



MUWM9302 Worship and the Task of Disciple Making

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary

Division of Church Ministry

Fall 2020

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 *Mission Focus*.

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. The curriculum competencies addressed in this course are: *worship leadership* and *Christian theological heritage*.

Course Description

The purpose of this seminar is to examine various means by which the ministry of corporate worship may contribute to the process of spiritual formation and maturity in the lives of Christ-followers. Various contemporary models and approaches toward the task of disciple-making will be studied. Particular attention will be given to how the ministry of congregational worship is able to work in concert with other ministries of the church in order to nurture the spiritual growth of church members.

Student Learning Outcomes

The worship experience of the gathered community has the potential to contribute significantly to the spiritual growth and development of Christ-followers through authentic corporate encounters with God, through educating them in the faith, and through the intentional encouragement of kingdom values expressed in fulfillment of the Great Commandments and the Great Commission.

At the conclusion of the course, the student will:

1. Be able to articulate a biblically grounded understanding of the discipleship task in the church and the ways in which the ministry of corporate worship can contribute positively to the goals of that process.
2. Be familiar with research pertaining to the role of corporate worship in various effective discipleship strategies and methodologies currently employed by evangelical churches.
3. Be able to think critically about the corporate worship planning process as it relates to spiritual formation of believers; and analyze how corporate worship can be a potential tool for the cognitive and affective development of spiritual growth in the life of the Christ-follower.
4. Understand the process of engaging in empirical research and analysis of factors found in the corporate worship environment which may contribute to the goal of on-going spiritual formation in the lives of Christ-followers, including: an understanding of God's character, the individual's need of confession and repentance, God's love expressed through Christ and the atonement, and what it means to be Kingdom citizens.

Embedded Assignment

There is no embedded assignment in this course.

Textbooks and Required Reading Articles:

- Carlson, Kent and Mike Lueken. *Renovation of the Church: What Happens when a Seeker Church Discovers Spiritual Formation*. Downers Grove: IVP, 2011.
- Peterson, David G. *Encountering God Together: Leading Worship Services that Honor God, Minister to His People, and Build His Church*. Phillipsburg, NJ: P & R Publishing, 2013.
- Powers, Mark C. *Going Full Circle: Worship that Moves Us to Discipleship and Missions*. Eugene, OR: Resource Publications, 2013.
- Cosper, Mike. *Rhythms of Grace*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2013.
- Schilling, S. Paul. *The Faith We Sing*. Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1983.
- Wilhoit, James C. *Spiritual Formation as if the Church Mattered: Growing in Christ through Community*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2008.

Articles:

- Astley, Jeff. "The role of worship in Christian learning" in *Theological Perspectives on Christian Formation: A Reader on Theology and Christian Education*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1996, 244-251.
- Abernethy, Alexis D. and Charlotte VanOyen Witvliet. "A Study of Transformation in Worship" in *Worship that Changes Lives*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2008.
- Bauman, Lynn C. "Spiritual formation through the liturgy" in *The Christian Educator's Handbook on Spiritual Formation*. Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1994, 99-110.
- Berntsen, John A. "Christian affections and the catechumenate" in *Theological Perspectives on Christian Formation: A Reader on Theology and Christian Education*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1996, 229-243.
- Dykstra, Craig R. "The formative power of the congregation" in *Theological Perspectives on Christian Formation: A Reader on Theology and Christian Education*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1996, 252-265.
- Gangel, Kenneth O. "Spiritual formation through public worship" in *The Christian Educator's Handbook on Spiritual Formation*. Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1994, 111-129.
- McElrath, Hugh T. And Bill J. Leonard. "Spirituality and Worship" in *Becoming Christian: Dimensions of Spiritual Formation* (ed. Bill Leonard). Louisville, KY: Westminster/John Knox Press, 1990, 46-58.
- Richardson, Paul A. "Spiritual Formation in Corporate Worship" in *Review and Expositor* 96, no. 4 (1999): 519-35.
- Wilhoit, James C. "Following the Lord's pattern of prayer" in *The Christian Educator's Handbook on Spiritual Formation*. Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1994, 174-188.
- Wren, Brian. "Echoes of the Gospel: How Hymns Do Theology" in *Praying Twice: The Music and Words of Congregational Song*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2000, 349-377.

Additional readings as provided by the professor

Course Teaching Methodology

The course will involve the following methodologies:

The course will convene three times during the semester for seminar presentation and interaction: **[NOTE: Pending NOBTS decisions/policies in light of the health guidelines, the current plan is face to face for session 1; face-to-face (or Bluejeans option) for session 2; Bluejeans only for session 3; this is subject to change].**

Session One (Sep 17, 1:00PM-9:00PM through Sep 18, 8:00AM-10:15AM)

Session Two (Oct 15, 1:00PM-9:00PM through Oct 16, 8:00AM-10:15AM)

Session Three (Dec 3, 1:00PM-9:00PM through Dec 4, 8:00AM-10:15AM)

Participants should become familiar with assigned readings and lead the seminar in discussion of relevant topics. Additionally, students will engage in original research of selected seminar topics and present findings to the seminar. A final reflection paper will also be required.

Course Requirements:

1. A formal book review of the text Wilhoite's *Spiritual Formation as if the Church Mattered: Growing in Christ through Community*. (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2008) will be due at the first seminar, **Sep 17, 2020**.
2. Required reading of textbooks, selected chapters from additional texts, and selected journal articles. Reading notes for each assignment (notes not required for Wilhoit and Carlson/Lueken) should be compiled as they are read (a summary or main points paragraph per chapter or article). Reading notes should be submitted for each of the seminar meetings at the appropriate due date. Additionally, each student will lead the seminar discussion during each of the three meetings on selected chapters/articles of the assigned course reading. This should take the form of prepared questions for discussion based on the assigned material. **Please submit prepared questions (one document per seminar meeting) to the Blackboard folder.**
3. After reading *Renovation of the Church* (Carlson/Lueken), develop a broad list of questions (a couple from each chapter) that will help the seminar engage with the case study of Oak Hills Church. Remember as you develop your questions, we are seeking to learn some principles about how a church's corporate gatherings may influence the spiritual growth of its members.
Due date: First seminar, **Sep 17, 2020**.
4. Individual assignments will be made to research and present to the seminar a specific topic related to the interaction of congregational worship and the spiritual formation process. Topic may include the following:
 1. Disciple-making models/instruments available for (or pioneered by) local congregations which include worship ministry as a component in the model. The research should overview the model but should also seek to determine how the ministry of corporate worship particularly relates to the overarching strategy of the disciple-making task within the model. Sample models, among others, include Willow Creek Association's *Reveal* studies [<http://www.revealnow.com/>], Lifeway's Transformational Church Initiative [<http://www.transformationalchurch.com/>], The Church at Brookhills' *Radical Experiment* [<http://www.radicalexperiment.org/>].
 2. A substantial review of literature (overview of available research studies) on the topic.
 3. An in-depth case study of how a specific church fosters spiritual formation through corporate times of worship.
 4. Review of research related to how song lyrics for corporate worship influence spiritual formation
 5. Other (approval of professor needed)Due date: Second seminar, **Oct 15, 2020**.
5. Case study. Each student will be responsible for analysis of a specific worship service of a selected church. Analysis will be performed using a compilation of a full-text transcript of the service. Using the transcript, the student will perform a content analysis regarding the extent to which the target worship services address the following specific indicators related to spiritual formation: understanding of the character of God, the human condition/need for God, the provisions of God through Christ and the Holy Spirit, the process of becoming Christ-like, and the deepening commitment to Kingdom values and citizenship. Insights from the case study will be reported in a

- paper to be presented to the seminar. *Additional details for the assignment will be presented to the student at the first seminar meeting.* Due date: Third seminar mtg, **Dec 3, 2020.**
6. As a final assignment, each student will write a 2000-word reflection paper that seeks to answer the question: “How can the corporate worship experience contribute to the process of making mature Christ-followers?” This paper should address the various aspects of corporate worship and their potential (over time) for transformational impact. As a synthesis assignment, the student should reflect on current trends and research that can aid worship planners and worship leaders as they face the task of discipleship within the congregations they serve. The student should use Turabian guidelines for this formal paper. Due Date: Monday, **Thu, Dec 10, 2020.**
 5. The course shell in Blackboard will serve as a clearinghouse for the seminar. All written assignments must be submitted in the Assignments folder of Blackboard. No email submissions will be accepted.

Evaluation of Grade

The student's grade will be computed as follows:

Participation, prepared questions, leading assigned discussion	10%
Summary reading notes	15%
Book Review	15%
Individual Research presentation	20%
Case Study: Content analysis of worship service	20%
Final reflection paper	20%

Seminar Assignments and Reading

Seminar	Materials/Assignment	Discussion Leader (TBA)
Sep 17-18	Wilhoite, Chs 3-10	Ch 3-4 Ch 5-6 Ch 7-8 Ch 9-10
	Powers, Ch 1-16	Ch 6-8
	Dykstra article	
	Richardson article	
	Discussion of Case Study: <i>Renovation of the Church</i> (Carlson, Lueken)	All (with prepared questions)
	Book Review of <i>Spiritual Formation as if the Church Mattered</i>	All
	Discussion Questions for assigned discussion leading	(From your assigned chaps/articles to lead discussions)
Oct 15-16	Peterson, <i>Encountering God Together</i>	Ch1-2 Ch 3-4 Ch 5-6 Ch 7-8 Ch 9-10
	Ulmer article (<i>Worship that Changes Lives</i>)	
	Abernethy, "A Study of Transformation in Worship"	
	Wren, "Echoes of the Gospel"	
	Individual research presentations	All
	Discussion Questions for assigned discussion leading	All
Dec 3-4	Schilling, Chs. 1-13	Ch 1, Ch 4 Ch 5-6 Ch 7-8 Ch 9-10
	Cosper, <i>Rhythms of Grace</i>	Ch 6 Ch 7 Ch 8 Ch 9 Ch 10
	Case study/Content analysis presentations	All
	Discussion Questions for assigned discussion leading	All

Dec 10	Final Reflection Paper due	

Technical Assistance

For assistance regarding technology, consult ITC (504-816-8180) or the following websites:

1. BlackboardHelpDesk@nobts.edu - Email for technical questions/support requests with the NOBTS Blackboard Learning Management System NOBTS.Blackboard.com.
2. ITCSupport@nobts.edu - Email for general technical questions/support requests.
3. 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). 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.

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.

Late Work

Assignments should be turned in by the due date. Most assignments are due by the time of the seminar meeting. No credit will be given for assignments turned in past the deadline for the seminar meetings.

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- _____. *The Frog in the Kettle: What Christians Need to Know about Life in the Year 2000*. Ventura: Regal Books, 1990.
- _____. *User Friendly Churches: What Christians Need to Know about the Churches People Love to Go To*. Ventura: Regal Books, 1991.
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