



**MUWM5300 Theology of Worship**  
**New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary**  
**Division of Church Ministry**  
**Fall Semester 2021 (Hybrid)**  
**Main Campus, North Georgia, and NOLA2U Live**

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**Mission Statement**

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and Leavell College prepare servants to walk with Christ, proclaim His truth, and fulfill His mission.

**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 beginning with the Old Testament covenantal law, but eventually centered in the gospel (through the new covenant) as made possible through 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 lyrics of congregational worship songs as to theological content and emphases using resources from the class.

**Embedded Assignment**

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) that have impacted the student’s biblical understanding of worship and how those concepts may be integrated into the student’s life and worship ministry in the future. This assignment relates to two student learning outcomes for the degree programs (MMCM/MAWM): (1) Students will demonstrate an ability to interpret and teach biblical and theological truths that promote healthy corporate worship in a local church or ministry; and (2) Students will demonstrate a foundational understanding of worship leadership philosophy, principles, and ministry models in the local church and its ministries.

**Course 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 Teaching Methodology**

The course will involve the following methodologies: Classroom/online discussion of texts; weekly unit assignments utilizing video and web-based resources; four real-time classroom meetings featuring lecture/discussion and presentations by faculty and students; and individual research projects. Blackboard Ultra 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.

This course will be delivered throughout the semester in two primary environments: internet-assisted through the use of Blackboard and four short intensive class meetings scheduled for Fridays, 1pm to 5pm Central Time, 2pm to 6pm Eastern, on the following dates: Aug 27, Oct 1, Nov 5, Nov 19. The course will be offered from Main Campus, North Georgia extension center, and NOLA2U locations via CIV/Bluejeans.

During the online portion of the course, the students will engage with course content through weekly assigned reading from the textbooks plus additional course materials; through posting thoughtful threaded discussion entries on assigned course materials; and through individually-assigned research topics.

### **Course Assignments**

1. Enrollment in course. Students will be automatically enrolled in the course through Blackboard.
2. Class meetings and reading assignments. Although the course will not meet every week in the physical classroom, the course will meet in the classroom on four occasions. Additionally, students are expected to attend the course each week through *the virtual classroom* hosted on Blackboard. New material and assignments will be ready every week beginning first thing Monday morning. (For an overview of course content, see the course schedule below.) Keeping up with weekly coursework and deadlines is the responsibility of the student and will ensure a successful experience in the course. Active engagement in the course through discussion forum participation is an integral part of the learning process. Additionally, face to face learning opportunities with other classmates will be provided through the four intensive onsite class meetings (mandatory attendance required on Fridays, 1pm to 5pm Central time (2pm to 6pm Eastern time) on **Aug 27, Oct 1, Nov 5 and Nov 19**. Reading assignments: Weekly reading assignments and the corresponding written assignments must be completed by the assigned due dates for full credit.
3. Discussion forums. During most weeks of the course, students will be asked to write responses to a reflection topic or specific discussion questions requiring written interaction with other students through the online forums. Participation in these assignments is not optional and will reflect 15% of the student's grade in the course. Specific assignment instructions will be provided in each of the weekly online units of study.
4. Research paper. For this course, each student will write a paper on a theology of worship topic. The major paper is to be minimally 2000 words in length, with a minimum of 8 academic works cited, to include academic books and peer-reviewed journal articles. Topics should be approved by the professor by Oct 1. Students will present a brief overview of the papers to the class during the last workshop (no more than 15 minutes, due **Fri, Nov 19**). 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. Use the NOBTS Style Guide for this assignment. An assignment rubric will be made available to the

student at the beginning of the course reflecting the following criteria for evaluation: (1) content value in the area of worship and theology; (2) creativity in approach to the subject matter; and (3) clarity and accuracy of writing style. The short presentation made in the class meeting may include visual aids, such as PowerPoint, etc. Due to limitations of our broadcast technology, please avoid use of musical video in the presentation unless otherwise instructed.

5. Individual book assignment. Each student will select a book from a specified reading list on a topic relevant to worship theology (see list below). After reading the text, the student will prepare a written summary report to be submitted in the assignment folder in Blackboard, and will share the summary report with the class during the hybrid classroom meeting, **Fri, Oct 1**. The student should plan for a 10-minute presentation (maximum time). The written report (paper) should outline the basic thesis of the book as well as some of the major take-aways for worship ministry. In addition to noting strengths and weaknesses of the book, the student should include a section of personal reflection considering how the ideas of the book might be applied to the context of local church worship ministry. (NOTE: Titles assigned on a first-come, first-served basis. Please email me at [msharp@nobts.edu](mailto:msharp@nobts.edu) and indicate your top three preferences **Due date: Oct 1**.)

Available book titles:

1. Anderson, Cameron J. *The Faithful Artist: A Vision for Evangelicalism and the Arts*. Downers Grove: IVP Academic, 2016.
  2. Aniol, Scott. *Worship in a Post-Christian Culture*. Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Publications, 2015.
  3. Beale, G. K. *We Become What We Worship: A Biblical Theology of Idolatry*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2008.
  4. Best, Harold. *Unceasing Worship: Biblical Perspectives on Worship and the Arts*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2003.
  5. Boswell, Matt (ed.). *Doxology and Theology: How the Gospel Forms the Worship Leader*. Nashville: Broadman and Holman, 2013.
  6. Costen, Melva Wilson. *African American Christian Worship*. Abingdon Press, 2007.
  7. Duck, Ruth. *Worship for the Whole People of God: Vital Worship for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2013.
  8. Hawn, C. Michael. *One Bread, One Body: Exploring Cultural Diversity in Worship*. Bethesda, MD: The Alban Institute, 2003.
  9. Kauflin, Bob. *True Worshipers: Seeking What Matters Most to God*. Crossway Books, 2015.
  10. Labberton, Mark. *The Dangerous Act of Worship: Living God's Call to Justice*. Downers Grove: IVP, 2007.
  11. Parry, Robin. *Worshipping Trinity: Coming Back to the Heart of Worship*. Waynesboro, GA: Authentic Media, 2005.
  12. Pierce, Timothy M. *Enthroned on Our Praise: An Old Testament Theology of Worship*. Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 2008.
  13. Smith, James K. A. *Imagining the Kingdom: How Worship Works*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2013.
  14. Torrance, James B. *Worship, Community, and the Triune God of Grace*. Downers Grove, IL: Intervarsity Press, 1996.
  15. Van Dyk, Leanne (ed.). *A More Profound Alleluia: Worship and Theology in Harmony*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2005.
  16. Webber, Robert. *Ancient-Future Worship: Proclaiming and Enacting God's Narrative*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2008.
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 workshop meeting. 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 (**due Nov 19**). A sample paper will be provided as a guideline for the assignment. Due to the scope of this assignment, it is weighted as 20% of the final grade.

7. **Final reflection paper.** As an embedded assignment for the course, this paper is a 1500-word reflection-integration paper dealing with concepts encountered during the course (course texts and discussion, lectures, projects, personal research) that have impacted the student's understanding of theology of worship. The paper should also focus on how specific concepts in the content of the course 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 Friday, December 3, 2021.**

### Evaluation of Grade

The student's grade will be computed as follows:

Course reading (completed on-time)	10%
Completion of weekly online forum discussions	15%
Paper on theology of worship topic and presentation	20%
Overview and class presentation of individually-assigned book	15%
Lyric content analysis paper and discussion	20%
Final paper	20%

### 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.

### 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.

### Writing Style Guide

A copy of the approved NOBTS Style Guide can be found in the course Blackboard shell, or can be located online at the Writing Center's page on the seminary website at:

<https://www.nobts.edu/resources/pdf/writing/StyleGuide.pdf>

### 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 (Week beginning Monday:)	Course topic	Textbook Reading	Assignments Due*
1	Aug 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Course materials in Blackboard Unit 1</li> <li>▪ Course begins</li> <li>▪ Introduction Video (Course Overview)</li> <li>▪ Worship and Creation</li> <li>▪ A worship word study</li> </ul>	Block, 1-27 (Ch. 1) Peterson, 55-79 (Ch. 2)	Reading in textbooks Reading Genesis View video (course overview) View video of "Worship and Creation" Blackboard forum (introduce yourself)
2	Aug 23 <b>*Aug 27-mtg#1</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Idolatry</li> <li>▪ The Object of our worship</li> <li>▪ Acceptable worship</li> </ul>	Block, 29-80 (Ch. 2-3) Peterson, 147-151 (Ch 5)	Reading in textbooks Reading Genesis <b>Attendance at Hybrid class meeting #1 (1-5pm Central; 2-6pm Eastern)</b> Assignment of individually-assigned book
3	Aug 30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Worship and Covenant in the First Testament</li> <li>▪ Tabernacle/Temple and Priesthood in First Testament</li> <li>▪ Sacrificial System</li> <li>▪ Offerings in worship</li> </ul>	Peterson, 23-54 (Ch. 1) Block, 247-263 (Ch.10)	Reading in textbooks Blackboard materials
4	Sep 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Worship and the Ten Commandments</li> <li>▪ Worship and Holy Living in the First Covenant</li> <li>▪ The Dimensions of True Worship of YHWH</li> <li>▪ Worship within the Family Structure</li> </ul>	Block , 81-139 (Ch 4-5)	Blackboard
5	Sep 13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Sacred Space and Worship</li> <li>▪ Tabernacle/Temple</li> <li>▪ Jesus and the New Temple</li> <li>▪ Worship in Spirit and in Truth</li> </ul>	Block, 297-332 (Ch 12) Peterson, 80-102 (Ch 3); and 136-144 (Ch 5)	Blackboard
6	Sep 20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ OT priesthood</li> <li>▪ Jesus Christ as our High Priest</li> </ul>	Block, 333-360 (Ch 13) Peterson, 228-254 (Ch 8)	Blackboard
7	Sep 27 <b>*Oct 1-mtg#2</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The ordinances of Baptism and the Lord's Supper as worship</li> </ul>	Block, 141-167 (Ch 6) Peterson, 108-130 (Ch 4); and 215-218 (Ch 7)	<b>Individual book summary report</b> due in Blackboard; summary report presentation to class during <b>hybrid class session on Oct 1.</b>

				Blackboard <b>Topic for research paper to professor for approval due by Oct 1</b>
	Oct 4	▪ No class (FALL BREAK)		No assignment
8	Oct 11	▪ God's Word in worship	Block, 169-192 (Ch 7)	Blackboard
9	Oct 18	▪ Prayer as worship	Block, 193-220 (Ch 8)	Blackboard
10	Oct 25	▪ Music as worship	Block, 221-245 (Ch 9)	Blackboard
11	Nov 1 <b>*Nov 5-mtg#3</b>	▪ Serving God in the corporate gathering	Peterson, 194-221	Blackboard
12	Nov 8	▪ A multicultural approach to worship	Block, 271-296 (Ch 11) Additional as assigned	Blackboard
13	Nov 15 <b>*Nov 19-mtg#4</b>	▪ Worship in the heavenly realm	Peterson, 261-279 (Ch 9)	<b>Research paper due presentation to class due</b> <b>Lyric analysis paper due</b> Blackboard
	Nov 22	▪ No class (THANKSGIVING)		
14	Nov 29	▪ Worship as life and ministry	Peterson, 166-188 (Ch 6)	Blackboard <b>Final reflection paper due Fri, Dec 3</b>

### **Selected Bibliography**

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- Duck, Ruth. *Worship for the Whole People of God: Vital Worship for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2013.
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Witvliet, John D. *Worship Seeking Understanding*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2003.

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