



MUWM5300-01 Theology of Worship
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
Division of Church Music Ministries
Fall Semester 2017 (Classroom with Workshops)

Dr. Michael Sharp, PhD
Professor of Worship Studies
Office: Sellers 231C
Phone: (504) 816-8022
Email: msharp@nobts.edu

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 worshipping 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 competencies addressed in this course are: Worship Leadership and Servant Leadership.

Course Description

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

Student Learning Outcomes

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.

Course Teaching Methodology

The course will involve the following methodologies: Weekly classroom lecture/ discussion of texts; workshop faculty lecture and presentations by faculty and students; and individual research projects. Blackboard (www.nobts.blackboard.com) will be used as the communication platform for the course. All students registered for the course will be automatically enrolled in Blackboard. Blackboard will provide the platform for uploading assignments. All course assignments should be uploaded to this site in the appropriate folders.

This course will be delivered throughout the semester in two primary environments: weekly classroom meetings and two short intensive workshops scheduled for Thursday, Sep 7 (12pm to 8pm Central Time) and Thursday, Nov 16 (12pm to 8pm Central Time) The students will be joined in the workshop by students enrolled in the hybrid course.

Additionally, the first workshop intensive features optional attendance at the NOBTS-sponsored worship conference on Saturday, Sep 9 from 9am to 2pm.

During the weekly class sessions of the course, the students will engage with course content through discussion of assigned reading from the textbooks plus additional course materials; and through individually-assigned research topics.

Textbooks

Required:

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 Requirements

1. Enrollment in course. Students will be automatically enrolled in the course through Blackboard.
2. Class meetings and reading assignments. The course will meet each week for a two-hour block (**Wednesdays, 10:00am-11:50am**, except for workshop weeks) Reading assignments in the texts are made for each week, and class-time will include active discussion of topics addressed in the reading assignments. Keeping up with weekly coursework and deadlines is the responsibility of the student. Additionally, face to face learning opportunities with other classmates will be provided through the two intensive onsite workshops (mandatory attendance required on Thursday, Sep 7 (12pm to 8pm) and Thursday, Nov 16 (12pm to 8pm). Weekly reading assignments and the corresponding written assignments must be completed by the assigned due dates for full credit.
3. Research paper. For this course, each student will write a paper on a theology of worship topic of particular interest regarding Old Testament or New Testament worship. The major 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 by the professor at least one month in advance of the due date. These papers will be presented to the class during the last workshop (Thu, Nov 16). 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). An assignment rubric will be made available to the student at the beginning of the course. Papers should be submitted no later than Thu, Nov 16 in the designated Blackboard folder. 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 present a summary report to the class during the first workshop (Sep 7), outlining the thesis of the book as well as some of the major points. The presentation should be limited to 15-20 minutes. The student should also include relevant application of the content of the book to worship ministry in the local church as a part of the presentation.
5. Blog. Each student will maintain a weekly 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 a six-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 six-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 six 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 words). The student will have the opportunity to report on findings during the final workshop (Nov 19-20). A sample paper will be provided as a guideline for the assignment. The written paper (due in Blackboard on Thu, Nov 16) 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 reflection 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 worship 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 7, 2017.**

Evaluation of Grade

The student's grade will be computed as follows:

Course reading	10%
Attendance and participation in classroom discussion	10%
Weekly blog posts in Blackboard	10%
Paper on OT or NT theology of worship topic and presentation	25%
Class presentation on selected book	10%
Lyric content analysis paper (15%) and presentation (5%)	20%
Final paper	15%

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. All assignments must be submitted in Blackboard. No email submissions will be accepted.

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.

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	Date (M-F)	Course topic	Textbook Reading	Assignments Due*
1	Aug 23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Course begins Web meeting- Course Overview (Tue, Aug 22) Introduction to course Worship and Creation A worship word study 	Block, 1-27 (Ch. 1) Peterson, 55-79 (Ch. 2)	Assignment of individually-assigned book Blog
2	Aug 30	<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)	Blog
3	Sep 7 (Thu) Workshop	<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)	Workshop Thu, Sep 7 (12pm-8pm) Individually-assigned book presentation due
4	Sep 13	<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)	Blog
5	Sep 20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sacred Space and Worship Tabernacle/Temple Jesus and the New Temple Worship in Spirit and in Truth 	Block, 297-332 (Ch 12) Peterson, 80-102 (Ch 3); and 136-144 (Ch 5)	Blog
6	Sep 27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OT priesthood Jesus Christ as our High Priest 	Block, 333-360 (Ch 13) Peterson, 228-254 (Ch 8)	Blog
7	Oct 4	<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)	Blog
8	Oct 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> God’s Word in worship 	Block, 169-192 (Ch 7)	Blog Topic for research paper to professor for approval due
	Oct 18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No class (FALL BREAK) 		No assignment
9	Oct 25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prayer as worship 	Block, 193-220 (Ch 8)	Blog
10	Nov 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Music as worship 	Block, 221-245 (Ch 9)	Blog
11	Nov 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Serving God in the corporate gathering 	Peterson, 194-221	Blog
12	Nov 16 (Thu) Workshop	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participation in the Enactment (Drama) of Worship 	Block, 271-296 (Ch 11)	Workshop Thu, Nov 16 (12pm to 8pm) Research paper due, presentation to class due Lyric analysis paper due
	Nov 20-24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No classes (THANKSGIVING) 		No assignment
13	Nov 29	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Worship in the heavenly realm 	Peterson, 261-279 (Ch 9)	Blog
14	Dec 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Worship as life and ministry 	Peterson, 166-188 (Ch 6)	Blackboard Final reflection paper due Fri, Dec 7

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