

PW 631 Christian Worship

January Intersession, 2012

Developing Christ-minded leaders who make a difference in the world

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SCHEDULE: January 9-13, 8:30 AM – 4:00 PM

COURSE WEIGHT: 3 credits

DESCRIPTION:

An experiential and participatory study of worship that focuses on the cultivation of worship as a lifestyle and offers a theological framework and practical resources for planning and leading corporate worship events.

OBJECTIVES:

Upon successful completion of this course,

1. The student should have become a better worshiper, seeking to live a life of unceasing worship and to experience the privilege of offering public worship to God in Christ, through the Spirit.
2. The student should have developed a theological framework for Christian worship and be familiar with a variety of resources for the planning of corporate worship events.
3. The student should be familiar with the Christian Year as a biblical and historical framework and be able to integrate it into a worship context.
4. The student should become a better worship leader, developing basic skills in worship planning and worship leadership, integrating imaginative and creative elements in order to help congregations experience the splendor and wonder of God.

COURSE WEB SITE:

<http://www.online.taylor-edu.ca>

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS:

Dyrness, William A. *A Primer on Christian Worship: Where We've Been, Where We Are, Where We Can Go.* Eerdmans, 2009.

Labberton, Mark. *The Dangerous Act of Worship: Living God's Call to Justice.* IVP, 2007.



*In our astonished reverence we confess
Thine uncreated loveliness!
- Frederick W. Faber*

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

1. Pre-Reading

In order to maximize the classroom discussion and learning students should read both required texts prior to the first day of classes and submit a review of each on the first day of class (**January 9**). Templates for these two reviews are found on pages 5-6 of this syllabus. *Note that the template for Labberton's book is different from Dyrness's book.*

2. Attendance and Participation

Students are strongly encouraged to be physically and mentally present during class time. Attendance, engagement in discussion and demonstration of a command of the textbook readings will be factors in determining this portion of the grade.

3. Elective Book Review

Students will select one of the practical or special focus books in the Reading List (page 4 of this syllabus) and review it, using the template provided on page 7. **Due Feb. 24, 4:30 PM.**

4. Internet Exploration

Students will spend a minimum of four hours exploring online resources found in our course web platform. An Internet Log will be submitted together with a two page double-spaced report on how you think you might use some of these resources personally as well as in the context of ministry. (See template for submitting this assignment on page 8 of this syllabus). **Due Feb. 24, 4:30 PM**

5. Worship Evaluation/Critique

Students will submit an evaluation of a worship service. It might be more objective to conduct this evaluation in a church other than the one where you usually worship. The following information should be included:

- A. Date, time, location of worship event
- B. Brief description of the leaders of the worship event and of the way space was used or organized (where did the leader(s) stand, what was the focal point or centre point of the platform?).
- C. Outline of the order of the various elements in the worship event (including titles of songs, scriptures read, types of prayers offered)
- D. Theological Evaluation (Trinitarian? Biblically sound? God-focused? Corporate Vs Individual?)
- E. Aesthetics/Symbols – How did colours, symbols, images, gestures, vestments, electronic multimedia, audio quality contribute or distract from the event?
- F. Evaluation of the Four Common Elements: Gathering, Word, Sacrament, Sending (How clearly present were each of these four elements?)
- G. Overall Conclusion:
 - How well did the service stimulate worship in Spirit and in Truth?
 - Were there distractions that could have been avoided?
 - Did the service invite participation? (How were lay people involved in leading worship?)
 - Were prayer and Scripture integral parts of the worship experience and were they thoughtful and engaging?
 - What changes would you recommend?

Paper length should be 5 – 7 pages, double spaced. **Due Feb. 24, 4:30 PM**

6. Group Worship Project

Students will be divided into small groups and assigned a worship services to prepare and present in the context of our class. This should be planned for a time frame of 30 – 40 minutes and presented on the last day of classes (**Jan 13**). These services should be crafted around the theme or event in focus and make creative use of art forms, symbols and rituals. Students will grade themselves in terms of their contributions to the group project. A self-evaluation grade sheet will be given to each member of the group after their presentation.

7. Journal of Article Readings

Students will read a series of seventeen articles posted on our course companion web site and write a reflective response to each one, consisting of 1 ½ to 2 pages double-spaced. These are to be personal responses and not simply a summary of the article. Some questions to be addressed might include:

1. Why do you think the author has written this?
2. What concerns are he/she addressing?
3. What insights or principles would you like to integrate in your practice/thinking about worship as a result of this reading?

Due Feb. 24, 4:30 PM.

DISTRIBUTION OF CREDITS:

<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Date Due</u>	<u>Weight</u>
Attendance and Participation	Daily	10%
Three Book Reviews	Jan. 9 (X2), Feb. 24	30%
Internet Log	Feb. 24	10%
Worship Evaluation/Critique	Feb. 24	15%
Group Project	Jan. 13	15%
Journal of Articles	Feb. 24	20%

LECTURE TOPICS

What is Worship?

Biblical Models

Worship as Formation/Healing

Worship and Time: the Christian Year

Worship and the Lectionary

Worship and Culture

Worship and the Arts

Elements of Corporate Worship (Gathering, Prayer, Silence, Music, Word, Offertory, Sacraments, Sending, Benediction)

Designing and Leading a Worship Service

On Tuesday, Jan. 10, the class will convene at **First Baptist Church**,
10031 - 109 St.
from 1:00 – 4:00 PM

READING LIST FOR ELECTIVE BOOK

Baker, Johnny, et. al, *Alternative Worship: Resources from and for the Emerging Church*. Baker, 2004.

Carroll, J. W. and W. C. Roof *Bridging Divided Worlds: Generational Cultures in Congregations*. Jossey-Bass. 2002.

Farhadian, Charles E. *Christian Worship Worldwide: Expanding Horizons, Deepening Practices*. Eerdmans, 2007.

Jensen, Robin M. *The Substance of Things Seen: Art, Faith and the Christian Community*. Eerdmans. 2004.

Kroeker, Charlotte, ed. *Music in Christian Worship: At the Service of the Liturgy*. Liturgical Press. 2005.

Northcutt, Kay L. *Kindling Desire for God: Preaching as Spiritual Direction*. Fortress Press. 2009.

Piper, John. *Desiring God: Meditations of a Christian Hedonist*. Multnomah Books. Revised ed., 2003.

Redman, Robb. *The Great Worship Awakening: Singing a New Song in the Postmodern Church*. Jossey-Bass. 2002

Schmit, Clayton J. *Too Deep for Words: A Theology of Liturgical Expression*. Westminster John Knox. 2002.

Stookey, Lawrence Hull *Calendar: Christ's Time for the Church*. Abingdon. 1996.

Let the Whole Church Say Amen!: A Guide for those who Pray in Public.
Abingdon. 2001.

Tirabesi, Maren C. and Maria I. Tirabesi, eds. *Before the Amen: Creative Resources for Worship*. Pilgrim Press. 2007.

Vander Zee, Leonard J. *Christ, Baptism and the Lord's Supper: Recovering the Sacraments for Evangelical Worship*. IVP. 2006

Webber, Robert E. *Ancient-Future Time: Forming Spirituality through the Christian Year*. Baker. 2004.

Book Review Template for Mark Labberton, *The Dangerous Act of Worship*

Name _____ Box _____

Total Number of Pages Read _____/198

1. Statement of the Author's controlling purpose in writing this book.

2. Select three paragraphs or groups of sentences that piqued your interest. Write them out and comment briefly on each of the three. Why did you select them? How did it contribute to your understanding?

3. How has this book addressed me? Develop an overall impact statement of how this book has challenged your thinking and action. What practical step(s) will you implement in your life and/or ministry in order to be a more just worshipper in your context?

This should be 3-4 pages in length

Book Review Template for William Dyrness, *A Primer on Christian Worship*

Name _____ Box _____

Total Number of Pages Read _____/154

1. Statement of the Author's controlling purpose in writing this book.

2. Brief Survey of the Topics Covered

3. Critical Assessment (Include what you liked most and what you disliked – giving reasons for your position)

4. Application to Ministry

This should be 3-4 pages in length

Book Review Template for Elective Book

Name _____ Box _____

Title of Book Read _____

Author(s) _____

Total Number of Pages Read _____

1. Statement of the Author's controlling purpose in writing this book.

2. Brief Survey of the Topics Covered

3. Critical Assessment (Include what you liked most and what you disliked – giving reasons for your position)

4. Application to Ministry

This should be 3-4 pages in length

Internet Exploration Log

Name _____ Box S- _____

1. Web site researched (give name of site) _____

Minutes spent reading/exploring _____

2. Web site researched (give name of site) _____

Minutes spent reading/exploring _____

3. Web site researched (give name of site) _____

Minutes spent reading/exploring _____

4. Web site researched (give name of site) _____

Minutes spent reading/exploring _____

5. Web site researched (give name of site) _____

Minutes spent reading/exploring _____

6. Web site researched (give name of site) _____

Minutes spent reading/exploring _____

7. Web site researched (give name of site) _____

Minutes spent reading/exploring _____

8. Web site researched (give name of site) _____

Minutes spent reading/exploring _____

TOTAL time spent on this exercise: _____

Report (in one or two pages) on how you think you might use some of these resources personally as well as in the context of ministry:
