



PATH5300: Worship Leadership
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
Pastoral Ministries Division
SPRING 2020 (Thursday ONLY; 6-9 PM)

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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.

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**. In demonstrating Spiritual Vitality, “we are a worshiping community emphasizing both personal spirituality and gathering together as a Seminary family for the praise and adoration of God and instruction in His Word” (2019-20 Graduate Catalog, p. 5).

Curriculum Competencies

All graduates of NOBTS are expected to have at least a minimum level of competency in the following areas: Biblical Exposition, Christian Theological Heritage, Disciple Making, Interpersonal Skills, Servant Leadership, Spiritual and Character Formation, and Worship Leadership. Competencies addressed in this course include the following:

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

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 (2019-20 Graduate Catalog, p. 226).

Student Learning Outcomes

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

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 week of the course.

GRADING RUBRIC FOR PATH5300: WORSHIP LEADERSHIP 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:

1. The Bible
2. Engle, Paul E., and Paul A. Basden, eds. *Exploring the Worship Spectrum: 6 Views*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2004 (also as an e-book).
3. Sharp, Michael, and Argile Smith. *Holy Gatherings: A Leader's Guide for Engaging the Congregation in Corporate Worship*. Denver: Outskirts Press, 2009.

Recommended:

Block, Daniel I. *For the Glory of God: Recovering a Biblical Theology of Worship*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2016.

Course Teaching Methodology

The course will involve the following methodologies:

1. Lectures and worksheets will present the principles and methods of worship leadership.
2. Assigned readings will summarize principles and perspectives.
3. Audios, videos, and web streaming will be used to demonstrate examples.
4. Writing assignments and student presentations will facilitate experiential learning of the course content and learning outcomes. Resource persons may be used to share experiences.
5. Class and small-group discussions will be used to stimulate personal insights.

Course Requirements

1. **BLACKBOARD:** NOBTS ITC will create an account on Blackboard and enroll each student in this course Blackboard. You will confirm an account and your enrollment in the course Blackboard. If you are unable to access the course Blackboard or experience technical difficulties, please contact the NOBTS Blackboard Helpdesk. ***DUE: First Friday of Week 1.***

NOTE: All course assignments must be submitted via the course Blackboard. Documents emailed to the professors will not be accepted.

2. **BOOK REVIEWS:** Each student will prepare a review of the textbooks. The reviews should include the following elements: correct bibliographic entry; statement of author; a brief summary of the material presented (from each of the six divisions of the Engle book addressing the various perspectives); 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.” ***DUE: #1 (Holy Gatherings) Week 4; #2 (Exploring the Worship Spectrum) Week 7.***

3. **WORSHIP ASSESSMENT CRITERIA:** Based on course readings, sample assessment tools, and 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: Week 5.***

4. A **MID-TERM EXAM** will cover all of the material covered to date in the learning units, classroom discussions, and textbook readings. ***DUE: Week 8.***

5. **WORSHIP OBSERVATIONS:** Each student will attend two (2) distinct worship services (e.g., Jewish, Eastern Orthodox, Roman Catholic, Charismatic, Vineyard, Episcopalian), including both an aesthetic and a kinesthetic design. The student should 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 for 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). ***NOTE:*** Each essay needs to include the date, time, and location of the service. Personal attendance in the

services is strongly **recommended** for a more accurate and robust experience and assessment. If personal attendance is not possible, the **video link** to the actual service observed needs to be **included** in the submitted report. A rubric associated with this item reflects information presented in the textbooks, online presentations, and outside sources. The rubric will be the primary instrument to assess the student's submission. **DUE: Aesthetic Week 6; Kinesthetic Week 9.**

6. **DESIGN WORSHIP SERVICES:** Each student will design three (3) 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*. 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: Aesthetic Week 8; Blended and Kinesthetic Week 12.**

7. **GROUP PROJECT PRESENTATION:** 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. The assumptions for the assignment include the following: 1) Everyone has already read the textbook, so **do not simply represent the textbook content**; 2) The persons who worship in that tradition are genuine in their devotion to Christ; 3) You have a totally blank page to work with for designing your presentation. Thus, it should be creative, interesting, winsome, and effective; you may use video, drama, interviews, Skype, YouTube, blogs, investigative reports, object lessons, examples, PowerPoint, etc.; 4) The intended target for the presentation is a congregation from a different worship tradition with whom you are going to share the information as part of a 6-part workshop series on major Christian worship practices; and 5) The purpose of your presentation is to educate the listeners on the background, nature, theology, rationale, practice, strengths, weaknesses, myths, misunderstandings, questions, emphases, proponents, leaders, examples, etc. of that particular tradition.

Each presentation will be graded by the following criteria:

1. Is it accurate?
2. Does it move beyond the textbook content?
3. Is it usable in a local church?
4. Does it include the major aspects of the tradition (resources, theology, criteria, etc.)?
5. Is it attractive and creative?
6. Is it analytical?
7. Is it original?

Everyone in your group must contribute to the presentation. The presentation needs to be unified in style, focus, etc. Someone in the group will be responsible for posting the final work-product on the Discussion Board of the course to allow everyone else in the course to download your presentation for use in his or her church. You will take from the course a collection of at least six total presentations by students for use in a workshop format to present to local congregations. **DUE: POSTING Week 1; PRESENTATIONS Weeks 14-16.**

8. **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 exam questions. These questions will be posted on Blackboard during final exam week. **DUE: Final Exam Week (See course calendar.)**

Evaluation of Grade

The student's grade will be computed as follows:

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|--|-----|
| 1. Attendance, Participation, and Meaningful Contributions in Class Discussion | 10% |
| 2. Book Reviews (10% each) | 20% |
| 3. Worship Service Designs | 10% |
| 4. Group Project Presentation | 10% |
| 5. Observation and Evaluation of Worship Services | 10% |
| 6. Midterm Exam | 15% |
| 7. Final Exam | 25% |

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.

DEADLINES:

Each assignment (exams, papers, projects, etc.) must be submitted by midnight of the date due.

Late Work: Assignments turned in past the date due will incur a minimum penalty of one letter grade per day late. Work will not be accepted more than four (4) days past the date due without express prior permission of the professors. In such cases, a grade of D will be the maximum grade. In fairness to all students, no exceptions are allowed.

NOTE: In order to receive credit for the class, **ALL** assignments must be completed. No graduating senior will be permitted to graduate unless his or her assignments are submitted in a timely manner.

STUDENT / PROFESSOR CONFERENCES:

The professors are available to meet with students by prior appointment during office hours. Teaching assistants may be available as well to answer questions and help students in person, by phone, text, or email consultation.

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 some changes are necessary. 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 (4) days of evacuation.

CLASS POLICIES:

1. **Attendance and Class Participation:** Attendance and class participation are necessary for meeting the requirements of this class. Students will be expected to attend all classes, per the published policy in the academic catalog. Students are expected to be attentive and prepared for each class session. Students who are engaged in private conversations or doing work for other

classes may be asked to leave the class; repeat violations may result in removal from the course. Rude or disruptive behavior is also not permitted.

2. **Laptop Guidelines:** Laptops are permitted in class as long as they are used for taking notes or accessing Blackboard materials related to this particular course. Students using laptops are requested to sit in the front of the classroom for accountability purposes. Gaming, sending e-mail, social networking, and web browsing of any kind are strictly prohibited. Failure to heed this policy will result in dismissal from the class session; repeat violations may result in removal from the course. Any student using Facebook during a class meeting may be asked to leave the class, with repeat offenders being removed for the remainder of the semester.

3. **Cell Phones:** Students should be considerate of other classmates by turning off all cell phones. If a student's cell phone goes off in class, his/her class participation grade will be docked.

4. **Late Work:** See details noted above under the heading "**Deadlines.**" No late work is permitted without explicit approval. If you cannot meet a deadline or anticipate being unable to do so, notify the professors immediately. Again, no graduating senior will be permitted to graduate unless his or her assignments are submitted in a timely manner.

5. **Plagiarism:** NOBTS has a **no tolerance** policy for plagiarism. Plagiarism in certain cases may result in expulsion from the seminary. See the *NOBTS Student Handbook and Graduate Catalog* for definition, penalties, and policies associated with plagiarism. Students are given the task of writing in order to help them learn how to think critically about the ideas of others and to present the results of their analysis in a readable form. Plagiarism defeats these purposes by cheating the student out of an opportunity to grow. Plagiarism is a failure to distinguish between the work of the student and the work of others, either intentionally or unintentionally. Students who plagiarize will be reported to the Dean of Student, and a grade of "F" will be assigned for the work and the course. Remember, "whoever walks in integrity walks securely, but he who makes his ways crooked will be found out" (Prov. 10:19).

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.

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.

NOBTS Statement Regarding Plagiarism on Written Assignments

As stated above, NOBTS has a **no tolerance** policy for plagiarism. Plagiarism in certain cases may result in expulsion from the seminary. Again, see the *NOBTS Student Handbook and Graduate Catalog* for definition, penalties, and policies associated with plagiarism.

COURSE SCHEDULE

(PATH5300: WORSHIP LEADERSHIP – SPRING 2020)

Week	Date	Assignment Due
1	Jan. 23	BLACKBOARD REGISTRATION (BY THE END OF WEEK 1)
2	Jan. 30	
3	Feb. 3	
4	Feb. 6	BOOK REVIEW #1: <i>HOLY GATHERINGS</i>
5	Feb. 13	WORSHIP ASSESSMENT CRITERIA
6	Feb. 20	AESTHETIC OBSERVATION
7	Feb. 27	BOOK REVIEW #2: <i>EXPLORING THE WORSHIP SPECTRUM</i>
8	March 5	AESTHETIC DESIGN DUE; MIDTERM EXAM (ONLINE)
9	March 12	
	March 19	SPRING BREAK (MARCH 16-20)
10	March 26	KINESTHETIC OBSERVATION
11	April 2	WORSHIP SERVICE DESIGNS
12	April 9	KINESTHETIC DESIGN AND BLENDED DESIGN
13	April 16	ALL GROUP PROJECT PRESENTATIONS UPLOADED TO DISCUSSION BOARD
14	April 23	GROUP PROJECT PRESENTATIONS: <i>Liturgical; Traditional Hymn-Based</i>
15	April 30	GROUP PROJECT PRESENTATIONS: <i>Contemporary Band-Based; Charismatic</i>
16	May 7	GROUP PROJECT PRESENTATIONS: <i>Blended/Convergent; Emerging/Emergent</i>
FINAL EXAM (online Friday through Tuesday, May 8-12)		

NOTE: NOBTS campus offices will be **closed** and classes will **not** meet on Monday, **January 20** (Martin Luther King Jr. Day); Tuesday, **February 25** (Mardi Gras); Monday through Friday, **March 16-20** (Spring Break); and Friday, **April 10** (Good Friday).

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY FOR WORSHIP LEADERSHIP

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