

PATH 5300: Worship Leadership
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
Pastoral Ministries Division
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New Orleans Campus
May 2015

Hardin Student Center
On-site; May 25-29

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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.

We are here not 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.

CURRICULUM COMPETENCIES:

Servant Leadership -- To serve churches effectively through team ministry; and
Worship Leadership -- To facilitate worship effectively.

2014-15 CORE VALUE FOCUS: Spiritual Vitality

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This introductory course will enable the student to plan, facilitate, and give spiritually-directed leadership to people in worship by studying theological and historical foundations, church music, and worship practices. Additional attention will be given to platform behavior.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

By the end of the course the student who satisfactorily fulfills the requirements should be able to:

1. Understand the biblical, theological, and historical foundations of Christian worship as a form of religious expression;
2. Appreciate the forms of biblical worship in the light of the broader cultural environment in which Israel and the Church expressed their faith;
3. Understand the worship elements, as well as various designs and philosophies, used in the planning of Christian worship in evangelical churches;
4. Evaluate a variety of worship forms in light of a biblical theology of Christian worship;
5. Appreciate important worship issues facing local churches today;
6. Lead worship in a local church based upon principles for faithful worship that brings glory to God and transformation to those worshipping; and

7. Value staff relationships in planning and leading worship.

COURSE METHODS:

Lectures, debate, discussions, worksheets, DVDs, and student presentations will be used.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

The Bible

Basden, Paul and Engle, Paul (eds.). *Exploring the Worship Spectrum: 6 Views* (Zondervan, 2004; and as an e-book)

Sharp, Michael and Smith, Argile. *Holy Gatherings* (available from the authors, LifeWay campus bookstore in New Orleans, Barnes & Noble, and Amazon.com)

REQUIREMENTS:

1. **BLACKBOARD:** You will create an account on Blackboard and enroll in this course, using the authorization code emailed by the professors to each enrolled student AFTER workshop registration closes. All assignments will be submitted via the course Blackboard. *Note: Documents emailed directly to the professors will not be accepted.* Please make sure to register on Blackboard in the correct PATH5300 section. **DUE: one week AFTER registration closes (pre-workshop; May 2)**
2. **BOOK REVIEW:** Each student will prepare a review of the textbook *Exploring the Worship Spectrum* by Basden and Engle (eds). The review should include the following: author and bibliographic entry; a brief summation of the material presented from each of the six divisions of the book addressing the various perspectives (this means an individual summary for each of the six divisions of the book addressing the various worship perspectives); a critical evaluation of strengths and weaknesses of the thesis and assumptions; and a personal “take away” section in which the student provides commentary on helpful aspects gleaned from each section. Consult “Guidelines for a Book Review” posted on the course Blackboard. **DUE: FIRST DAY of on-site workshop (May 25)**
3. **WORSHIP ASSESSMENT CRITERIA:** Based on course readings and sample assessment tools as well as outside resources, students will develop a 2 – 3 page worship assessment instrument to be used in the observations and written evaluation of two distinct worship services different from the student’s own tradition, background, or current practice (see below). This assessment form will be a separate document from the worship observations. **DUE: 1 Week AFTER the on-site sessions (June 5)**
4. **WORSHIP OBSERVATIONS:** Each student will attend two (2) distinct worship services different from his/her tradition, background, or current practice (e.g., Jewish, Eastern Orthodox, Roman Catholic, Charismatic, Vineyard, Episcopalian), including both an aesthetic and a kinesthetic design. Observe as a sincere “seeker of God” and be open to encountering His Presence. Using the biblical worship assessment tool previously developed, each student will provide a written observation of each of the worship services. Strengths and weaknesses as well as recommendations for improvement will be reported in separate 1500-word evaluation essays (one for each of the two services). An on-site observation of the worship services is required rather than video observation. The observations may include one summary paragraph. The observation may NOT include more than 25% of the words in the assessment (i.e., not more than 200 words in an assessment form will be counted toward the required 1500-word observation). **DUE: 4 Weeks AFTER the on-site sessions (June 26)**

5. DESIGN WORSHIP SERVICES: Design three distinct worship services using each of the three following models: aesthetic; kinesthetic; and blended. Information on these models will be provided in course lectures and *Holy Gatherings*. This assignment should reflect the student's reading and comprehension of the concepts in this textbook. The student will provide a statement that the reading of this textbook was completed. Designs should include a worship guide outline as well as a double-spaced, 600 to 650-word commentary explaining how the particular worship elements are used and how they should flow in the particular worship service plan. Issues such as logistics, sequence of events, planning intention, and potential impact upon worshipers should be noted in the plan.

DUE: 5 Weeks AFTER the on-site sessions (July 3)

6. COLLABORATIVE GROUP PROJECT: Students will collaborate in assigned small groups to explore, design, and present material related to issues of worship as presented in the text *Exploring the Worship Spectrum*. The presentation will focus on engaging a local congregation in a discussion of the assigned topic and helping them to reflect constructively on biblical worship. Each student must contribute to the final work product by signing his or her name to the appropriate content. The assessment rubric will be posted on the course Blackboard. This presentation will be posted on the course Blackboard for downloading by the other student groups.

DUE: 6 Weeks AFTER the on-site sessions (July 10)

7. FINAL EXAM: *This assignment is an embedded assignment that will be completed by all students for all the sections of this course. The rubric for grading this assignment is attached to the syllabus. Please complete the assignment according to the syllabus and this rubric.* Each student will write a minimum 250-word response to **each** of the assigned exam questions. These questions will be posted on Blackboard during the final week of the course. Direct any questions RE Blackboard technical problems to the Blackboard Helpdesk (800-662-8701 x8194 or Blackboardhelpdesk@nobts.edu).

DUE: July 13-17

FINAL GRADE: determined as follows . . .

1. Attendance, participation, and meaningful contributions in class discussion	10%
2. Book review	10%
3. Completion of course reading (Sharp & Smith)	10%
4. Worship service designs	20%
5. Group presentation project	10%
6. Observation and Evaluation of worship services	20%
7. Final Exam	20%

Late Work: Assignments turned in past the date due will incur a minimum penalty of one letter grade per day. Assignments will not be accepted more than two weeks past the date due without express prior permission of the professors. In such cases a grade of D will be the maximum grade given. **Note: In order to receive credit for the class, all assignments must be completed.**

ABSENCES & TARDINESS:

No absences are allowed in academic workshops; attendance is taken. Three tardies once class has begun count as an absence. Please see current academic catalog for official policy.

STUDENT / PROFESSOR CONFERENCES:

The professors are available to meet with students during office hours. The teaching assistants are also available to answer questions and help students.

DISCLAIMER:

Flexibility is a critical attitude to ministry faithfulness. Therefore, students will be expected to keep a good attitude when things change. This syllabus proposes a course of study for a given time period. However, occasionally things change. The professors reserve the right to adjust the syllabus when they reasonably think that doing so will enhance the learning experience of the students.

IN CASE OF A DECLARED CAMPUS EVACUATION, students are to check the NOBTS electronic Blackboard at www.nobts.edu within four days of evacuation.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Date	Assignment Due
April 25	(registration closes)
May 2	BLACKBOARD REGISTRATION
May 25	BOOK REVIEW (Monday; on-site sessions begin)
May 26	Tuesday on-site sessions
May 27	Wednesday on-site sessions
May 28	Thursday on-site sessions
May 29	Friday on-site sessions
June 5	WORSHIP ASSESSMENT CRITERIA
June 26	WORSHIP OBSERVATIONS
July 3	WORSHIP SERVICE DESIGNS
July 10	COLLABORATIVE GROUP PROJECT
July 13-17	ONLINE FINAL EXAM

“ . . . you shall not worship any other god, for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God— otherwise you might make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land and they would play the harlot with their gods and sacrifice to their gods, and someone might invite you to eat of his sacrifice, . . .” (Exodus 34:14-15; NASB)

“Ascribe to the LORD, O families of the peoples. Ascribe to the LORD glory and strength. Ascribe to the LORD the glory due His name; Bring an offering, and come before Him; Worship the LORD in holy array.”
(1 Chron 16:-29; NASB)

“Come, let us worship and bow down. Let us kneel before the LORD our Maker. For He is our God, and we are the people of His pasture and the sheep of His hand.” (Psalm 95:6-7; NASB)

“ . . . an hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers. God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.” (John 4:23-24; NASB)

“And they sang the song of Moses, the bond-servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, ‘Great and marvelous are Your works, O Lord God, the Almighty; Righteous and true are Your ways, King of the nations! Who will not fear, O Lord, and glorify Your name? For You alone are holy; For ALL THE NATIONS WILL COME AND WORSHIP BEFORE YOU, FOR YOUR RIGHTEOUS ACTS HAVE BEEN REVEALED.’”
(The Revelation 15:3-4)

“We believe that the Bible is the Word of God in the highest and fullest sense, and is the unrivalled authority in determining the faith and practice of God’s people; . . .” *NOBTS Articles of Religious Belief* (Article I – Sole Authority of Scriptures)

“[The Holy Bible] reveals the principles by which God judges us, and therefore is, and will remain to the end of the world, the true center of Christian union, and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and religious opinions should be tried. . . . The first day of the week is the Lord’s Day. It is a Christian institution for regular observance. It commemorates the resurrection of Christ from the dead and should include exercises of worship and spiritual devotion, both public and private. Activities on the Lord’s Day should be commensurate with the Christian’s conscience under the Lordship of Jesus Christ.” *The Baptist Faith and Message 2000* (Article I – The Scriptures; Article VIII – The Lord’s Day)

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GRADING RUBRIC FOR EMBEDDED ASSIGNMENT

Understanding:

- 0 1 2 3 4 Student understands biblical guidelines and specific biblical texts for worship leadership.
- 0 1 2 3 4 Student understands the major critical issues and challenges in corporate worship leadership.
- 0 1 2 3 4 Student understands the differences among major strategies of corporate worship designs.

Application:

- 0 1 2 3 4 Student applies ideas discussed in class and textbooks.
- 0 1 2 3 4 Student develops appropriate, specific, detailed corporate worship plans, reflective of a biblical theology.
- 0 1 2 3 4 Student uses appropriate corporate worship elements.

Communication:

- 0 1 2 3 4 Student expresses himself/herself with clarity, coherence, relevance, and professionalism.
- 0 1 2 3 4 Student organizes material in a logical manner.

Grading Scale Criteria

- 4 -- Exceptional quality, demonstrating superior workmanship and scholarship in exegesis of the passage; demonstrates specific, accurate and relevant use of class textbook and course concepts; reflects thoughtful consideration and addresses specific issues appropriately, constructively, and relevantly; follows syllabus instructions and format of the example; work submitted on time
- 3 -- Better quality than the class average; demonstrates that every detail of the assignment has been given careful attention; follows syllabus instructions and format of the example; work submitted on time
- 2 -- Met the requirements satisfactorily; demonstrates a quality at least comparable to the class average; follows syllabus instructions and format of the example; work submitted on time
- 1 -- Low passing; below the quality of the class average; student is not prepared for advanced work
- 0 -- Unsatisfactory work; reflects little or no use of specific references to class textbook and course lectures; resources are too few, or only devotional and general in nature