



MUWM9300 Contemporary Context of American Evangelical Worship New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary Division of Church Ministries Spring 2022

Professor: Michael D. Sharp, Ph.D.
Office: Sellers 231 C
Phone: (678) 756-5667
Email: msharp@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 seminar is an investigation into the major movements that have impacted Christian evangelical worship in America from the 1970s to the present. Postmodernity and other influences, such as the ecumenical movement, the charismatic movement, contemporary Christian music, the church growth movement, and the emerging church will be examined in light of their effect on current worship practice. Additionally, specific worship leadership needs in an increasingly post-Christian cultural context will be studied.

Student Learning Outcomes

The past few decades have witnessed what some have referred to as a sea-change in the way evangelicals in the American Christian church view and practice corporate worship. This course will investigate some of the major movements from the 1970s to the present day that have shaped the way leaders think about the ministry of corporate worship in evangelical contexts today. At the conclusion of the course, the student will:

1. Be able to demonstrate an understanding of how shifts in worldview from modernity to postmodernity and technological innovation have continued to shape worship expectations and practices in the twenty-first century American evangelical church.
2. Be equipped to evaluate various *worship renewal* streams, such as liturgical renewal initiatives (Vatican II, Nairobi Statement, etc.), the expansion of *charismatic church* practice, and *convergence worship*. The student will acquire a framework for examining these renewal trends that have influenced evangelical worship theologically in regard to service structure, song lyrics, and the role of the Third Person of the Godhead (the Holy Spirit) in worship.
3. Be able to identify the connection between *worship* and *cultural relevance* as evidenced in the rise of attractional models for worship services, through the influence of the Church Growth Movement, as well as the rise of megachurches and the seeker-service movement. Included in this focus, students will be able to understand the history and dynamics of intergenerational and multicultural worship trends, including the use of divergent musical styles in worship.
4. Become more aware of how the *arts* and *technology* have played an expanding role in corporate worship (music, visual arts, media, etc.).
5. Be able to analyze cultural factors that have impacted a shift from *formal* to *increasing informality* in corporate worship environments, such as architecture, furnishings, participants' expectations, communication styles, etc.

6. Become acquainted with important writings regarding the contemporary context of American evangelical worship.

Embedded Assignment

This course does not have an embedded assignment.

Course Textbooks

Required

Seminar Meeting 1

Ross, Melanie C. *Evangelical Worship: An American Mosaic*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2021.

Plantinga, Cornelius, Jr. and Sue A. Rozeboom. *Discerning the Spirits: A Guide to Thinking about Christian Worship Today*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans Publishing, 2003.

Seminar Meeting 2

Ingalls, Monique and Amos Young. *The Spirit of Praise: Music and Worship in Global Pentecostal-Charismatic Christianity*. University Park: Pennsylvania State University Press, 2015.

Pinson, J. Matthew (ed.). *Perspectives on Christian Worship: 5 Views*. Nashville: B & H Academic, 2009.

Seminar Meeting 3

Hong, Lim Swee & Lester Ruth. *Lovin' on Jesus: A Concise History of Contemporary Worship*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2017.

York, Terry W. *America's Worship Wars*. Peabody, MS: Hendrickson Publishers, 2003.

Liesch, Barry. *The New Worship: Straight Talk on Music and the Church (expanded version)*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2001.

Optional:

Redman, Robb. *The Great Worship Awakening: Singing a New Song in the Postmodern Church* (Jossey-Bass, 2002)

Aniol, Scott. *By the Waters of Babylon: Worship in a Post-Christian Culture*. Grand Rapids: Kregel Publications, 2015.

Course Teaching Methodology

The course will involve the following methodologies: Three seminar meetings during the Spring 2022 semester, convening on the following dates: Feb 10-11; March 24-25; and April 28-29; (Thursdays 1-9 p.m., Fridays 8-10:15 a.m.) Additionally, a Bluejeans web meeting will be held during the first week of the semester to overview the content of the course and assignments (*Thursday, Jan 20, 7 pm CST*). Course content will be engaged through assigned reading/discussion, student research presentations and a final synthesis reflection paper.

Course Requirements

1. Course Reading/Discussion. Required textbooks as listed above. Each seminar participant should read thoroughly each of the assigned materials. For each assigned text, the student should prepare a written annotation, and four to five substantial questions for discussion in seminar meetings. More specific information will be given for this assignment in the course overview meeting.
2. Research papers. Each student will prepare three research papers and present these to the seminar (one for each seminar meeting). Research paper topics should align with the specific focus related to seminar meetings. Papers should provide

specialized information beyond the seminar assigned reading. The student's research should be reported in a formal paper, according to Turabian style guide, with copies of the paper being made available to the professor and each student at the time of the presentation. The presentation should be an overview of the paper, including the research question, the data informing the argument, and the conclusion. Presentations should be 30-40 minutes plus time for student discussion and reaction afterward. Due dates: each student will present at each of the seminar meetings.

- 1) Seminar meeting 1 (Feb 10-11): Worship and culture; evangelical worship in North America
 - 2) Seminar Meeting 2 (Mar 24-25): Church growth movement; technological innovation in worship; worship renewal; Pentecostal-charismatic worship
 - 3) Seminar Meeting 3 (Apr 28-29): contemporary worship movement; praise and worship movement
3. As a final assignment, each student will write a 2000-word reflection paper on the topic: "Worship Ministry Challenges for the Twenty-first Century American Evangelical Church." This paper should address the various challenges American evangelical churches may continue to face in light of historical developments since the 1970s to present. As an analytical and synthesis assignment, the student should reflect on how the major movements covered in the seminar have contributed positively and negatively to how North American evangelical worship is understood and practiced today. The student should use Turabian guidelines for this formal paper.
4. The course shell in Blackboard (from the NOBTS homepage) will serve as a clearinghouse for the seminar. All written assignments should be submitted through Blackboard. **No email submissions will be accepted.**

Evaluation of Grade

| | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| Required reading with annotations and seminar discussion of required textbooks | 20% |
| Individual research presentations (3; 20% each) | 60% |
| Final reflection paper | 20% |

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.

Writing Style Guide

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>

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

Syllabus Overview Web Meeting (Thu, Jan 20, 2022 7pm CST)

Seminar Mtg 1: Feb 10-11

Seminar Mtg 2: Mar 24-25

Seminar Mtg 3: Apr 28-29

Selected Bibliography

General

Anderson, Leith. *A Church for the 21st Century*. Minneapolis: Bethany House Publishers, 1992.

Johnson, Todd E., ed. *The Conviction of Things Not Seen: Worship and Ministry in the 21st Century*. Brazos Press, 2002.

Long, Thomas C. *Beyond the Worship Wars*. The Alban Institute, 2001.

Redman, Robb. *The Great Worship Awakening: Singing a New Song in the Postmodern Church*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2002.

Romanowski, William D. *Eyes Wide Open: Looking for God in Popular Culture*. Grand Rapids: Brazos Press, 2007.

Ross, Melanie C. *Evangelical Worship: An American Mosaic*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2021.

White, James F. *Christian Worship in North America: A Retrospective: 1955-1995*. Collegeville, MN: The Liturgical Press, 1997.

York, Terry W. *America's Worship War*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers, 2003.

Postmodernity and worship

Adams, Doug and Michael E. Moynahan, Editors. *Postmodern Worship and the Arts*. Sarasota, C.A.: Resource Publications, 2002.

Brinson, Tyler. *Discovering Worship Preferences of Millennials toward Vocal Ministry in the Corporate Worship of Tennessee Southern Baptist Churches* (D.M.A. Dissertation, NOBTS, 2017)

Kimball, Dan. *Emerging Worship: Creating Worship Gatherings for New Generations*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2004.

Sweet, Leonard, ed. *The Church in Emerging Culture: Five Perspectives*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2003.

Webber, Robert E. *The Worship Phenomenon: A Dynamic New Awakening in Worship Is Reviving the Body of Christ*. Nashville: Abbott Martyn, 1994.

Worship Renewal

Benedict, Daniel T. and Craig Kenneth Miller. *Contemporary Worship for the 21st Century: Worship or Evangelism?* Nashville: Discipleship Resources, 1994.

Carlson, Kent & Mike Lueken. *Renovation of the Church: What Happens When a Seeker Church Discovers Spiritual Formation*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Books, 2011.

Dearborn, Tim A. & Scott Coil. *Worship at the Next Level: Insight from Contemporary Voices*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2004.

Liesch, Barry. *The New Worship: Straight Talk on Music and the Church*. Revised edition. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 2001.

Keifert, Patrick R. *Welcoming the Stranger: A Public Theology of Worship and Evangelism*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1992.

Kidd, Reggie M. *With One Voice: Discovering Christ's Song in Our Worship*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2005.

McLean, Terri Bocklund. *New Harmonies: Choosing Contemporary Music for Worship*. The Alban Institute, 1998.

Morgenthaler, Sally. *Worship Evangelism: Inviting Unbelievers into the Presence of God*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing Company, 1995.

Nekola, Anna E. "Between This World and the Next: The Musical "Worship Wars" and Evangelical Ideology in the United States, 1960-2005." PhD diss., University of Wisconsin-Madison, 2009.

Rognlien, Bob. *Experiential Worship: Encountering God with Heart, Soul, Mind, and Strength*. Colorado Springs: NavPress, 2005.

Synan, Vinson. *The Holiness-Pentecostal Tradition: Charismatic Movements in the Twentieth Century*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1997.

Ward, Pete. *Selling Worship: How What We Sing has Changed the Church*. Milton Keynes, UK and Waynesboro, GA: Paternoster Press, 2005.

Wenz, Robert. *Room for God: A Worship Challenge for a Church Growth and Market Era*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1994.

Woods, Robert and Brian Walrath (eds.) *The Message in the Music: Studying Contemporary Praise and Worship*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2007.

Wren, Brian. *Praying Twice: The Music and Words of Congregational Song*. Louisville: Westminster/John Knox Press, 2000.

Webber, Robert E. *Liturgical Evangelism: Worship as Outreach and Nurture*. Harrisburg, P.A.: Morehouse Publishing, 1992.

_____. *Signs of Wonder: The Phenomenon of Convergence in Modern Liturgical and Charismatic Churches*. Nashville: Abbott Martyn, 1992.

Technology and Media

Bausch, Michael G. *Silver Screen, Sacred Story: Using Multimedia in Worship*. The Alban Institute, 2002.

Eason, Tim. *Media Ministry Made Easy: A Practical Guide to Visual Communication*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2003.

Gaillardetz, Richard R. *Transforming our Days: Spirituality, Community and Liturgy in a Technological Culture*. New York: Crossroad Publishing Company, 2000.

Hipps, Shane. *The Hidden Power of Electronic Culture: How Media Shapes Faith, the Gospel, and Church*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2005.

Jewell, John P. *New Tools for a New Century: First Steps in Equipping Your Church for the Digital Revolution*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2002.

_____. *Wired for Ministry: How the Internet, Visual Media, and Other New Technologies Can Serve Your Church*. Grand Rapids: Brazos Press, 2004.

Miller, Kim, and The Ginghamburg Church Worship Team. *Handbook for Multi-Sensory Worship*. Volume one. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1999.

_____. *Handbook for Multi-Sensory Worship*. Volume two. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2002.

Sample, Tex. *Powerful Persuasion: Multimedia Witness in Christian Worship*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2005.

_____. *The Spectacle of Worship in a Wired World: Electronic Culture and the Gathered People of God*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1998.

Schultz, Quentin. *High-Tech Worship? Using Presentational Technologies Wisely*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 2004.

Slaughter, Michael. *Out on the Edge: A Wake-Up Call for Church Leaders on the Edge of the Media Reformation*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1998.

Stella, Constance. *Video Ministry: Using Media in Worship Without Going Hollywood*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2006.

White, Susan J. *Christian Worship and Technological Change*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1994.

Multigenerational and Multicultural Worship

Black, Kathy. *Culturally-Conscious Worship*. Chalice Press, 2000.

Black, Kathy. *Worship Across Cultures: A Handbook*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1998.

- Blount, Brian K., and Leonora Tubbs Isdale, Editors. *Making Room at the Table: An Invitation to Multicultural Worship*. Westminster/John Knox Press, 2001.
- Carroll, Jackson W., and Wade Clark Roof, *Bridging Divided Worlds: Generational Cultures in Congregations*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2002.
- Costen, Melva Wilson. *In Spirit and in Truth: The Music of African American Worship*. Louisville: Westminster/John Knox Press, 2004.
- Deyoung, Curtiss Paul, Ed. *United by Faith: The Multiracial Congregation as an Answer to the Problem of Race*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2003.
- Deymaz, Mark. *Building a Healthy Multi-Ethnic Church: Mandate, Commitments, and Practices of a Diverse Congregation*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2007.
- Farhadian, Charles E., Ed. *Christian Worship Worldwide: Expanding Horizons, Deepening Practices*. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2007.
- Francis, Mark R., and Anscar J. Chupungco. *Shape a Circle Ever Wider: Liturgical Inculturation in the United States*. Chicago: Liturgy Training Publications, 2000.
- Gonzalez, Justo L., Editor. *¡Alabadle!: Hispanic Christian Worship*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1996.
- Hammett, Edward. *Reaching People Under 40 while Keeping People over 60: Being Church for All Generations*. St. Louis, MO: Chalice Press, 2007.
- Hawn, C. Michael. *Gather into One: Praying and Singing Globally*. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2003.
- _____. *One Bread, One Body: Exploring Cultural Diversity in Worship*. Bethesda, M.D.: The Alban Institute, 2003.
- Henderson, David W. *Culture Shift: Communicating God's Truth to Our Changing World*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1998.
- Hood, Stacy. *Rekindling Your Music Ministry: A Guide for Congregations with Multiple or Alternative Worship Patterns*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2002.
- Lancaster, Lynne C. and David Stillman. *When Generations Collide: Who They Are. Why They Clash. How to Solve the Generational Puzzle at Work*. New York: HarperCollins, 2002.
- _____. *The M-Factor: How the Millennial Generation Is Rocking the Workplace*. New York: HarperCollins, 2010.
- Lathrop, Gordon, Ed. *What Does 'Multicultural' Worship Look Like?* Minneapolis: Augsburg-Fortress, 1996.
- Long, Jimmy. *The Leadership Jump: Building Partnerships Between Existing and Emerging Christian Leaders*. Downers Grove: IVP.

Long, Thomas G. (ed.) *Beyond the Worship Wars: Building Vital and Faithful Worship*. Herndon, VA: Alban Institute, 2001.

MacDonald, Gordon. *Who Stole My Church: What to Do When the Church You Love Tries to Enter the Twenty-First Century*. Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 2007.

McIntosh, Gary L. *One Church Four Generations: Understanding and Reaching All Ages in Your Church*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2002.

Malefyt, Norma de Wall & Howard Vanderwell. *Designing Worship together: Models and Strategies for Worship Planning*. St. Louis, MS: Chalice Press, 2007.

McKinney, Lora-Ellen. *Total Praise: An Orientation to Black Baptist Belief and Worship*. Valley Forge: Judson Press, 2003.

Menconi, Peter. *The Intergenerational Church: Understanding Congregations from WWII to www.com*. Littleton, CO: Mt. Sage Publishing, 2008.

Nieman, James R. and Thomas G. Rogers. *Preaching to Every Pew: Cross-Cultural Strategies*. Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 2001.

Ortiz, Manuel. *One New People: Models for Developing a Multiethnic Church*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 1996.

Rainer, Thom and Jess Rainer. *Millennials*. Nashville: Broadman and Holman, 2011.

Rendle, Gil. *The Multigenerational Congregation: Meeting the Leadership Challenge*. Alban Institute, 2002.

Stauffer, S. Anita, Ed. *Christian Worship: Unity in Cultural Diversity*. Geneva: Department for Theology and Studies, Lutheran World Federation, 1996.

Vanderwell, Howard, ed. *The Church of all Ages: Generations Worshipping Together*. Herndon, VA: Alban Institute, 2007.

York, Terry W. *America's Worship Wars*. Peabody, Massachusetts: Hendrickson Publishers, 2003.

Worship and Visual Arts

Dyrness, William A. *Visual Faith: Art, Theology, and Worship in Dialogue*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 2001.

Finney, Paul Corby, Ed. *Seeing Beyond the Word: Visual Arts and the Calvinist Tradition*. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing, 1999.

Gerding, Jeri. *Drawing to God: Art as Prayer, Prayer as Art*. Notre Dame, IN: Sorin Books, 2001.

Harries, Richard. *The Passion in Art*. Aldershot, Hampshire: Ashgate Publishing, 2004.

Homan, Roger. *The Art of the Sublime: Principles of Christian Art and Architecture*. Aldershot,

- Hampshire: Ashgate Publishing, 2006.
- Hourihane, Colum, Ed. *Objects, Images, and the Word: Art in the Service of the Liturgy*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2004.
- Irvine, Christopher, and Anne Dawtry. *Art and Worship*. Collegeville, M.N.: Pueblo/The Liturgical Press, 2002.
- Jensen, Robin M. *The Substance of Things Seen: Art, Faith, and the Christian Community*. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing, 2004.
- Jensen, Richard A. *Envisioning the Word: The Use of Visual Images in Preaching*. Minneapolis: Augsburg-Fortress, 2005.
- Kapikian, Catherine. *Art in Service of the Sacred*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2006.
- Moore, Jason And Len Wilson. *Design Matters: Creating Powerful Imagery for Worship*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2006.
- Morgan, David. *Visual Piety: A History and Theory of Popular Religious Images*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1998.
- Morgan, David, And Sally M. Promey, Eds. *The Visual Culture of American Religions*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2001.
- Murray, Peter. *The Oxford Companion to Christian Art and Architecture*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1998.
- Nichols, Aidan. *The Art of God Incarnate: Theology and Image in Christian Tradition*. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing, 1980.
- O'Grady, Ron, Ed. *Christ for All People: Celebrating A World of Christian Art*. Maryknoll, N.Y.: Orbis Books, 2001.
- Pongracz, Patricia C., et. al. *The Christian Story: Five Asian Artists Today*. New York: Mobia/D. Giles, Ltd., 2007.
- Pongracz, Patricia C. and Wayne Roosa. *The Next Generation: Contemporary Expressions of Faith*. New York: Museum of Biblical Art/Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2005.
- Raguin, Virginia C. *Glory in Glass: Stained Glass in the United States. Origins, Variety, and Preservation*. New York: American Bible Society, 2003.
- _____. *Stained Glass: From Its Origin to the Present*. New York: Harry N. Abrams, 2003.
- Rouet, Albert. *Liturgy and the Arts*. Collegeville: The Liturgical Press, 1997.
- Spackman, Betty. *A Profound Weakness: Christians and Kitsch*. Carlisle: Piquant Editions, 2005.
- Steffler, Alva William. *Symbols of the Christian Faith*. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans

Publishing, 2002.

Sullivan, Michael. *Windows into the Soul: Art as Spiritual Expression*. Harrisburg: Morehouse Publishing, 2006.

Thissen, Gesa Elsbeth, Ed. *Theological Aesthetics: A Reader*. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing, 2005.

Torgerson, Mark A. *An Architecture of Immanence: Architecture for Worship and Ministry Today*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2007.

Viladesau, Robert. *The Beauty of the Cross: The Passion of Christ in Theology and the Arts from the Catacombs to the Eve of the Renaissance*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2005.

Walton, Janet R. *Art and Worship: A Vital Connection*. Wilmington, D.E.: Michael Glazier, 1988.

Wiseman, Karyn L. "Grace Space: The Creation of Worship Space for the Postmodern/Emerging Church." PhD diss., Drew University, 2006.