



MUWM5312 Guided Ministry Practicum 2: Planning for Corporate Worship New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary Division of Church Music Ministries Spring 2017

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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 *Characteristic Excellence*.

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. Watch an initial video overviewing the work in the course this semester. 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).
3. The student will be given occasional assignments for discussion with others in the course throughout the semester via Blackboard.
4. Through online resources, the student will identify several 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: Mar 31, 2017.**
5. The student will prepare three detailed worship service plans which may 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 service

A report should include a rationale for specific aspects of each plan (to be submitted in a narrative report as one single document). **Due date: Apr 21, 2017.**

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. Additionally, the student will individually video-conference with the faculty mentor three times during the semester (see course schedule) for the purpose of discussion and feedback relevant to the student's progress toward the student learning outcomes. **Due date: Reports on the interviews will be due on Feb 24, Apr 7, and May 5 respectively. Follow-up meetings with Faculty mentor should be scheduled for the weeks following each of the reports.)**
7. 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: Apr 28, 2017.**
8. Based on course readings, interactions with the field mentor and faculty mentor, problem-based learning discussions with other students, and observation/analysis of selected worship services, the student will write a final reflection paper which outlines specific key principles important for planning congregational worship services. **Due date: Fri, May 8, 2017.**

Evaluation of Grade

The student's grade will be computed as follows:

Completion of assigned reading assignments	10%
Analysis of online worship services report	20%
Original worship plans (Lord's Supper; Wedding; Funeral)	20%
Field mentor interviews/reports	15%
Video conferences with Faculty Mentor (3)	15%
Song analysis report	10%
Final Reflection paper (key principles for worship planning)	10%

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 of	Course topic	Reading Assignments	Projects Due*
Jan 23-27	Course Overview Foundations of worship planning	TWA, 1-66	Watch intro video Acquire textbooks
Jan 30-Feb 3	Overarching movements in corporate worship	TWA, 67-121	
Feb 6-10	The elements in worship planning	TWA, 123-203	
Feb 13-17	Stylistic considerations and the “relevance” question	TWA, 205-271	
Feb 20-24	Music’s role in worship planning	TMA, 1-116	Conversation 1 with Field Mentor report due Feb 24 (#6)
Feb 27-Mar 3	Leading congregational song	TMA, 117-265	Mtg w/faculty mentor (#6) [note: ofc closed Tue, Feb 28]
Mar 6-10	The Christian wedding	SSW, 11-60	
Mar 13-17	Spring Break		No assignments
Mar 20-24	The Christian funeral	SSW, 61-141	
Mar 27-31	Celebrating the Lord’s Supper	SSW, 143-189	Online worship services analysis paper due Mar 31 (#4)
Apr 3-7	Evaluating songs for corporate worship (theological considerations)	SWS, 1-27	Conversation 2 with Field Mentor report due Apr 7 (#6)
Apr 10-14	Evaluating songs for corporate worship (lyrical considerations)	SWS, 29-38	[Ofc closed Fri, Apr 14] Mtg w/faculty mentor (#6)
Apr 17-21	Evaluating songs for corporate worship (musical considerations)	SWS, 39-52	Original worship service plans/paper due Apr 21 (#5)
Apr 24-28	A team-approach to worship planning		Song analysis report due Apr 28 (#7)
May 1-5	Evaluating corporate worship planning, pt. 1		Conversation 3 with Field Mentor report due May 5 (#6)
May 5-11	FINAL EXAM PERIOD		Mtg w/faculty mentor (#6) Final reflection paper due May 8 (#8)

TWA- The Worship Architect

SSW- The Special Service Worship Architect

TMA- The Music Architect

SWS- Selecting Worship Songs

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