

**NEW ORLEANS BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
DIVISION OF CHURCH MUSIC MINISTRIES**

**MUWM5300-01/MUWM5300-80 Theology of Worship
Fall Semester 2015**

**Course Delivery System: Blackboard with two Workshops
Workshop Location: New Orleans Main Campus/CIV North Georgia
Workshop Dates:
Thursday, Sep 24 (9AM to 5 PM),
Saturday, Sep 26 (9AM to Noon-NOLA United Worship Conference);
Thursday, Nov 19 (1 PM to 5 PM), Friday, Nov 20 (9AM to Noon)**

**Dr. Michael Sharp, Professor of Worship Studies
Phone: (504) 816-8022 (Office)**

msharp@nobts.edu
SYLLABUS

Mission Statement of the Seminary: The mission of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary is to equip leaders to fulfill the Great Commission and the Great Commandments through the local church and its ministries.

Mission Statement of the Division of Church Music: The mission of the Division of Church Music Ministries is to equip leaders for excellence in music ministry among Southern Baptists through performance, education, and technology.

From the Catalog: This course will explore the subject of worship from a biblical perspective, emphasizing the major texts of the Old and New Testaments dealing with worship practices. Emphasis is given to the Hebrew and Greek words that are translated “worship” and their meaning within the biblical context.

Core Value Focus and Key Competencies Addressed in this Course: One of the seminary’s core values is *Mission Focus* and this core value is being highlighted during this academic year: “*We are not here merely to get an education or to give one. We are here to change the world by fulfilling the Great Commission and the Great Commandments through the local church and its ministries.*” (*Graduate Catalogue*) This is the core value focus for the NOBTS 2015-16 academic year. This core value will be regularly highlighted in the course by helping students see the vital connection between worship, discipleship, and missions ministries in the local church.

The key competencies addressed with the content of this course include firm grounding in **biblical study** regarding worship, a deepening **theological understanding** regarding the acts of corporate and private worship of the Triune God, and a resulting increased effectiveness in the ability to plan and **lead corporate worship** for the gathered church body.

Student Learning Outcome:

Note: No musical background is required for participation in this course.

1. At the conclusion of the course the student should be able to apply his/her knowledge and comprehension of the theological foundations of worship and worship practice as evidenced in the Old and New Testament scriptures in order to disciple local congregations in the area of worship ministry .
2. At the conclusion of the course, the student should understand the theological context of Christian worship as being rooted in the Old Testament covenantal law, but eventually centered in the new covenant as authenticated by Jesus Christ.
3. At the conclusion of the course, the student should understand and value the idea of authentic worship as possessing the character of “in spirit and in truth.” (John 4:24)
4. At the conclusion of the course, the student should be able to evaluate the lyric of congregational worship songs as to theological content and emphases using resources from the class.

Methodology:

This course will be delivered throughout the semester in two primary environments: internet-assisted through the use of Blackboard and two short intensive workshops scheduled for Thursday, Sep 24 (9:00AM to 5:00PM) and Thursday, Nov 19 (1:00 PM to 5:00 PM) through Friday, Nov 20 (9:00AM to Noon). The course will be offered to North Georgia through CIV technology at Johnson Ferry Baptist Church, Marietta, GA.

Additionally, for students attending on the main campus, the first workshop intensive includes required attendance at the NOBTS-sponsored worship conference on Saturday, Sep 25 from 9 AM to 2:00PM.

During the online portion of the course, the students will engage with course content through weekly assigned reading from the textbooks plus additional course materials; through posting thoughtful blog entries on assigned course materials; through discussion forums; through individually-assigned research topics; and a synchronous overview of the course via web conference scheduled for **Thursday evening, August 27, 2015 from 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM (Central Time)**. More information will be provided once the course begins.

Course Requirements:

1. Enrollment in course. Students will be automatically enrolled in the course through Blackboard. The course is labeled as HM-MUWM5300MS: Theology of Worship [Master-Hybrid] (New Orleans).
2. Class meetings. Although the course will not meet each week in the physical classroom, students are expected to attend the course each week through *the virtual classroom* hosted on Blackboard. New material and assignments will be ready every week beginning on Monday morning. (For an overview of course content, see the course schedule below.) Keeping up with weekly coursework and deadlines is the responsibility of the student. Active engagement in the course through forum participation, blog entries, etc. is an integral part of the learning process. Additionally, face to face learning opportunities will be provided through the two intensive onsite workshops (mandatory attendance required on Thursday, Sep 24 (9:00AM to 5:00PM) and Thursday, Nov 19 (1:00 PM to 5:00 PM) through Friday, Nov 20 (9:00AM to Noon) as well as the one-hour web conference meeting (Thur, Aug 27, 2015, 7PM to 8 PM Central). Weekly reading assignments and the corresponding written assignments must be completed by the assigned due dates for full credit. Additional Webex meetings will be scheduled three or four times throughout the semester. These are designed

to enhance the learning experience for the students and attendance is highly encouraged but optional.

3. Research paper. For this course, each student will write a paper on a topic of particular interest regarding Old Testament or New Testament worship. The paper is to be 2500-3000 words in length, with a minimum of 8 academic works cited, to include academic books and peer-reviewed journal articles. Topics must be approved in advance by the professor. These papers will be presented to the class during the last workshop (Nov 19-20). Papers are to be typed (Times New Roman 12-point font) and double-spaced with bibliographic entries and a title page. Attention is to be given to correct spelling, grammar, and punctuation according to the latest edition of *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations* (Turabian). Papers are due by Thur, Nov 21 (submit via Blackboard folder). The papers will be made available to each member of the class via Blackboard. The research paper will be evaluated according to content value in the area of worship and theology; creativity in approach to the subject matter; and clarity and accuracy of writing style. The 15-minute presentation made in class may include visual aids, such as PowerPoint, etc.
4. Individual book assignment. Each student will choose a book from a selected reading list. After reading the text, the student will write a book review outlining the theological contributions of the book to the field of theology of worship. A summary report will be made to the class during the first workshop (Sep 24).
5. Blog. Each student will maintain a blog dealing with reflections on assigned topics regarding worship and theology. The blog will be available through Blackboard. Students are encouraged to read the blog posts of their classmates each week. More detailed instructions will be provided at the time of the first assignment.
6. Congregational song lyric analysis project. Each student will complete a doctrinal content analysis project of congregational song in the student's home church over an eight-week period of worship services. As a beginning point, the student will be collecting a list of all congregational songs used in corporate worship over the eight-week period of time. (This will be referred to as the *corpus*.) If the church has multiple services or time formats, only one service per week should be considered. All data should be confined to the same service time (for example: 11:00 AM Sunday services for the eight consecutive weeks). More information on this assignment will be given in the first few weeks of the course. As a result of the project, a written document should report the findings, highlighting particularly the significant observations, including high percentages, low percentages, and surprises. The student should also offer some commentary and interpretation as a part of the observation process. Length as needed (min. expectation would be 2000- 2500 words). The student will have the opportunity to report on findings during the final workshop (Nov 19-20). The written paper (due in Blackboard on Thur, Nov 19) will provide the informational basis for the class presentation but does not need to be read. It is expected that the presentation to the class will present the salient findings in ways other than merely reading the paper. Due to the scope of this assignment, it is weighted as 20% of the final grade.
7. Final paper. As a course summary assignment, each student will write a 1500-word reflection-integration paper dealing with concepts encountered during the course (course texts and discussion, lectures, projects, personal research) which have impacted the student's understanding of theology of worship and how the content may be integrated into the student's life and ministry in the future. This paper will be in lieu of a final exam. **The due date will be the final day of classes for the semester, Thursday, December 10, 2015.**

Evaluation:

Course reading, web conference (1 session), and participation in class discussions	10%
Weekly online forum discussions	15%
Weekly individual worship theology blog entries	10%
Paper on OT <i>or</i> NT topic and presentation	20%
Book Review on selected text	10%
Lyric content analysis paper (15%) and presentation (5%)	20%
Final paper	15%

Extra credit will be given for attendance at optional Webex meetings scheduled during the semester.

(Important Note: Attendance at workshop meetings is mandatory. Failure to attend all of these sessions will result in failure to pass the course.)

Textbooks:

Block, Daniel. *For the Glory of God: Recovering a Biblical Theology of Worship*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2014.

Peterson, David. *Engaging with God: A Biblical Theology of Worship*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 1992/2002.

Optional:

Beale, G.K. *We Become What We Worship: A Biblical Theology of Idolatry*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2008.

Course Schedule and Reading Assignments:

Date Week of:	Course Content	Reading Assignment(s)
Aug 24-30 (Unit 1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Course begins ▪ Web meeting- Course Overview (Thur, Aug 22) ▪ Introduction to course ▪ Worship and Creation ▪ A worship word study 	Web meeting, Thur, Aug 27 (7PM to 8 PM CENTRAL) Block, 1-27 (Ch. 1) Peterson, 55-79 (Ch. 2)
Aug 31- Sep 6 (Unit 2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Idolatry ▪ The Object of our worship ▪ Acceptable worship 	Block, 29-80 (Ch. 2-3) Peterson, 147-151 (Ch 5)
Sep 7-13 (Unit 3)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Worship and Covenant in the First Testament ▪ Tabernacle/Temple and Priesthood in First Testament ▪ Sacrificial System ▪ Offerings in worship 	Peterson, 23-54 (Ch. 1) Block, 247-263 (Ch.10)
Sep 14-20 (Unit 4)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Worship and the Ten Commandments ▪ Worship and Holy Living in the First Covenant ▪ The Dimensions of True Worship of YHWH ▪ Worship within the Family Structure 	Block , 81-139 (Ch. 4-5)
Sep 21-27 (Unit 5)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sacred Space and Worship ▪ Tabernacle/Temple ▪ Jesus and the New Temple ▪ Worship in Spirit and in Truth ▪ WORKSHOP INTENSIVE #1 (Sep 24) 	Block, 297-332 (Ch 12) Peterson, 80-102 (Ch 3); and 136-144 (Ch 5)
Sep 28-Oct 4 (Unit 6)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ OT priesthood ▪ Jesus Christ as our High Priest 	Block, 333-360 (Ch 13) Peterson, 228-254 (Ch 8)
Oct 5-11 (Unit 7)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The ordinances of Baptism and the Lord's Supper as worship 	Block, 141-167 (Ch 6) Peterson, 108-130 (Ch 4); and 215-218 (Ch 7)
Oct 12-18 (Unit 8)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ God's Word in worship 	Block, 169-192 (Ch 7)
Oct 19-25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No class (FALL BREAK) 	
Oct 26- Nov 1 (Unit 9)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Prayer as worship 	Block, 193-220 (Ch 8)
Nov 2-8 (Unit 10)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Music as worship 	Block, 221-245 (Ch 9)
Nov 9-15 (Unit 11)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Serving God in the corporate gathering 	Peterson, 194-221
Nov 16-22 (Unit 12)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Participation in the Enactment (Drama) of Worship ▪ WORKSHOP INTENSIVE #2 (Nov 19-20) 	Block, 271-296 (Ch 11)
Nov 23-29	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No classes (THANKSGIVING) 	
Nov 30- Dec 6 (Unit 13)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Worship in the heavenly realm 	Peterson, 261-279 (Ch 9)
Dec 7-10 (Unit 14)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Worship as life and ministry ▪ Final paper due Dec 10 	Peterson, 166-188 (Ch 6) Paper due (Dec 10)

Selected Bibliography

- Allen, Ronald and Gordon Borrer. *Worship: Rediscovering the Missing Jewel*. Portland, OR: Multnomah Press, 1982.
- Balentine, Samuel E. *The Torah's Vision of Worship*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1999.
- Bateman, Herbert w., IV (ed.) *Authentic Worship*. Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel, 2002.
- Begbie, Jeremy, ed. *Beholding the Glory: Incarnation through the Arts*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2000.
- _____. *Theology, Music and Time*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 2000.
- Berkeley, James D., ed. *Leadership Handbooks of Practical Theology*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1992. vol. 1: *Word and Worship*.
- Best, Harold M. *Music through the Eyes of Faith*. San Francisco: Harper, 1993.
- _____. *Unceasing Worship: Biblical Perspectives on Worship and the Arts*. Downers Grove, IL: Intervarsity Press, 2003.
- Bond, Gilbert. I. *Community, Communitas, and Cosmos: Toward a Phenomenological Interpretation and Theology of Traditional Afro-Christian Worship*. New York: University Press of America, 2002.
- Bradshaw, Paul F. *The Search for the Origins of Christian Worship*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1992.
- Braun, Joachim. *Music in Ancient Israel/Palestine*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2002.
- Burkhart, John E. *Worship: A Searching Examination of the Liturgical Experience*. Philadelphia: The Westminster Press, 1982.
- Carroll, Joseph S. *How to Worship Jesus Christ*. Chicago, IL: Moody Press, 1984.
- Carson, D. A. (ed.) *Worship by the Book*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2002.
- Dawn, Marva. *Reaching Out without Dumbing Down: A Theology of Worship for This Urgent Time*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1995.
- Doran, Carol and Thomas H. Traeger. *Open to Glory: Renewing Worship in the Congregation*. Valley Forge: Judson Press, 1983.
- Eskew, Harry and Hugh T. McElrath. *Sing with Understanding*. Nashville: Broadman, 1980.
- Hayford, Jack. *Manifest Presence*. Grand Rapids: Baker Publishing, 2005.
- Hill, Andrew. *Enter His Courts with Praise! Old Testament Worship for the New Testament Church*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1993.
- Hurtado, Larry W. *At the Origins of Christian Worship: The Context and Character of Earliest Christian Devotion*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans Publishing, 1999.
- Jones, Cheslyn, Geoffrey Wainwright, and Edward Yarnald. *The Study of Liturgy*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1978.

- Kendall, R.T. *Before the Throne*. Nashville: Broadman and Holman, 1993.
- Kiefert, Patrick R. *Welcoming the Stranger: A Public Theology of Worship and Evangelism*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1992.
- Kimball, Dan. *Emerging Worship*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2004.
- Leisch, Barry. *People in the Presence of God: Models and Directions for Worship*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.
- Lussier, Ernest. *Adore the Lord: Adoration Viewed Through the Old Testament*. New York: Alba House, 1978.
- Martin, Ralph P. *The Worship of God*. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1982.
- _____. *Worship in the Early Church*. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1964.
- Ortland, Anne. *Up With Worship: How to Quit Playing Church* revised ed., Venture, CA: Regal Books, 1982.
- Owens, Ron. *Return to Worship: A God-Centered Approach*. Nashville: Broadman and Holman, 1999.
- Pass, David B. *Music and the Church: A Theology of Church Music*. Nashville: Broadman Press, 1989.
- Peterson, David. *Engaging with God: A Biblical Theology of Worship*. Downer's Grove, IL: IVP, 1992.
- Redman, Robb. *The Great Worship Awakening: Singing a New Song in the Postmodern Church*. San Francisco, CA: Jossey-Bass, 2002.
- Segler, Franklin M. and Randall Bradley. *Christian Worship: Its Theology and Practice*. 3rd edition. Nashville: Broadman and Holman, 2006.
- Sharp, Michael and Argile Smith. *Holy Gatherings: A Leader's Guide for Engaging the Congregation in Corporate Worship*. Denver, CO: Outskirts Press, 2006.
- Stallings, Joseph. *Rediscovering Passover: A Complete Guide for Christians*. San Jose, CA: Resource Publications, 1988.
- Stookey, Laurence Hull. *Calendar: Christ's Time for the Church*. Nashville: Abingdon, 1996.
- Talley, Thomas J. *Origins of the Liturgical Year*. New York: Pueblo Publishing Company, 1986.
- Von Allmen, J. J. *Worship: Its Theology and Practice*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1965.
- Warden, Michael, ed. *Experience God in Worship*. Loveland, CO: Group, 2000.
- Webber, Robert. *Ancient-Future Time*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2004.
- _____. *Signs of Wonder: The Phenomenon of Convergence in Modern Liturgical And Charismatic Churches*. Nashville: Abbott Martyn, 1992.

- _____. *The Complete Library of Christian Worship*. 7 vols. Nashville: Star Song Publishing Group, 1993.
- _____. *Worship Is a Verb*. Nashville: Abbott Martyn, 1992.
- _____. *Worship Old and New*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 1982.
- Whaley, Vernon M. *The Dynamics of Corporate Worship*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2001.
- White, James F. *Introduction to Christian Worship*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1982.
- _____. *Documents of Christian Worship*. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 1992.
- White, James F. and Susan J. White. *Church Architecture: Building and Renovating for Christian Worship*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1988.
- _____. *Church Architecture: Building and Renovating for Christian Worship*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1988.
- White, Susan J. *Christian Worship and Technological Change*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1994.
- Wiersbe, Warren W. *Real Worship: It will Transform Your Life*. Nashville: Oliver Nelson, 1986.
- Williamson, Robert L. *Effective Public Prayer*. Nashville: Broadman Press, 1960.
- William, William H. and Robert L. Wilson. *Preaching and Worship in the Small Church*. Nashville: Abingdon, 1980.
- Willimon, William. *The Service of God: Christian Work and Worship*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1983.
- _____. *Worship as Pastoral Care*. Nashville: Abingdon, 1979.
- Witvliet, John D. *Worship Seeking Understanding*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2003.
- Wren, Brian. *Praying Twice: The Music and Words of Congregational Song*. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2000.