



PATH5300: Worship Leadership
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
Church Ministry Division
Spring 2021 (Tuesday & Thursday, 12:30-1:50)

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NOTE: Copy BOTH professors and teaching assistants with any emails to ensure consistency and responsiveness.

Mission Statement

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

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 week of the course.

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, 2009)

Recommended:

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

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, 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 you 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 separate 1200-word review of *each* of the textbooks. The reviews should include the following: author and bibliographic entry; a brief summation 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 6

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 observation and written evaluation of three distinct worship services. **DUE: Week 5**

4. A **MID-TERM EXAM** will cover all of the material covered in the learning units, classroom discussion, and the 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. 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). 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.

Aesthetic Observation DUE: Week 7
Kinesthetic Observation DUE: Week 10

6. **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*. Designs should include a worship guide outline as well as a double-spaced, two- to three-page, 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. **Aesthetic Design Due: Week 8**
Kinesthetic and Blended Designs Due: Week 11

7. **COLLABORATIVE 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 teams will be assigned, as will the specific worship leadership strategy.

The assumptions for the assignment include: 1) everyone has already read the textbook; **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; it should be creative, interesting, winsome, 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 and that you are going to take this presentation and give it to the group 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, rational, practice, strengths, weaknesses, myths, misunderstandings, questions, emphases, proponents, leaders, examples, etc. of that particular tradition.

Each presentation will be graded by these 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 onto the Discussion Board of the course. Posting the presentation onto the Discussion Board of the course Blackboard allows 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 in local congregations.

DUE: Weeks 13-15
Posting DUE: Week 15

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: Tuesday midnight of Final Exam week (see course calendar)

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 (10% each)	20%
3. Worship service designs	10%
4. Group presentation project	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. Work will not be accepted more than 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. The teaching assistants are available to answer questions and help students in person, as well as by phone, text, and 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 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.

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, 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, repeat offenders for the remainder of the semester.
3. **Cell Phones:** Students should be conscientious 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:** Because of the nature of this class, no late work is permitted without explicit approval. If you cannot meet a deadline or anticipate being unable to do so, notify the professors. No graduating senior will be permitted to graduate unless his or her assignments are submitted in a timely manner.
5. **Institution Style Guide:** A copy of the approved NOBTS Style Guide can be found in the course Blackboard shell, or can be located online at the Writing Center's page on the seminary website at: <https://www.nobts.edu/resources/pdf/writing/StyleGuide.pdf>
6. **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 that plagiarize will be reported to the Dean of Students and a grade of "F" will be assigned. Remember the words of the proverb: "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 NOBTS Writing Center"

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

As stated above, 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

(PATH5300 – spring 2021; on-site)

Week	Date	Assignment Due
1	Jan 19, 21	BLACKBOARD REGISTRATION (JAN 21)
2	Jan 26, 28	
3	Feb 2, 4	
4	Feb 9, 11	BOOK REVIEW #1: <i>HOLY GATHERINGS</i> (Feb 11)
MARDI GRAS		
5	Feb 18	WORSHIP ASSESSMENT CRITERIA
6	Feb 23, 25	BOOK REVIEW #2: <i>EXPLORING THE WORSHIP SPECTRUM</i> (Feb 25)
7	Mar 2, 4	AESTHETIC OBSERVATION (Mar 4)
8	Mar 9, 11	AESTHETIC DESIGN (Mar 11) MIDTERM EXAM (online; Mar 11)
SPRING BREAK		
9	Mar 23, 25	
10	Mar 30, Apr 1	KINESTHETIC OBSERVATION (Apr 1)
11	Apr 6, 8	KINESTHETIC & BLENDED WORSHIP DESIGNS (Apr 8)
12	Apr 13, 15	
13	Apr 20, 22	COLLABORATIVE PROJECT PRESENTATIONS: <i>Liturgical (Apr 20); Traditional Hymn-based (Apr 22)</i>
14	Apr 27, 29	COLLABORATIVE PROJECT PRESENTATIONS: <i>Contemporary Band-based (Apr 27); Charismatic (Apr 29)</i>
15	May 4, 6	COLLABORATIVE PROJECT PRESENTATIONS: <i>Blended/Convergent (May 4); Emerging/Emergent (May 6)</i>
FINAL EXAM (online <u>Friday thru Tuesday</u>, May 7-11)		

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY FOR WORSHIP LEADERSHIP

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