



# NEW ORLEANS

BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

ANSWERING GOD'S CALL

**PATH5300: Worship Leadership**  
**New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary**  
**Pastoral Ministries Division**  
**Red Carpet Workshop, May 25-29, 2020**

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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 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. [*Graduate Catalog*]

### **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.

### **Embedded Assignment**

*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 below. Please complete the assignment according to the syllabus and 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 exam (available June 25-27)

### **GRADING RUBRIC FOR PATH5300 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.

### **Textbooks**

#### **Required:**

The Bible

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

Sharp, Michael and Smith, Argile. *Holy Gatherings* (Outskirts Press, 2009, also available as an e-book:

<https://outskirtspress.com/holygatherings>)

#### **Recommended:**

Block, Daniel I. *For the Glory of God* (Baker Academic, 2014)

## Course Teaching Methodology

The course will involve the following methodologies:

1. Instructor lectures, Power Point presentations, electronically published materials, and worksheets will present the principles and methods of worship leadership.
2. Assigned readings will summarize principles, perspectives.
3. Audios, videos, and web streaming will demonstrate examples.
4. Writing assignments and student presentations will facilitate experiential learning of the course content and learning outcomes. Class discussions will enable peer-to-peer learning.
5. The Blackboard course shell will be used to submit assignments, take final exam, etc.

## Course Requirements

1. **BOOK REVIEW:** Each student will prepare a review of each of the two textbooks: *Exploring the Worship Spectrum* by Paul Engle (editor); *Holy Gatherings* by Sharp/Smith. The reviews should include the following: author and bibliographic entry; a brief summation of the material presented from each of the sections of the book; 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.” Page numbers for citation should be included in the body of the text in parentheses in lieu of footnotes.  
**DUE: May 25**
2. **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 observation and written evaluation of two distinct worship services.  
**DUE: June 26**
3. **WORSHIP OBSERVATIONS:** Each student will observe (2) distinct worship services (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). Observation of live stream is allowed provided the service encompasses all aspects as would be expected in a live worship service environment.  
**DUE: June 26**
4. **DESIGN WORSHIP SERVICES:** Design three distinct worship services using each of the three following models: aesthetic; kinesthetic; and blended. The blended design should reflect a theme-enhanced approach. Information on these models will be provided in course lectures and handouts. Designs should include a worship guide outline, as well as a double-spaced, 1200-word commentary explaining how the particular worship elements are used and how they should flow in the particular worship plan. Issues such as logistics, sequence of events, planning intention, and potential impact should be noted in the plan.  
**DUE: June 26**
5. **COLLABORATIVE PROJECT:** Students will collaborate in small groups to explore and present material related to issues of worship as presented in the text *Exploring the Worship Spectrum*. Group presentations will focus on engaging the class in a discussion of the assigned topics.  
**Group Project DUE: Thursday of Workshop, May 28**
6. **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 assessing this assignment can be found earlier in this 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. The exam may also include multiple-choice questions. The exam will be posted on Blackboard and will be accessible for completion anytime from **Thu, June 25 through Sat, June 27**.  
**DUE: June 25-27**

## Evaluation of Grade

The student's grade will be computed as follows:

1.	Attendance, participation, and meaningful contributions in class discussion	10%
2.	Book reviews (2)	20%
3.	Worship service designs (3)	15%
4.	Group presentation project	10%
5.	Observation and Evaluation of worship services (2)	20%
6.	Final Exam	25%

## Absence Policy

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 attendance policy.

## Late submissions

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 one week past the date due without express prior permission of the professors. **In order to receive credit for the class, all assignments must be completed.**

## 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

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>.

## 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.

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