



MUWM5303 Planning and Leading Worship

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary

Division of Church Music Ministries

Fall Semester 2016 (Weekly Classroom with Workshops)

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Mission Statement

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.

Core Value Focus

The seminary has five core values.

1. **Doctrinal Integrity:** Knowing that the Bible is the Word of God, we believe it, teach it, proclaim it, and submit to it. This course addresses Doctrinal Integrity specifically by preparing students to grow in understanding and interpreting of the Bible.
2. **Spiritual Vitality:** We are a worshiping community emphasizing both personal spirituality and gathering together as a Seminary family for the praise and adoration of God and instruction in His Word. Spiritual Vitality is addressed by reminding students that a dynamic relationship with God is vital for effective ministry.
3. **Mission Focus:** 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. This course addresses Mission Focus by helping students understand the biblical foundations for fulfilling the Great Commission and the Great Commandments.
4. **Characteristic Excellence:** What we do, we do to the utmost of our abilities and resources as a testimony to the glory of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Characteristic Excellence is addressed by preparing students to excel in their ability to interpret Scripture, which is foundational to effective ministry.
5. **Servant Leadership:** We follow the model of Jesus and exert leadership and influence through the nurture and encouragement of those around us. Servant Leadership is modeled by classroom deportment.

The core value focus for this academic year is *Characteristic Excellence*.

Curriculum Competencies

NOBTS faculty members realize that all ministers need to develop specific competencies if they are going to have an effective ministry. To increase the likelihood of NOBTS graduates having an effective ministry, the faculty developed a competency-based curriculum after identifying seven essential competencies necessary for effective ministry. All graduates are expected to have at least a minimum level of competency in all of the following areas:

1. **Biblical Exposition:** to interpret and communicate the Bible accurately.
2. **Christian Theological Heritage:** To understand and interpret Christian theological heritage and Baptist polity for the church.
3. **Disciple Making:** To stimulate church health through mobilizing the church for missions, evangelism, discipleship, and church growth.
4. **Interpersonal Skills:** To perform pastoral care effectively, with skills in communication and conflict management.
5. **Servant Leadership:** To serve churches effectively through team ministry.
6. **Spiritual and Character Formation:** To provide moral leadership by modeling and mentoring Christian character and devotion.
7. **Worship Leadership:** To facilitate worship effectively.

The curriculum competencies addressed in this course are: Worship Leadership; Servant Leadership; Interpersonal Skills.

Course Description

This course will focus on training worship leaders in the art of designing and leading corporate worship services. Emphasis is given to practical aspects of worship leadership, such as planning worship services, administrating logistical considerations, and rehearsing musical groups such as choirs, vocal ensembles, and instrumental groups.

Student Learning Outcomes

1. The student will understand the basic theological foundations and historical elements which inform the process of planning and leading corporate worship services in the local church.
2. The student will increase his/her skill in planning biblically-grounded and culturally-connected worship services which both engage worshipers and disciple them toward the goal of being fully-devoted followers of Christ.
3. The student will develop an appreciation for leadership issues related to human resources in worship planning (worship planning teams, pastoral collaboration, and vocal and instrumental rehearsals).
4. The student will become familiar with planning tools and online resources which can aid in the planning and facilitating of corporate worship.
5. The student will intentionally structure her/his life so as to create opportunities for encountering God personally through a life devoted to worshiping Him.

Course Teaching Methodology

The course will involve the following methodologies: Weekly classroom meetings- **Thursdays 2:00PM-3:50PM** Sellers Conference Room; lecture/discussion; written assignments utilizing video and web-based resources; workshop faculty lecture and presentations by faculty and students; individual research projects; video-based self-observation. Blackboard (www.nobts.blackboard.com) will be used for submission of all written and video assignments for the course. All course assignments should be uploaded to this site in the appropriate folders.

Textbooks

Required:

Cherry, C. M. *The Worship Architect: A Blueprint for Designing Culturally Relevant and Biblically Faithful Services*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2010.

Cherry, C.M., Mary M. Brown, and Christopher T. Bounds. *Selecting Worship Songs: A Guide for Leaders*. Marion, IN: Triangle Publishing, 2011.

Scheer, Greg. *The Art of Worship: A Musician's Guide to Leading Modern Worship*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2006.

Optional:

Cherry, C. M. *The Special Service Worship Architect: Blueprints for Weddings, Funerals, Baptisms, Holy Communion, and Other Occasions*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2013.

Noland, Rory. *The Worshiping Artist: Equipping You and Your Ministry Team to Lead Others in Worship*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2007.

Course Requirements

1. Students will read the three required texts (see textbook list above) and will participate in weekly classroom discussion throughout the course. Course reading and lectures by the professor will provide the underlying content for classroom discussions. **Due date: weekly due dates (consult course calendar)**
2. The student will be given weekly assignments, including observations of online videos of worship leadership, exercises in planning worship services with specific parameters, and personal critiques of worship leading in live contexts. **Due date: weekly due dates (consult course calendar)**
3. In addition to the weekly required class meetings, two required workshop meetings will be held during the semester: **Thu, Sep 8** (1:00PM to 9:00PM Central Time) and **Thu, Nov 17** (1:00PM to 9:00PM Central Time). The workshops will be offered in New Orleans and CIV to North Georgia and Orlando. The student must be in attendance for all workshop meetings in order to receive credit for the course. Students are also encouraged to attend the worship conference (NOLA UNITED) hosted by NOBTS on Saturday, Sep 10 from 9AM until 2:00PM).
4. Each student will be given a topic for research to be presented at the first workshop meeting on Sep 8. Presentation times will be limited to 20 minutes each. Please provide a copy of handouts for all persons in the course. Possible project topics for these presentations may include the following:
 - Worship planning tools (e.g. planningcenteronline.com, LifewayWorship, etc.-Choose one to demonstrate)
 - Downloadable musical charts for worship
 - LifewayWorship.com- musical resources and planning tool
 - Video resources for use in corporate worship (ex. Worship House media, etc.)
 - Online resources for helping your instrumentalists
 - Resources for vocal rehearsals (including warm-ups)
 - Developing a worship choir
 - Musical arrangements for church choirs

- Resources for planning services for The Lord's Supper
- Training your team in the (non-program specific) production and operation of media-presentations for worship (ideas, resources, guidelines) or overview of a specific media presenter product (eg: *ProPresenter™*, etc.)
- Effective public reading of Scripture in worship gatherings
- Who can lead? Guidelines and policies for praise-team and choir members
- Other (with professors' approval)

Due date: First workshop meeting, Sep 8, 2016

5. Personal Devotional Goals Plan. Toward the beginning of the semester, the student will develop a semester-length personal devotional/worship plan which encompasses the following elements: personal Bible Study, prayer, ministry and service, and Sabbath. The student should prayerfully structure the plan with clear, concise goals. A reflection journal is encouraged for recording insights and spiritual progress. Submit the plan to professor in outline form at the first workshop. **Due date: First workshop meeting, Sep 8, 2016**
6. Song analysis/teaching project. This multi-part assignment will culminate with a written report.
 - 1) Select a worship song and evaluate the lyrics according to the rubric provided in the text *Selecting Worship Songs*. Provide a one page written report of the evaluation.
 - 2) Aurally analyze the worship song (from a recording) and describe the analysis in terms of instrumentation, texture, form, and recording effects.
 - 3) Construct a brief teaching plan (one page outline form) outlining how the song will be taught to one of the following groups of musicians: worship band instrumentalists and singers; OR instrumentalists and mixed choir.
 - 4) Videotape the rehearsal in which the song is taught according to the teaching plan
 - 5) Afterward, review the video of the session. Make a written report of this assignment, including the following: your aural analysis of the selected song, your one page teaching plan for the target group, the analysis/reflection of the rehearsal video-recording; and a reflection of what you learned throughout the process. Prepare copies of your song lyric evaluation and your one-page teaching outline for the second workshop. Be prepared to present your information to the group. **Due date: Second workshop meeting, Nov 17, 2016**
7. Each student is expected to provide musical worship leadership in the context of a local church during this semester or have the opportunity to lead group worship through music at least two times. This will provide the context for the video self-confrontation (VSC) experiences. The student will be expected to prepare video recordings of two different **recent** worship services which she or he has led. (Note: For the purpose of this assignment, every effort should be made to focus the recording on the student's leadership in the service.) The recordings should then be uploaded to YouTube. Access to the YouTube videos should be made available at the second workshop. A VSC self-evaluation form should be completed and placed in the "Assignments" folder in Blackboard for each of the two VSC recordings, noting positive strengths and areas for improvement as well as specific challenges related to the specific worship context. Information included on the form should also include a link to the YouTube video. A sample self-observation form will be made available, but the student is encouraged to augment the form with any other pertinent information for analysis applicable to the leadership context. **Due dates: Oct 7 and Nov 11**
8. Final Reflection Paper. The topic and details for this paper TBA. **Due date: Fri, December 9, 2016** (in lieu of a final exam).

Evaluation of Grade

The student's grade will be computed as follows:

- 15% Required reading and class discussion participation
- 25% Weekly class assignments
- 10% Individual research and presentation at workshop #1
- 15% Song analysis/teaching project
- 20% Two VSR projects
- 5% Devotional plan
- 10% Final reflection paper

Extra credit: Up to 5% additional credit may be earned by attending a conference for worship leaders during the semester AND by submitting a brief report of insights gained regarding worship leadership/planning (min. 500 words). The report must be submitted by the last day of class for credit. The NOLA United Conference on Saturday, Sep 10 at NOBTS provides an extra-credit opportunity.

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.

Due dates for assignments

All assignments are due at the time of the due date. A half-letter grade per day will be applied to all assignments submitted beyond the due date (Mon-Fri) unless the professor has granted an extension request made prior to the due date.

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

Unit/Week	Date (M-F)	Course topic	Textbook Reading	Assignments Due*
1	Aug 22-26	Syllabus overview (Webex mtg) Log on to Blackboard; Developing a plan for personal spiritual growth as a worship leader	Acquire textbooks	
2	Aug 29-Sep 2	Foundations for corporate worship	Worship Architect, 1-33	
3	Sep 5-9	The general order of worship; the gathering	Worship Architect, 35-66	Workshop Thu, Sep 8 (1:00PM to 9:00PM Central) Individual Research Presentations due: Thu, Sep 8 Personal Devotional Plan due: Thu, Sep 8 NOLA United Conf, Sat, Sep 10 (opt. credit)
4	Sep 12-16	The Word in worship; the Lord's Table	Worship Architect, 67-96	
5	Sep 19-23	Alternative response to the Word; the Sending	Worship Architect, 97-121	
6	Sep 26-30	Prayer in worship; Music in worship	Worship Architect, 123-177	
7	Oct 3-7	Music in worship Selecting Worship Songs: Theological considerations	Worship Architect, 179-203 Selecting Worship Songs, 1-27	VSR #1 Due Oct 7
8	Oct 10-14	Selecting Worship Songs: Lyrical and musical considerations	Selecting Worship Songs, 29-57	
	Oct 17-21	FALL BREAK		
9	Oct 24-28	Principles of worship style;	Worship Architect, 219-242	
10	Oct 31-Nov 4	Using a worship team;	Scheer, 9-54	
11	Nov 7-11	Building repertoire;	Scheer, 55-86	VSR #2 Due Nov 11
12	Nov 14-18	Service structure; practical planning techniques;	Scheer, 87-120	Workshop Thu, Nov 17 (1:00PM to 9:00PM Central); VSR presentation due Song analysis/teaching project due
	Nov 21-25	Thanksgiving Break		
13	Nov 28-Dec 2	Instruments and vocalists in worship Hymns in contemporary context	Scheer, 121-190	Blackboard
14	Dec 5-8	Rehearsing the worship musicians	Scheer, 191-217	Blackboard
15	Dec 9-15	FINAL EXAM PERIOD		Final reflection paper due Fri, Dec 9

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