



MUWM9400 Advanced Studies in Historical Perspectives of Worship

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary

Division of Church Music Ministries

Fall 2021

Professor: Michael D. Sharp, PhD
Title: Professor of Worship Studies
Office: Sellers 231C
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

The purpose of this seminar is to engage students in an in-depth study of Christian worship from the time of the early Church to the present. Special emphasis is given to cultural, philosophical, musical, and theological influences that have shaped the development and practice of worship and liturgy for the Christian community over the past twenty-plus centuries.

Student Learning Outcomes

At the conclusion of the course, the student will:

1. Have an increased awareness of what the personal understanding and experience of worship might have been like for Christians across the ages, from the early Church through the present.
2. Have a thorough knowledge of the development of Christian liturgy and the various influences that shaped its development throughout the history of the Church.
3. More greatly appreciate the worship ethos surrounding different eras of church history along with significant theological ideas that have shaped the historical practice of Christian worship in its various expressions and within its different denominations.
4. Understand and appreciate the historical developments in church music as a part of liturgical expression throughout church history.

Embedded Assignment

This course does not have an embedded assignment.

Course Textbooks

Required

McGowan, Andrew B. *Ancient Christian Worship: Early Church Practices in Social, Historical, and Theological Perspective*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2014.

*White, James F. *Introduction to Christian Worship (Third Edition)*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2000.

Steenwyck, Carrie & Jon D. Witvliet & Lester Ruth. *Walking Where Jesus Walked: Worship in Fourth Century Jerusalem*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans Publishing, 2010.

Ray, Walter D. *Tasting Heaven on Earth: Worship in Sixth-Century Constantinople*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans Publishing, 2012.

White, James F. *Protestant Worship: Traditions in Transition*. Louisville, KY: Westminster/John Knox Press, 1989.

- Maag, Karin. *Lifting Hearts to the Lord: Worship with John Calvin in Sixteenth-Century Geneva*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans Publishing, 2016.
- Ruth, Lester. *Longing for Jesus: Worship at a Black Holiness Church in Mississippi, 1895-1913*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans Publishing, 2013.
- Ruth, Lester and Eric L. Mathis. *Leaning on the Word: Worship with Argentine Baptists in the Mid-Twentieth Century*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans Publishing, 2017.
- Park, Andy & Lester Ruth & Cindy Rethmeier. *Worshiping with the Anaheim Vineyard: The Emergence of Contemporary Worship*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans Publishing, 2017.

No book review required for texts marked with *.

Course Teaching Methodology

The course will involve the following methodologies: Three seminar meetings during the semester convening on the following dates: Sep 9-10, Oct 14-15, and Dec 2-3; student-led discussion of reading; original research projects; professor and student seminar presentations; and a final synthesis reflection paper.

Course Requirements

1. Course Reading, Book Reviews.
Each student will acquire the course textbooks and read the assigned reading list prior to each seminar meeting. For each assigned text, the student will write a formal book review. Guidelines for the formal book review are included at the end of this syllabus. **(See seminar schedule for due dates.)**
2. Discussion-leading during the seminar. From the reading list, each student will be assigned specific texts (or chapters) for which she or he will be responsible for leading seminar discussion. Discussion leaders should prepare written questions in advance which cover an in-depth discussion of the sources. Questions for these assignments should be submitted to Blackboard prior to the seminar meeting. **(See seminar schedule for due dates.)**
3. Case studies. Six of the assigned texts are written as case studies related to a particular worship tradition in a certain place and time in worship history. Each student will be assigned one of the case studies and will lead the seminar in a detailed discussion related to the subject. Guidelines will be provided for areas to address in the discussion of the case study.
4. Formal research paper and seminar presentation. Each student will complete a formal research paper on a topic relevant to the focus of the seminar and present it to the seminar during either session two or three of the seminar meetings (depending upon the topic). Papers should be 2500 words in length and should be written using the NOBTS style guide/Turabian (latest edition) format for style. Seminar presentations of the paper should be approximately 30 minutes in length, including discussion. The student should provide a copy of the paper to the other members of the seminar. Use of media (Powerpoint, etc.) to aid the presentation is suggested but optional. Topics will be approved by the professor in advance (at the time of the first seminar meeting). **(Due date: Seminar meeting 2 or 3, as assigned)**
5. Synthesis paper. As a final assignment, each student will write a synthesis paper dealing with the historical elements of corporate worship (Communion, baptism, reading and preaching of Scripture, visual arts, musical praise, prayer, offerings, liturgical structure, etc.). The paper should seek to answer the question, What can the evangelical church of today gain from an historical study of Christian worship? The paper should utilize seminar resources as well as outside reading and apply historical practice to present day contexts of the local church's expression of corporate worship. Seminar discussion in the final seminar meeting

will allow students to share insights from their papers. **(Due at time of seminar meeting 3, Dec 2).**

Assignment submissions

The course shell in Blackboard (from the NOBTS homepage) will serve as a clearinghouse for the seminar. All written assignments should be submitted in the appropriate assignment folders. **No email submissions will be accepted.**

Evaluation of Grade

Discussion leading, prepared questions	10%
Book reviews	35%
Case Study	10%
Research Paper/ Presentation	25%
Synthesis 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.

Late Work

Assignments should be turned in by the due date. Most assignments are due by the time of the seminar meeting. No credit will be given for assignments turned in past the deadline for the seminar meetings.

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, Aug 19, 7pm Central Time Zone)

In Preparation for Seminar Session 1 (Sep 9-10)

- Read the following texts:
 - McGowan, Andrew B. *Ancient Christian Worship: Early Church Practices in Social, Historical, and Theological Perspective*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2014.
 - White, James F. *Introduction to Christian Worship (Third Edition)*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2000.

- Steenwyck, Carrie & Jon D. Witvliet & Lester Ruth. *Walking Where Jesus Walked: Worship in Fourth Century Jerusalem*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans Publishing, 2010.
- Ray, Walter D. *Tasting Heaven on Earth: Worship in Sixth-Century Constantinople*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans Publishing, 2012.
- Lead seminar discussion on required readings (McGowan) (as assigned by the professor)
- Prepare and lead case study on *Walking Where Jesus Walked* (if assigned)
- Prepare and lead case study on *Tasting Heaven on Earth* (if assigned)
- Book reviews on McGowan; Steenwyck/Witvliet/Ruth; and Ray texts (all)

In Preparation for Seminar Session 2 [virtual option] (Oct 14-15)

- Read the following texts:
 - White, James F. *Protestant Worship: Traditions in Transition*. Louisville, KY: Westminster/John Knox Press, 1989.
 - Maag, Karin. *Lifting Hearts to the Lord: Worship with John Calvin in Sixteenth-Century Geneva*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans Publishing, 2016.
- Lead seminar discussion on required readings from *Protestant Worship* (as assigned by the professor)
- Prepare and lead case study on *Lifting Hearts to the Lord* (if assigned)
- Book reviews on White (*Protestant Worship*) and Maag texts (all)
- Present formal research paper (if assigned for this session)

In Preparation for Seminar Session 3 (Dec 2-3)

- Read the following texts:
 - Ruth, Lester. *Longing for Jesus: Worship at a Black Holiness Church in Mississippi, 1895-1913*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans Publishing, 2013.
 - Ruth, Lester and Eric L. Mathis. *Leaning on the Word: Worship with Argentine Baptists in the Mid-Twentieth Century*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans Publishing, 2017.
 - Park, Andy & Lester Ruth & Cindy Rethmeier. *Worshipping with the Anaheim Vineyard: The Emergence of Contemporary Worship*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans Publishing, 2017.

Book reviews Ruth, *Longing for Jesus*; Ruth/Mathis, *Leaning on the Word*; Park/Ruth/Rethmeier, *Worship with the Anaheim Vineyard*

- (all)
- Prepare and lead case study on *Longing for Jesus* (if assigned)
- Prepare and lead case study on *Leaning on the Word* (if assigned)
- Prepare and lead case study on *Worshipping with the Anaheim Vineyard* (if assigned)
- Present formal research paper (if assigned for this session)
- Final synthesis paper due (be prepared to share insights from the paper with the seminar as the group discusses the question).

Selected Bibliography

Aliken, Valeriy A. *The Earliest History of the Christian Gathering: Origin, Development and Content of the Christian Gathering in the First to Third Centuries*. Leiden/Boston: Brill, 2010.

Atwood, Craig D. *Always Reforming: A History of Christianity since 1300*. Macon: Mercer, 2001.

Bradshaw, Paul F. *The Search for the Origins of Christian Worship*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1992.

_____. *Reconstructing Early Christian Worship*. Collegeville, MN: Liturgical Press, 2009.

Bratt, James D. *By the Vision of Another World: Worship in American History*. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 2012.

Cabaniss, Allen. *Pattern in Early Christian Worship*. Macon: Mercer, 1989.

Carson, D. A. *Becoming Conversant with the Emerging Church*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2005.

Chapell, Bryan. *Christ-Centered Worship: Letting the Gospel Shape Our Practice*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2009.

Cox, Harvey. *Fire from Heaven: The Rise of Pentecostal Spirituality and the Reshaping of Religion*. Cambridge, MA: DaCapo Press, 2001.

Dyrness, William A. *A Primer on Christian Worship: Where We've Been, Where We Are, Where We Can Go*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans Publishing, 2009.

Edersheim, Alfred. *The Temple: Its Ministry and Services as They Were at the Time of Jesus Christ*. Grand Rapids: Kregel Publications, 1997.

Fenwick, John R. K. And Bryan D. Spinks. *Worship in Transition: The Liturgical Movement in the Twentieth Century*. New York: Continuum Press, 1995.

Forrester, Duncan B. and Douglas M. Murray. *Studies in the History of Worship in Scotland*. Edinburgh: T and T Clark, 1996.

Frame, John M. *Contemporary Worship Music: A Biblical Defense*. Phillipsburg, NJ: P & R Publishing, 1997. Downers Grove: IVP Academic, 2009.

Hall, Christopher A. *Worshipping with the Church Fathers*.

Hurtado, Larry. *At the Origins of Christian Worship*. Carlisle, Cumbria, UK: Paternoster Press, 1999.

Johnson, Lawrence J. *Worship in the Early Church* (4 vols.). Collegeville, MN: Liturgical Press, 2009.

Leith, John H. *Creeds of the Churches: A Reader in Christian Doctrine from the Bible to the Present*. 3rd ed. Atlanta: John Knox Press, 1982.

Lang, Bernhard. *Sacred Games: A History of Christian Worship*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 1997.

Maag, Karin. *Lifting Hearts to the Lord: Worship with John Calvin in Sixteenth-Century Geneva*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans Publishing, 2016.

McGowan, Andrew B. *Ancient Christian Worship: Early Church Practices in Social, Historical, and Theological Perspective*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2014.

Martin, Ralph P. *Worship in the Early Church*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans Publishing, 1974.

- Noll, Mark A. *A History of Christianity in the United States and Canada*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1992.
- Park, Andy & Lester Ruth & Cindy Rethmeier. *Worshipping with the Anaheim Vineyard: The Emergence of Contemporary Worship*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans Publishing, 2017.
- Pelikan, Jaroslav. *Bach Among the Theologians*. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1986.
- Pinson, Matthew (ed.). *Perspectives on Christian Worship: 5 Views*. Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 2009.
- Ramshaw, Gail. *Christian Worship*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2009.
- Ray, Walter D. *Tasting Heaven on Earth: Worship in Sixth-Century Constantinople*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans Publishing, 2012.
- Redman, Robb. *The Great Worship Awakening: Singing a New Song in the Postmodern Church*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2002.
- Ruth, Lester. *A Little Heaven Below: Worship at Early Methodist Quarterly Meetings*. Nashville, TN: Kingswood Books, 2000.
- Ruth, Lester and Eric L. Mathis. *Leaning on the Word: Worship with Argentine Baptists in the Mid-Twentieth Century*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans Publishing, 2017.
- Ruth, Lester. *Longing for Jesus: Worship at a Black Holiness Church in Mississippi, 1895-1913*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans Publishing, 2013.
- Shields, Bruce and David A. Butzu. *Generations of Praise: The History of Worship*. Joplin, MO: College Press, 2006.
- Stapert, Calvin R. *A New Song for an Old World: Musical Thought in the Early Church*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2007.
- Steenwyck, Carrie & Jon D. Witvliet & Lester Ruth. *Walking Where Jesus Walked: Worship in Fourth Century Jerusalem*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans Publishing, 2010.
- Synan, Vinson. *Holiness-Pentecostal Tradition: Charismatic Movements in the Twentieth Century*. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1997.
- Towns, Elmer L. and Vernon M. Whaley. *Worship through the Ages: How the Great Awakenings Shape Evangelical Worship*. Nashville: B & H Publishing Group, 2012.
- Wainwright, Geoffrey and Karen B. Westerfield Tucker (eds.) *The Oxford History of Christian Worship*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2006.
- Wakefield, Gordon S. *An Outline of Christian Worship*. Edinburgh: T & T Clark, 1998.
- Webber, Robert E. *Ancient-Future Worship: Proclaiming and Enacting God's Narrative*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2008.
- Wegman, Herman. *Christian Worship in East and West: A Study Guide to Liturgical History*. New York: Pueblo Press, 1985.

White, James F. *Introduction to Christian Worship (Third Edition)*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2000.

White, James F. *Documents of Christian Worship: Descriptive and Interpretive Sources*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 1992.

White, James F. *Protestant Worship: Traditions in Transition*. Louisville: Westminster/John Knox Press, 1989.

Wilkins, Michael J. and Terence Paige (eds.). *Worship, Theology and Ministry in the Early Church: Essays in Honor of Ralph P. Martin*. Journal for the Study of the New Testament Supplement Series 87. Guildford, Great Britain: Sheffield Academic Press, 1992.

GUIDELINES FOR A FORMAL BOOK REVIEW

NOTE: The purpose of this book review is to help you come to grips with the authors' thoughts and their implications. The following items should be used as guidelines for studying the book and as an organization structure for the written review.

1. No title page is necessary for this assignment.
2. Your name and e-mail address in the upper right-hand corner.
3. Bibliographic information: Author, title of book, publisher, copyright date, number of pages, etc. comprise the first lines of the review.
4. Write an intro summary of the book in a few paragraphs outlining the author's purpose in writing the book. Include the authors' thesis, the nature of the problem (or area of chief concern) discussed, and the solution(s) offered.
5. Outline particular strengths of the book, from your perspective. Cite a few sentences from the major divisions of the book (including page numbers) with which you most strongly agree. Explain the statements in context and give your reason(s) for agreement.
6. Outline particular weaknesses of the book, from your perspective. Cite a few sentences from the major divisions of the book (including page numbers) with which you most strongly disagree. Explain the statements in context and give your reasons for disagreement.
7. Would you recommend this book as a helpful resource in the study of worship history? Why or why not?

You should aim for a 1000 to 1200-word, single-spaced, typewritten review.