



**MUWM5301**  
**History of Worship**  
**New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary**  
**Division of Church Music Ministries**  
**Spring Semester 2020 (Hybrid with Workshops)**

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**Mission Statement of the Seminary**

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

**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 *Spiritual Vitality*.

**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 competencies addressed in this course are: Worship Leadership and Servant Leadership.

**Course Description**

This course will introduce students to the historical development of Christian worship throughout the church age. A study of worship practices from the early church to the present day, this course will explore various developments in congregational worship influenced by the Middle Ages, the Reformation, the frontier revival movements, the Charismatic movement, the Praise and Worship movement, and the Emerging Church. The philosophies driving these practices will also be considered.

**Student Learning Outcomes:**

Note: No musical background is required for participation in this course.

1. At the conclusion of the course the student should be able to demonstrate a general knowledge of the development of **worship philosophy** in Christian churches from the first century to the present time.
2. At the conclusion of the course the student should be able to demonstrate a comparative understanding of **worship practices** among Christian churches of different denominations in light of worship history. Particular attention will be given to baptism; communion (Lord's Supper); service structures (liturgies) and the values that inform them; worship environment/space; musical worship expression; and the preaching of God's Word.
3. At the conclusion of the course the student should be able to demonstrate the ability to evaluate current global and cultural evangelical **worship trends** and practices based upon historical foundations studied.
4. As a result of exposure to ideas in this course, the student should possess the resources to develop **pastoral sensibilities** for decision-making in congregational leadership emanating from a thorough understanding of historical worship norms and practices.

5. At the conclusion of the course the student should demonstrate an increased appreciation for the **historical development of Christian worship** and see how this understanding may provide for insight for leadership in the twenty-first century local church.

### **Embedded Assignment**

There is no embedded assignment in this course.

### **Textbooks**

Required:

McGowan, Andrew B. *Ancient Christian Worship: Early Church Practices in Social, Historical, and Theological Perspective*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2014.  
Shields, Bruce E. and David A. Butzu. *Generations of Praise: The History of Worship*. Joplin, MO: College Press Publishing Co., 2006.

Optional:

Hurtado, Larry. *At the Origins of Christian Worship*. Eerdmans, 1999.  
White, James F. *Documents of Christian Worship: Descriptive and Interpretive Sources*. Westminster John Knox Press, 1992..  
White, James F. *Protestant Worship: Traditions in Transition*. Westminster/John Knox Press, 1989.

### **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; congregational worship observations (live) and individual research projects. 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. This course will be delivered throughout the semester in two primary environments: internet-assisted through the use of Blackboard and four short workshops scheduled for the following Fridays, from 1pm to 5pm Central Time: Jan 31, Mar 6, Apr 3 and Apr 24, 2020. The course will be offered to the extension center location at North Georgia via CIV/Bluejeans. Additionally, some students may take the course through NOLA2U platform.

Through the online portion of the course, the students will engage with course content through weekly assigned reading from the textbooks plus additional course materials and through participation in discussion forums related to assigned reading. Additionally, students will conduct individually assigned research projects and live observation of various worship traditions. Presentation of research projects will be made during the live class meetings.

### **Course Requirements**

An introductory Bluejeans meeting (course overview) will be available during the first week of class for Tuesday evening, Jan 21 from 7:00pm to 8:00pm (Central time zone). Students will be sent a link to join the meeting. Attendance at this meeting is not required but strongly encouraged. The purpose is to review all information in the syllabus and allow time for questions. Please contact the professor as soon as possible if you have any questions.

1. Enrollment in course. Students will be automatically enrolled in the course through Blackboard.  
LATE WORK POLICY: Assignments submitted past the DUE date will be penalized a half-letter grade per calendar day. No assignments will be accepted more than two weeks past the due date *unless* prior permission has been granted in writing by the professor.

2. The student will attend four worship services, representing a variety of worship traditions. Many of these hold services at times other than Sunday mornings. Students should observe in live worship contexts (rather than online). Options are provided for each. The student will choose one from each enumeration below (for example: choose one from [a], one from [b], etc.):
  - a) Choice of a Roman Catholic Mass or a Greek Orthodox service [**due Feb 24**]
  - b) Choice of an Anglican, Episcopal or Lutheran service [**due Mar 16**]
  - c) Choice of a Pentecostal (Church of God or Assembly of God) or charismatic service (such as Vineyard or other) [**due Apr 20**]
  - d) Choice of an evangelical African-American service (such as AME Zion), an evangelical Latino service, or house church service [**due May 4**]

A 750- to 1000-word reflection should follow the observation experience. The purpose of the reflection is to note any prominent practices observed, as well as what the student is able to learn about corporate worship from the observation of the particular worship expression. This will be due in the appropriate assignment folder of Blackboard (consult Course Calendar for due dates).

3. Students will be asked to participate in weekly Discussion Board Forums in Blackboard. Posting original thoughts related to the various topics along with responses to other students' posts will be an important part of the course. When applicable, the forum discussions should seek to relate historical information to church life today, especially where an historical understanding may serve to deepen the current day worship experience. Failure to participate will affect the final grade in the course.
4. Students will be teamed with one or more other students in order to collaborate on an assigned project on 21<sup>st</sup> century global worship practice. This project will address current regional worship practices (in Africa, Asia, Latin America, and Europe). A report of each project will be presented by each assigned team during the third workshop meeting (approximately 20-30 minutes). Team assignments will be made early in the semester. To receive credit for the assignment, each student must demonstrate active participation in the group project/presentation.
5. The student will write one formal research paper (2500-3000 words). Topics for each should be approved in advance by the professor. The paper is due at the time of the final workshop (April 24) and should be submitted to Blackboard at that time. Formal conventions apply to the paper: Students should use the NOBTS Style Guide for formatting this paper. Attention should be given to correct spelling, punctuation, and grammar and writing style. Include a bibliography of books, peer-reviewed journals, and online academic resources. Where available, primary resources should be consulted. A grading rubric for this assignment will be provided early in the semester. The workshop presentation (length to be determined once the semester is underway) should be based on the content of the research paper. Each student should be prepared to present the paper to the class using presentation software (Powerpoint, etc). The class presentation will be graded on content, engaging delivery of presentation, and use of time. **Due Date: Fri, Apr 24.**

NOTE: An important word about a serious topic: Plagiarism. The research paper should be the work of the student, **not cutting and pasting (or paraphrasing) sentences, paragraphs, etc. from internet webpage content.** The student should research reliable resources for information, and then format his/her thoughts about the topic using data from research. All data from research resources should be **documented through the use of footnotes with complete bibliographic information according to formatting of latest edition of Turabian.**

**Plagiarism is a serious academic offense and any work which is not the student's own**

**original research work will receive the grade of “F” and the offense will be reported to the Dean of Students Office. Plagiarism is not tolerated. Please consult the Graduate Catalogue for more information.**

6. Participation in each of the classroom workshops is expected. These are scheduled on the Main Campus and CIV locations for Friday afternoons (1pm to 5pm Central Time) on the following dates: Jan 31, Mar 6, Apr 3 and Apr 24, 2020. Consult the Graduate Catalogue for attendance policies.
7. Final Exam. The student will be given an online final exam which will be essay in nature. A study guide will be provided to the student to help with the preparation for the final. This exam will be taken via Blackboard **prior to Friday, May 8, Time and Date to TBD.**

### **Evaluation of Grade**

Attendance at hybrid class meetings and class participation	10%
Participation in Discussion Forums	15%
Four (4) worship tradition observations (5% each)	20%
Team presentation on regional worship trends (global)	15%
Research Paper and Presentation	20%
Final Exam	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. No assignments will be accepted if submitted two weeks or more past the due date *unless* prior permission has been granted in writing by the professor.

### **Writing Style Guide**

Writing assignments should follow the NOBTS/Leavell College Manual of Form and Style (revised August 2019). To access this manual on the seminary website, please use the following link: <https://www.nobts.edu/resources/pdf/writing/StyleGuide.pdf>.

### **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 Calendar

Unit/Week Units run Mon- following Mon	Course topic	Textbook/Course Reading	Assignments Due
Unit 1 (Jan 21-27)	Get registered on Blackboard/Acquire textbooks	ACW, 1-17 (Ch 1)	Bluejeans Mtg (syllabus overview) Jan 21, 7:00- 8:00 PM (Central) time)
Unit 2 (Jan 27-Feb 3)	Worldviews and Worship The early church at worship through first three centuries	ACW, 19-110 (Chs 2-3)	Attend hybrid class session #1 Fri, Jan 31
Unit 3 (Feb 3-10)	Early Christian worship- first three centuries (continued)	ACW, 111-182 (Chs 4-5) GP, 9-94	Discussion forum
Unit 4 (Feb 10-17)	Worship (312-600AD)	ACW, 183-260 (Chs 6-7) GP, 99-154	Discussion forum
Unit 5 (Feb 17-24)	Worship in the eastern churches	GP, 158-195	Discussion forum Service (3a) due
Unit 6 (Feb 24-Mar 2)	Western church in the Middle Ages	GP, 198-232	Discussion forum
Unit 7 (Mar 2-9)	The Protestant Reformation: Lutheran/Reformed/	GP, 235-260;	Attend hybrid class session #2 Fri, Mar 6 Discussion forum
Unit 8 (Mar 9-16)	The Protestant Reformation: Anabaptist/ Anglican	Additional articles provided	Discussion forum Service (3b) due
(Mar 16-20)	<b>CAMPUS SPRING BREAK</b>		
Unit 9 (Mar 23-30)	Worship in 17 <sup>th</sup> and 18 <sup>th</sup> centuries: Separatist and Puritan/Quaker/	GP, 263-281; Additional articles provided	Discussion forum
Unit 10 (Mar 30-Apr 6)	17 <sup>th</sup> and 18 <sup>th</sup> c. continued: Methodists/Frontier Movement	GP, 263-281;	Attend hybrid class session #3 Fri, Apr 3 Team presentation on assigned topic of global worship practice
Unit 11 (Apr 6-13)	19 <sup>th</sup> century worship developments	GP, 283-299;	Discussion forum
Unit 12 (Apr 13-20) <b>WORKSHOP WEEK</b>	20 <sup>th</sup> century developments	GP, 301-324;	Discussion forum Service (3c) due
Unit 13 (Apr 20-27)	21 <sup>st</sup> century developments Worship in the emerging church	GP, 328-350;	Discussion forum Attend hybrid class session #4 Fri, Apr 24 Research papers and presentations due
Unit 14 (Apr 27-May 4)	Final Exam Study Guide prep	Review course materials	Service (3d) due
<b>FINAL EXAMS</b>	Final Exam, TBD (Blackboard)		Final exam on Blackboard

\*GP= *Generations of Praise*

\* ACW=*Ancient Christian Worship*

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