



MUHI5303 Contemporary Hymnody

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary

Division of Church Music Ministries

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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 department.

The core value focus for this academic year is Servant Leadership.

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 competency addressed in this course is Worship Leadership.

Course Description

This course is a study of the theology of the texts and the congregational accessibility of the songs composed in the late Twentieth and early Twenty-first Centuries as they relate to the basic doctrines of the church and worship.

Student Learning Outcomes

By the end of the semester the student will be able to:

1. Analyze representative texts from various contemporary authors in regard to doctrines presented and to evaluate their usefulness in congregational worship.
2. Recognize doctrinal strengths, weaknesses, and trends in the texts of contemporary authors.
3. Evaluate contemporary hymnody in light of congregational accessibility.
4. Demonstrate a capacity to make application of principles of biblical worship and music to the worship and music of the twenty-first century church.

Course Teaching Methodology

This course will use reading, discussion and practical exercises and assignments to enhance the development of Christ's character in the student's life.

Textbooks

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

Bradley, Randall. *From Memory to Imagination: Reforming the Church's Music*. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans, 2012.

Optional:

Cherry, Constance. *The Music Architect: Blueprints for Engaging Worshipers in Song*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2016.

Course Requirements

1. Students will participate in all class discussions and weekly Blackboard discussions based on the weekly reading assignments with a minimum of 3 posts per week relating to the given topic. {SLO 4}
2. Students will complete an Assessment of the Canon of Song presently used in the congregation in which you serve or are a member. Assessment should include the following: [1] Listing of the songs used in worship over the last 6 months, [2] Theological emphasis of song {doctrine emphasized & which, personal testimony, personal experience, etc.} [3] Indication if song is declarative [addressed to God or to congregation], or an admonishment to respond, or a mixture of both. [4] Evaluation of the melody of the song; that is, how suited it is for congregational participation. Due: To be presented in the First Hybrid Meeting. {SLO 1, 2, 3}
3. Students will complete and present one formal paper which will evaluate the 5 texts of one of the listed contemporary composers providing [1] a theological evaluation of what doctrines are presented, [2] whether the texts are narrative, systematic or scriptural in their content, and [3] an evaluation of the music that includes how suited it is for congregational participation. Papers are due two weeks before presentation and should be emailed to all other students 2 weeks before the last meeting to allow time to prepare a response. Authors from which to choose:
Lenny LeBlanc Paul Baloche Chris Tomlin Tim Hughes Big Daddy Weave
Matt Redman Michael W. Smith Twila Paris Brenton Brown Laura Story
Darlene Zschech Dennis Jerrigan Billy Foote Rich Mullins Travis Cottrell
Graham Kendrick Keith Getty Stuart Townend Israel Houghton Tommy Walker
David Crowder Christy Knockels Bethel Music Cari Job Jeremy Riddle
Brian Doerkson Rebecca St. James Hillsong United
The paper should be written in acceptable style and be 15-20 double-spaced pages of text, following the guidelines of the current edition of Turabian. The presentation of the paper should be one hour in length. {SLO 1, 2, 3}
4. Students will complete the Assessment of the Canon of Song in the Appendices of the Cherry text. {SLO 1,4}

Course Evaluation

Discussions, and Readings	25%
Assessment 1	25%
Assessment 2	25%
Formal Paper and Presentation	25%

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.

[Other paragraphs might be included, such as: expectations for reading assignments, policy on late assignments, academic honesty, classroom demeanor, extra credit]

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

Date		Ruth	Bradley
Aug 21			
Aug 28		Chapter 1	Introduction
Sept 4	Hybrid Meeting: Assessing Your Canon of Song 1	Chapter 2	Chapter 1
Sept 11		Chapter 3	Chapter 2
Sept 18		Chapter 4	Chapter 3
Sept 25		Chapter 5	Chapter 4
Oct 2		Chapter 6	Chapter 5
Oct 9		Chapter 7	Chapter 6
Oct 16	Fall Break	Chapter 8	Chapter 7
Oct 23		Conclusion	Chapter 8
Nov 6			Chapter 9
Nov 13	Hybrid Meeting [Paper Presentations]		Chapter 10
Nov 20	Thanksgiving Break		
Nov 27			Chapter 11
Dec 4		Cherry: Assessing Your Canon of Song 2	Evaluation
Dec 11			

Selected Bibliography

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- Pierce, Timothy M. *Enthroned on Our Praise: An Old Testament Theology of Worship*. Nashville: B & H Academic, 2008.
- Polman, Bert. The Praise and Worship Hit Parade: A Brief Analysis of Some of the Most Sung Choruses of 1990, @ *Reformed Worship*, located at http://209.200.121.40/magazine/article.cfm?article_id=668, accessed 9 September, 2010.
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- Saliers, Don E. *Music and Theology*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2007.
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- Wood, Robert and Brian Walrath. *The Message in the Music: Studying Contemporary Praise and Worship*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2007.