



PATH 5300: Worship Leadership
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
Pastoral Ministries Division
Fall Semester 2016

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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.

We are here not 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.

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: Servant Leadership; Worship Leadership.

Course Description

This introductory course will enable the student to plan, facilitate, and give spiritually-directed leadership to people in worship by studying theological and historical foundations, church music, and worship practices. Additional attention will be given to platform behavior. [*Graduate Catalog*]

Student Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course the student who satisfactorily fulfills the requirements should be able to:

1. Understand the biblical, theological, and historical foundations of Christian worship as a form of religious expression;
2. Appreciate the forms of biblical worship in the light of the broader cultural environment in which Israel and the Church expressed their faith;
3. Understand the worship elements, as well as various designs and philosophies, used in the planning of Christian worship in evangelical churches;
4. Evaluate a variety of worship forms in light of a biblical theology of Christian worship;
5. Appreciate important worship issues facing local churches today;
6. Lead worship in a local church based upon principles for faithful worship that brings glory to God and transformation to those worshipping; and
7. Value staff relationships in planning and leading worship.

Course Teaching Methodology

The course will involve the following methodologies:

lectures, debate, discussions, worksheets, DVDs, and student presentations will be used.

Embedded Assignment (*completed by all students for all the sections of this course*)

FINAL EXAM: Each student will write a minimum 250-word response to **each** of the assigned exam questions. These questions will be posted on Blackboard during the final week of the course.

Please complete the assignment according to the syllabus and rubric.

GRADING RUBRIC FOR PATH5300 EMBEDDED ASSIGNMENT

Understanding:

0 1 2 3 4 Student understands biblical guidelines and specific biblical texts for worship leadership.

0 1 2 3 4 Student understands the major critical issues and challenges in corporate worship leadership.

0 1 2 3 4 Student understands the differences among major strategies of corporate worship designs.

Application:

0 1 2 3 4 Student applies ideas discussed in class and textbooks.

0 1 2 3 4 Student develops appropriate, specific, detailed corporate worship plans, reflective of a biblical theology.

0 1 2 3 4 Student uses appropriate corporate worship elements.

Communication:

0 1 2 3 4 Student expresses himself/herself with clarity, coherence, relevance, and professionalism.

0 1 2 3 4 Student organizes material in a logical manner.

Assessment Scale Criteria

4 -- Exceptional quality, demonstrating superior workmanship, critical thinking, assimilation, and scholarship; exam completed on time; demonstrates specific, accurate and relevant use of class textbook and course concepts; reflects thoughtful consideration and addresses specific issues appropriately, constructively, and relevantly

3 -- Better quality than the class average; exam completed on time; demonstrates that every detail of the exam has been given careful attention

2 -- Met the requirements satisfactorily; demonstrates a quality at least comparable to the class average; met minimum expectations; exam completed on time

1 -- Low passing; below the quality of the class average; student is not prepared for advanced work

0 -- Unsatisfactory work; reflects little or no use of specific references to class textbook and course lectures; no evidence of critical thinking and assimilation of concepts

Textbooks

The Bible

Engle, Paul and Basden, Paul (ed.) *Exploring the Worship Spectrum: 6 Views* (Zondervan, 2004; and as an e-book)

Sharp, Michael and Smith, Argile. *Holy Gatherings* (available from the authors, LifeWay campus bookstore in New Orleans, Barnes & Noble, and Amazon.com)

Recommended

Block, Daniel I. *For the Glory of God*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2014.

Course Requirements

1. **BLACKBOARD:** You will confirm an account and your enrollment in the course Blackboard. If you are unable to access the course Blackboard or experience technical difficulties, please contact the NOBTS Blackboard Helpdesk. Please make sure you are registered on Blackboard in the correct PATH5300 section.
DUE: First Friday of Semester
- Note: All course assignments must be submitted via the course Blackboard. Documents emailed to the professors will not be accepted.*
2. **BOOK REVIEW:** Each student will prepare a review of the textbook *Exploring the Worship Spectrum* by Paul Engle (editor). The review should include the following: author and bibliographic entry; a brief summation of the material presented from each of the six divisions of the book addressing the various perspectives; and a personal “take away” section in which the student provides commentary on helpful aspects gleaned from each section. Consult “Guidelines for a Book Review”.
DUE: Week 5
3. **WORSHIP ASSESSMENT CRITERIA:** Based on course readings and sample assessment tools as well as outside resources, students will develop a 2 – 3 page worship assessment instrument to be used in the observation and written evaluation of three distinct worship services.
DUE: Week 8
4. **WORSHIP OBSERVATIONS:** Each student will attend three (3) distinct worship services (e.g., Jewish, Eastern Orthodox, Roman Catholic, Charismatic, Vineyard, Episcopalian), including both an aesthetic and a kinesthetic design. Observe as a sincere “seeker of God” and be open to encountering His Presence. Using the biblical worship assessment tool previously developed, each student will provide a written observation of each of the worship services. Strengths and weaknesses as well as recommendations for improvement will be reported in separate 1500-word evaluation essays (one for each of the three services). An on-site observation of the worship services is required rather than video observation.
DUE: Week 11
5. **DESIGN WORSHIP SERVICES:** Design three distinct worship services using each of the three following models: aesthetic; kinesthetic; and blended. Information on these models will be provided in course lectures and *Holy Gatherings*. Designs should include a worship guide outline as well as a double-spaced, two- to three-page commentary explaining how the particular worship elements are used and how they should flow in the particular worship plan. Issues such as logistics, sequence of events, planning intention, and potential impact should be noted in the plan.
DUE: Week 13
6. **GROUP PROJECT PRESENTATION:** Students will collaborate in small groups to explore and present material related to issues of worship as presented in the text *Exploring the Worship Spectrum*. Group presentations will focus on engaging the class in a discussion of the assigned topics.
DUE: Weeks 13-16

7. FINAL EXAM:

This assignment is an embedded assignment that will be completed by all students for all the sections of this course. The rubric for grading this assignment is attached to the syllabus. Please complete the assignment according to the syllabus and this rubric.

Each student will write a minimum 250-word response to **each** of the assigned exam questions. These questions will be posted on Blackboard during the final week of the course.

DUE: Week 17

Evaluation of Grade

The student's grade will be computed as follows:

1. Attendance, participation, and meaningful contributions in class discussion	10%
2. Book review	10%
3. Worship service designs	20%
4. Group presentation project	10%
5. Observation and Evaluation of worship services	25%
6. Final Exam	25%

Late Work

Assignments turned in past the date due will incur a minimum penalty of one letter grade per day. Assignments will not be accepted more than two weeks past the date due without express prior permission of the professors. In such cases a grade of D will be the maximum grade given. No graduating senior will be permitted to graduate unless his or her assignments are submitted in a timely manner. **Note: In order to receive credit for the class, all assignments must be completed.**

Technical or Blackboard Issues

The course professors are not responsible for resolving technical or Blackboard issues. If the student experiences difficulties please contact the NOBTS ITC Support Team.

Selfserve@nobts.edu - Email for technical questions/support requests with the selfserve.nobts.edu website (access to online registration, financial account, online transcript, etc.)

BlackboardHelpDesk@nobts.edu - Email for technical questions/support requests with the NOBTS Blackboard Learning Management System

ITCSupport@nobts.edu - Email for general technical questions/support requests

504.816.8180 - Call for any technical questions/support requests

www.NOBTS.edu/itc/ - General NOBTS technical help information is provided on this website

Netiquette: appropriate online behavior

Each student is expected to demonstrate appropriate Christian behavior when working online and to interact with other students in a fashion that will promote learning and respect for the opinions of others in the course. A spirit of Christian charity is expected at all times in the online environment.

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

NOBTS has a no tolerance policy for plagiarism. Plagiarism in certain cases may result in expulsion from the seminary. See the NOBTS Student Handbook and Graduate Catalog for definition, penalties, and policies associated with plagiarism. Students are given the task of writing in order to help them learn how to think critically about the ideas of others and to present the results of their analysis in a readable form. Plagiarism defeats these purposes by cheating the student out of an opportunity to grow. Plagiarism is a failure to distinguish between the work of the student and the work of others, either intentionally or unintentionally. Students that plagiarize will be reported to the Dean of Students and a grade of “F” will be assigned. Remember the words of the proverb: “Whoever walks in integrity walks securely, but he who makes his ways crooked will be found out” (Prov 10:19).

Disclaimer

Flexibility is a critical attitude to ministry faithfulness. Therefore, the student will be expected to keep a good attitude when things change. This independent study proposes a course of study for a given time period. However, occasionally things change. The professor reserves the right to adjust the syllabus when he reasonably thinks that doing so will enhance the learning experience of the student.

In Case Of A Declared Campus Evacuation

Students are to check the NOBTS electronic Blackboard at www.nobts.edu within four days of evacuation.

Class Policies

1. Attendance and Class Participation: As noted above, attendance and class participation are necessary for meeting the requirements of this class. Students will be expected to attend all classes, per the published policy in the academic catalog. Students are expected to be attentive and prepared for each class session. Students who are engaged in private conversations or doing work for other classes may be asked to leave the class; repeat violations may result in removal from the course. Rude or disruptive behavior is also not permitted.
2. Laptop Guidelines: Laptops are permitted in class as long as they are used for taking notes or accessing Blackboard materials related to this particular course. Students using laptops are requested to sit in the front of the classroom for accountability purposes. Gaming, e-mail, social networking, and web browsing of any kind are strictly prohibited. Failure to heed this policy will result in dismissal from the class session; repeat violations may result in removal from the course. Any student using social media during a class meeting may be asked to leave the class; repeat offenders may be asked to leave for the remainder of the semester.
3. Cell Phones: Students should be conscientious of other classmates by silencing all cell phones. If a student’s cell phone goes off in class his/her class participation grade will be docked.
4. Late Work: Because of the nature of this class, no late work is permitted without explicit approval of the professor. If you cannot meet a deadline or anticipate being unable to do so, notify the professor. No graduating senior will be permitted to graduate unless his or her assignments are submitted in a timely manner.

Course Schedule

Week	Date	Assignment Due
1	Aug 23	
	Aug 25	BLACKBOARD REGISTRATION
2	Aug 30	
	Sept 1	
3	Sept 6	
	Sept 8	
4	Sept 13	
	Sept 15	
5	Sept 20	
	Sept 22	BOOK REVIEW
6	Sept 27	
	Sept 29	
7	Oct 4	
	Oct 6	
8	Oct 11	
	Oct 13	WORSHIP ASSESSMENT CRITERIA
9	Oct 18	<i>FALL BREAK</i>
	Oct 20	
10	Oct 25	
	Oct 27	
11	Nov 1	
	Nov 3	WORSHIP OBSERVATIONS
12	Nov 8	
	Nov 10	
13	Nov 15	WORSHIP SERVICE DESIGNS; GROUP PROJECT PRESENTATION
	Nov 17	GROUP PROJECT PRESENTATION
14	Nov 22	<i>THANKSGIVING BREAK</i>
	Nov 24	
15	Nov 29	GROUP PROJECT PRESENTATION
	Dec 1	GROUP PROJECT PRESENTATION
16	Dec 6	GROUP PROJECT PRESENTATION
	Dec 8	GROUP PROJECT PRESENTATION
FINAL EXAM		

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