paternoster, 2003.
- Colyer, Elmer M. *Evangelical Theology in Transition: Theologians in Dialogue with Donald Bloesch*. Downers Grove: IVP, 1999.
- Dyrness, William A. *A Primer on Christian Worship: Where We've Been, Where We Are, Where We Can Go*. Grand Rapid, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2009.
- Elwell, Walter A., ed. *Evangelical Dictionary of Theology*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 2001.
- Erickson, Millard. *Christian Theology*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1985.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *Introducing Christian Theology*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2001.
- Eskew, Harry and Hugh T. McElrath. *Sing with Understanding: An Introduction to Christian Hymnology*. Nashville: Church Street Press, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, 1995.
- Fairborn, Donald. *Grace and Christology in the Early Church*. Oxford: Oxford University Press 2006.
- Garrett, James Leo. *Systematic Theology: Biblical, Historical, and Evangelical*, vol. 1. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1990.
- Grant, John Webster. "The Hymn as Theological Statement," *The Hymn*, 37:4(October 1986):10.
- Green, Joel B. and Max Turner, eds. *Jesus of Nazareth Lord and Christ*. Grand Rapids: Wm. B Eerdmans, 1994.
- Heaney, Maeve Louise. *Music as Theology: What Music Has to Say about the Word*. Eugene, OR: Pickwick Publications, 2012.
- Hanson, R. P. C. *The Search for the Christian Doctrine of God: The Arian Controversy 318-381*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2005.
- Holroyd, Stuart. *Gnosticism*. Rockport, MA: Element, 1994.
- Hommerding, A. J., "Issues in Hymnody: Incomplete Incarnation," *The Hymn*, 46:4 (October

- 1995): 45-48.
- Horton, Michael. "Are Your Hymns Too Spiritual?" Available from <http://www.moernreformation.org/mr95/julaug/mr9504hymns.html>, Internet, accessed 30 January 2004.
- Hultgren, Arland J. and Steven A. Haggmark, eds. *The Earliest Christian Heretics: Readings from Their Opponents*. Minneapolis: Fortress, 1996.
- Hustad, Donald P. *Jubilate II: Church Music in Worship and Renewal*. Carol Stream, IL: Hope Publishing Company, 1993.
- Karkkainen, Veli-Matti. *An Introduction to the Theology of Religions*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2003.
- Kimbrough, S. T. *The Lyrical Theology of Charles Wesley: A Reader*. Eugene, OR: Cascade Books, 2011.
- \_\_\_\_\_. "Hymns Are Theology," *Theology Today*, 42:1 (April 1985), 59-68.
- Ladd, G. E. *Theology of the New Testament*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1974.
- Lathrop, Gordon W. *Holy Ground: A Liturgical Cosmology*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2009.
- Lewis, C. S. *Surprised by Joy*. New York: Harcourt, Inc., 1955.
- Livingston, James C, and Francis Schüssler Fiorenza, with Sarah Coakley and James H. Evans, Jr. *Modern Christian Thought*. Vol. II, *The Twentieth Century*. 2d ed. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall, 2000.
- Luttenberger, Gerard H. *An Introduction to Christology: In the Gospels & Early Church*. Twenty-Third Publications, 1998.
- Marsh, Clive and Vaughan S. Roberts. *Personal Jesus: How Popular Music Shapes Our Souls*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2012.
- McElrath, Hugh T. "The Hymnbook as a Compendium of Theology," *Review and Expositor*, 87:1 (Winter 1990):12.
- McGann, Mary E. *Exploring Music as Worship and Theology*. Collegeville, MN: The Liturgical Press, 2002.
- McGrath, Alister E. *The Christian Theology Reader*. Oxford: Blackwell Publishers, 2007.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *Historical Theology: An Introduction to the History of Christian Thought*. Malden, MA: Blackwell Publishing, 1998.
- Mouw, Richard J. and Mark A. Noll, eds. *Wonderful Words of Life: Hymns in American Protestant History and Theology*, Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2004.
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- Olson, Roger S. *The Story of Christian Theology*. Downers Grove, IL: Inter Varsity Press 1999.
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- Peterson, David. *Engaging with God*. Leicester, England: Apollos (InterVarsity Press), 1992.
- Pierce, Timothy M. *Enthroned on Our Praise: An Old Testament Theology of Worship*. Nashville: B & H Academic, 2008.
- Polman, Bert, "The Praise and Worship Hit Parade: A Brief Analysis of Some of the Most Sung Choruses of 1990," *Reformed Worship*, located at [http://209.200.121.40/magazine/article.cfm?article\\_id=668](http://209.200.121.40/magazine/article.cfm?article_id=668), accessed 9 September, 2010.
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- Stapert, Calvin R. *A New Song for an Old World: Musical Thought in the Early Church*. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2007.
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