



## MUWM5303 Planning and Leading Worship

### New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary

#### Division of Church Music Ministries

#### Fall Semester 2018 (Hybrid 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:** This is the core value focus for the 2018-19 academic year at NOBTS: *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 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 deportment.

### 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 worshipping Him.

## Course Teaching Methodology

The course will involve the following methodologies: Classroom/online discussion of texts; weekly unit 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](http://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 the course structure, including announcements and information, as well as weekly unit assignments. 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 online discussion throughout the course through Blackboard forums. Course reading and mini-lectures posted by the professor will provide the underlying content for online discussions. The reading requirement is worth 10% of the grade in the course. At the conclusion of the semester, students will be asked to provide documentation for *on-time and full completion of the reading assignments*. **Due date: as assigned throughout the semester (see course calendar)**
2. The student will be given weekly unit assignments through Blackboard. Beyond participation in online discussion these weekly assignments will include observation of online videos of worship leadership, exercises in planning worship services with specific parameters, and personal critique of worship leading in live contexts. **Due date: weekly due dates (see course calendar)**
3. Two required workshop meetings will be held during the semester: **Thu, Sep 6** (1:00PM to 9:00PM *Central Time*) and **Thu, Nov 15** (1:00PM to 9:00PM *Central Time*). The workshops will be offered in New Orleans and CIV to North Georgia, Miami, and Orlando. The student must be in attendance for all workshop meetings in order to receive credit for the course. Local students are also encouraged to attend the optional worship conference hosted by NOBTS on Saturday, Sep 8 from 9AM until 2:00PM. Extra-credit may be earned by attending and writing a report (ask for guidelines about the report).
4. Using the checklist provided in Appendix B of the textbook *The Worship Architect*, the student will observe two full services (two different churches) online (available in an accessible web-link) and evaluate the service plan according to the checklist. A written report of each service should be submitted for each service. This assignment will be **due at the first workshop** (Sep 6) and students should be prepared to share excerpts of the online service along with personal observations from the checklist.
5. Each student will be given a topic for research to be shared with the class during the semester in the weekly online units. More details on how to do this assignment will be given at the first workshop. Possible project

topics for these presentations may include the following:

- Worship planning tools (e.g. [planningcenteronline.com](http://planningcenteronline.com), [LifewayWorship](http://LifewayWorship.com), etc.-Choose one to demonstrate)
- Downloadable musical charts for worship
- [LifewayWorship.com](http://LifewayWorship.com)- musical resources and planning tool
- Video resources for use in corporate worship (ex. [Worship House media](http://WorshipHouse.com), etc.)
- Online resources for helping your instrumentalists
- Resources for vocal rehearsals (including warm-ups)
- Developing a worship choir
- Musical arrangements for church choirs
- Worship leadership in multi-site congregational settings
- 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*<sup>TM</sup>, etc.)
- Effective public reading of Scripture in worship gatherings
- Who can lead? Guidelines and policies for praise-team and choir members
- Report on two sessions of the Getty *SING!* Conference (Sep 10-12, Nashville)
- Other (with professors' approval)

**Due date: As assigned during the semester**

6. 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 by the due date. **Due date: Friday, Sep 21 in Blackboard assignment folder.**
7. Song analysis project. Select two worship songs and evaluate the lyrics according to the rubric provided in the text *Selecting Worship Songs*. Provide a one page written report of the evaluation. **Due date: Second workshop meeting, Nov 15, 2018.**
8. 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-assessment (VSA) 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 VSA self-evaluation form should be completed and placed in the "Assignments" folder in Blackboard for each of the two VSA 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 5; Nov 9**
9. Final Reflection Paper. The topic and details for this paper TBA. **Due date: Fri, December 7, 2018** (in lieu of a final exam).

## Evaluation of Grade

The student's grade will be computed as follows:

- 10% Required reading
- 15% Weekly unit assignments in Blackboard
- 15% Observation of two worship services and checklist reports
- 10% Individual research project and presentation in Blackboard
- 10% Two song analyses
- 20% Two VSA projects
- 5% Devotional plan
- 15% Final reflection paper

Extra credit: Up to 5% additional credit may be earned by attending one 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 Worship Conference hosted by the Music Division of NOBTS on Saturday, Sep 8 and the Getty *Sing!* Conference in Nashville both provide an extra-credit opportunity.

### Due dates for assignments:

All assignments are due at the time of the due date. **IMPORTANT! 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.

### Technical Assistance

For assistance regarding technology, consult ITC (504-816-8180) or the following websites:

1. [Selfserve@nobts.edu](mailto:Selfserve@nobts.edu) - Email for technical questions/support requests with the [Selfserve.nobts.edu](http://Selfserve.nobts.edu) site (Access to online registration, financial account, online transcript, etc.)
2. [BlackboardHelpDesk@nobts.edu](mailto:BlackboardHelpDesk@nobts.edu) - Email for technical questions/support requests with the NOBTS Blackboard Learning Management System [NOBTS.Blackboard.com](http://NOBTS.Blackboard.com).
3. [ITCSupport@nobts.edu](mailto:ITCSupport@nobts.edu) - Email for general technical questions/support requests.
4. [www.NOBTS.edu/itc/](http://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/Week	Week beginning:	Course topic	Textbook Reading Assignments/Due dates TWA- <i>The Worship Architect</i> SWS- <i>Selecting Worship Songs</i> AW- <i>The Art of Worship</i>	Other Assignments/ Due dates
1	Aug 20	Course/syllabus overview (Bluejeans mtg) Log on to Blackboard; Developing a plan for personal spiritual growth as a worship leader	Acquire textbooks	Bluejeans mtg (Thu, Aug 23 7:00PM Central Time) Blackboard
2	Aug 27	Foundations for corporate worship	TWA, 1-33	Blackboard
3	Sep 3	The general order of worship; the gathering	TWA, 35-66	Workshop Thu, Sep 6 (1:00PM to 9:00PM Central Time)  NOLA Worship Conf, Sat, Sep 8 (opt. credit; syll#3)
4	Sep 10	The Word in worship; the Lord’s Table	TWA, 67-96	Blackboard
5	Sep 17	Alternative response to the Word; the Sending	TWA, 97-121	Blackboard <b>Personal Devotional Plan due:</b> Fri, Sep 2 (syll#6)
6	Sep 24	Prayer in worship; Music in worship	TWA, 123-177	Blackboard
7	Oct 1	Music in worship Selecting Worship Songs: Theological considerations	TWA, 179-203 SWS, 1-27	Blackboard <b>VSA #1 Due Fri, Oct 5</b> (syll#8)
8	Oct 8	Selecting Worship Songs: Lyrical and musical considerations	SWS, 29-57	Blackboard
	Oct 15	FALL BREAK		
9	Oct 22	Principles of worship style;	TWA, 219-242	Blackboard
10	Oct 29	Using a worship team;	AW, 9-54	Blackboard
11	Nov 5	Building repertoire;	AW, 55-86	Blackboard
12	Nov 12	Service structure; practical planning techniques;	AW, 87-120	Workshop Thu, Nov 15 (1:00PM to 9:00PM Central Time) <b>VSA #2</b> (syll#8) and <b>VSA presentation due at time of workshop</b> <b>Song analyses report due, Thu, Nov 15</b>

				(syll#7)
	Nov 19	Thanksgiving Break		
13	Nov 26	Instruments and vocalists in worship Hymns in contemporary context	AW, 121-190	Blackboard
14	Dec 3	Rehearsing the worship musicians	AW, 191-217	Blackboard
15	Dec 7-12	FINAL EXAM PERIOD		<b>Final reflection paper due Fri, Dec 7</b> (syll#9)

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