



MUWM5312 Guided Ministry Practicum 2: Planning for Corporate Worship New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary Division of Church Music Ministries Fall 2018

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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: Doctrinal Integrity, Spiritual Vitality, Mission Focus, Characteristic Excellence, and Servant Leadership. The core value focus for this academic year is *Doctrinal Integrity*.

Curriculum Competencies

All graduates of NOBTS are expected to have at least a minimum level of competency in each of the following areas: Biblical Exposition, Christian Theological Heritage, Disciple Making, Interpersonal Skills, Servant Leadership, Spiritual and Character Formation, and Worship Leadership. The curriculum competency addressed in this course is: Worship Leadership

Course Description

The primary objective of this course is to help the student deepen an understanding of biblically-grounded corporate worship as well as sharpen skills in designing worship services for the congregation which are contextually-engaging. Additionally, the student will be challenged to see the worship planning task from a pastoral perspective, addressing issues related to planning special worship services, such as weddings and funerals. Working with a field mentor and faculty mentor, the student will explore the ministry of worship planning within the context of the student's local church.

Student Learning Outcomes

At the conclusion of the course, the student should be able to:

1. Understand basic principles related to (1) the purpose of the congregational worship gathering; (2) the biblical and classical elements which comprise the corporate worship service; (3) the creation of contextually-appropriate expressions within the framework of congregational worship; and (4) the pastoral nature of worship planning for the congregation.
2. Apply basic worship planning principles within the context of worship ministry in the local church.
3. Articulate a specific rationale for worship plans designed for the student's local congregation.

Embedded Assignment

This course has no embedded assignment.

Textbooks

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

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

Cherry, Constance M., *The Music Architect*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2016.

Cherry, Constance M., Mary M. Brown, and Christopher T. Bounds. *Selecting Worship Songs: A Guide for Leaders*.

Marion, IN: Triangle Publishing, 2011.

Additional articles/course content as assigned will be posted in Blackboard.

Course Teaching Methodology

The course will involve the following methodologies: textbook reading and discussion, personal interviews with an approved field mentor in worship/music ministry, personal web-based conferences with the Faculty Mentor, possible Blackboard discussion with peers, worship planning observation and evaluation, and exercises in creative worship planning.

Course Requirements

1. Meet with professor to overview the course and discuss assignments in detail. If the student is unable to meet, s/he may watch a recording of the course overview. This will be scheduled for the first week of the course.
2. Students will read four required texts during the semester and other articles/materials as assigned by the professor (see textbook list above). At the conclusion of the semester, the student will be required to provide documentation of weekly reading assignments. **Due date: See course calendar for schedule of reading assignments.**
3. The student will be given occasional assignments for discussion with others in the course throughout the semester via Blackboard.
4. Online worship services analysis. Through online resources, the student will identify several (minimum three) distinct evangelical worship service formats and will discuss how specific worship elements were incorporated into the worship service plan. Specific attention will be given to overall format, use of (and forms of) prayer, use of (and forms of) Scripture reading, verbal instructions, use of (and forms of) music, and leadership. The analysis for this project will be reported in a paper. **Due date: Fri, Oct 5.**
5. The student will prepare three detailed worship service plans that hypothetically might be used in the local church where the student currently serves. The three worship services should be planned for the following:
 - a. A general corporate worship service which incorporates the element of The Lord's Supper
 - b. A Christian wedding service
 - c. A Christian funeral serviceA report should include a rationale for specific aspects of each plan (to be submitted in a narrative report as one single document). **Due date: Fri, Nov 9.**
6. The student will personally interview an experienced field mentor (worship leader/minister of music) on assigned topics related to *worship planning and leading* three times during the semester. The field mentor must be approved in advance by the faculty mentor (see attached field mentor requirements). The student should write a thorough report of the discussion with the field mentor. Talking points for each conversation will be available in Blackboard. **Due dates: Reports on the interviews will be due on Fri, Sep 14, Fri, Oct 26, and Fri, Nov 30 respectively.**
7. Additionally, the student will participate in three one-hour long video-conferences (Bluejeans platform) during the semester with the faculty mentor and other students enrolled in the practicum for the purpose of discussion and feedback relevant to progress in achieving the student learning outcomes. **Due dates: These Bluejeans web-meetings will be scheduled in advance in coordination with students' and professor availability, generally during the week following the due date for mentor reports. (See course calendar.)**
8. Using the rubric provided in the textbook *Selecting Worship Songs*, the student will be given three different worship songs to analyze for use in corporate worship. The analysis will be reported in a brief report written in Turabian format. **Due date: Fri, Nov 23 (NOTE: This is during Thanksgiving week. The student may submit the assignment earlier if desired.)**
9. Based on course readings, interactions with the field mentor and faculty mentor, problem-based learning discussions with other students, and other course assignments, the student will write a final reflection paper that outlines specific key principles the student believes should be important for planning congregational worship services. **Due date: Fri, Dec 7, 2018.**

Evaluation of Grade

The student's grade will be computed as follows:

On-time completion of assigned reading assignments	10%
Online worship services analyses report (3)	15%
Original worship plans (Lord's Supper; Wedding; Funeral)	15%
Field mentor interviews/reports	15%
Video conferences with professor and class (3)	15%

Song analysis report	15%
Final Reflection paper (key principles for worship planning)	15%

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 items may 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

Week beginning:	Course topic	Reading Assignments	Projects Due*
Aug 20	Course Overview Foundations of worship planning	TWA, 1-66	Watch intro video Acquire textbooks
Aug 27	Overarching movements in corporate worship	TWA, 67-121	
Sep 3	The elements in worship planning	TWA, 123-203	
Sep 10	Stylistic considerations and the “relevance” question	TWA, 205-271	Conversation 1 with Field Mentor report due Sep 14 (syll#6)
Sep 17	Music’s role in worship planning	TMA, 1-116	Web-conference w/professor and other students this week TBD (syll#7)
Sep 24	Leading congregational song	TMA, 117-265	
Oct 1	The Christian wedding	SSW, 11-60	Online worship services analysis paper due Oct 5 (syll#4)
Oct 8	The Christian funeral	SSW, 61-141	
Oct 15	FALL BREAK		No assignments
Oct 22	Celebrating the Lord’s Supper	SSW, 143-189	Conversation 2 with Field Mentor report due Oct 26 (syll#6)
Oct 29	Evaluating songs for corporate worship (theological considerations)	SWS, 1-27	Web-conference w/professor and other students this week TBD (syll#7)
Nov 5	Evaluating songs for corporate worship (lyrical considerations)	SWS, 29-38	Original worship service plans/paper due Nov 9 (syll#5)
Nov 12	Evaluating songs for corporate worship (musical considerations)	SWS, 39-52	Song analysis report due Nov 23 (syll#8)
Nov 19	THANKSGIVING WEEK		
Nov 26	A team-approach to worship planning		Conversation 3 with Field Mentor report due Nov 30 (syll#6)
Dec 3	Evaluating corporate worship planning		Web-conference w/professor and other students this week TBD (syll#7) Final reflection paper due prior to web conference (syll#9)
Dec 7-12	FINAL EXAM PERIOD		

(TWA) *The Worship Architect*; (SSW) *The Special Service Worship Architect*; (TMA) *The Music Architect*; (SWS) *Selecting Worship Songs*

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