I. Course Description

This course is an introduction to the liturgical life of the Christian faith. Building upon the foundations of the Bible, Christian tradition, and theology, the course provides the necessary information for a robust understanding of Christian corporate worship. In addition, this course examines the ways in which worship plays a fundamental role in forming and sustaining the community of faith. It also presents students the opportunity to acquire and practice the skills that are necessary to plan and lead meaningful corporate worship. (Ministry Cohort Course).

II. Student Learning Outcomes

As a result of this course, students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate critical and faithful interpretation and responsible use of Scripture to generate a theology of worship.
2. Establish communal and personal disciplines that nourish Christian spiritual and moral formation.
3. Not assessed in this course
4. Demonstrate critical theological reflection of worship that is biblically faithful, historically grounded, contextually relevant, and integrated with life and ministry.
5. Not assessed in this course
6. Exhibit effective ministry skills relevant to leading and planning worship services.

III. Course Requirements

A. Textbooks and Other Materials


B. Attendance

According to the Student Handbook, attendance at all class sessions is expected, unless the professor has been notified in advance and has approved the absence. Students should be on time and should stay through the duration of all classes. Any student missing more than six class hours (2 weeks) will be required to do additional work, receive a lower grade, audit or withdraw from the class, or be penalized otherwise at the discretion of the professor.

C. Assignments/Assessment of Student Learning

1. Worship Attendance and Evaluation (25% of final grade)

   A. Attendance at a Christian worship service different from your own (cross-culturally)

   B. Evaluation of Two Different Worship Services.
      - one should be the student’s “home” church
      - one should be the service described in A. above.

   C. Write a 6-7 page reflection paper where you 1) briefly describe the settings and services (1 paragraph per service), 2) compare the services (how were they similar?), 3) contrast the services (how were they different?), 4) briefly explain which you liked better and why, 5) articulate what the differences say to you about the theology of worship that serves foundationally for the way worship was conducted.

      This is due on or before March 1, 2016.

2. Group Work (30% of final grade)

   A. Design and lead a worship service.

      Each group will plan and lead a 15 minute worship service. This is an opportunity for students to explore unfamiliar styles and elements of worship. Additional information will be provided during the first class.

   B. Actively participate in all other group work.

3. Act of Worship (15% of final due)

Recognizing our “worship service” to be more than the weekend gathering, you are asked to invest two hours in “worship service” beyond the walls of the church. As Labberton suggests, Jesus is found at the margins—not just in our churches. Intentionally serve Him by loving your neighbor. (Deut. 6:4-5; Mark 12:28-33; Matt. 25:37-45; Hebrews 13:15-16; Romans 12:1-2). Write 2-3 pages of your experience. This is due March 15, 2016.

4. Final Paper (30% of final due)

A paper (15 pages) designed to integrate the student’s context, practice, and theology of worship with course content, reading material, and class experience (including cohort). In addition to the required textbooks, 5 other sources should be included as reference material. Structure of the paper to be discussed in class. This is due May 3, 2016.
D. Calculation of Grade and Connection of Learning Outcomes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignments</th>
<th>Learning Outcomes</th>
<th>Percent of Final Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Worship Attendance &amp; Evaluation</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group Work: Planning &amp; leading worship sequences</td>
<td>1, 2, 6</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Act of Worship</td>
<td>2, 6</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Paper</td>
<td>1, 4, 6</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

IV. Course Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week/Session #</th>
<th>Date(s)</th>
<th>Lecture/Topic</th>
<th>Readings/Assignments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>January 12</td>
<td>Worship, Theology, and Ethics</td>
<td>Cherry (0-33).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>January 19</td>
<td>Preparation</td>
<td>Cherry (35-52; 273-275); Boone (complete book)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--</td>
<td>January 26</td>
<td>Invitation</td>
<td>Cherry (53-66); Noland (7-112)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>February 2</td>
<td>Revelation, pt. 1 (Word)</td>
<td>Cherry (67-83)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>February 9</td>
<td>Revelation, pt. 2 (Sacraments)</td>
<td>Cherry (85-121)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>February 16</td>
<td>Participation, pt. 1 (Prayer)</td>
<td>Cherry (123-149)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>February 23</td>
<td>Participation, pt. 2 (Music)</td>
<td>Cherry (151-203)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>March 1</td>
<td>Formation, pt. 1 (Christian Calendar / Lectionary)</td>
<td>Cherry (205-218)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Worship Attendance and Evaluation Due</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>March 8</td>
<td>Spring Break</td>
<td>Spring Break</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>March 15</td>
<td>Formation, pt. 2 (Proxemics, Liturgy, Community)</td>
<td>Cherry (261-271); Noland (113-218)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Act of Worship Due</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>March 22</td>
<td>Intersection</td>
<td>Kimball (complete)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>March 29</td>
<td>Contextualization</td>
<td>Kimball (complete)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>April 5</td>
<td>Imagination</td>
<td>Cherry (221-257)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>April 12</td>
<td>Incarnation</td>
<td>Labberton (complete)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--</td>
<td>April 19</td>
<td>Integration</td>
<td><strong>Cohort-led Worship Experience Due</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>April 26</td>
<td>Celebration</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>May 3</td>
<td>Mission</td>
<td><strong>FINAL PAPER DUE</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
V. **Recommendations for Lifelong Learning**

1. **CONFERENCES:**

   Calvin Institute of Christian Worship  http://worship.calvin.edu/

   National Worship Leaders Conference (regional)  http://nwlconf.com/

   *In addition, many music companies, mega-churches, &/or denominations host their own worship/music/arts conferences or seminars. Many are very good. These are readily found through an online search.*

2. **PERIODICALS:**

   *Church Musician Today* formerly titled *Church Musician* and published by LifeWay Resources, contained interviews with prominent church musicians, reviews of worship albums and resources, and feature articles about worship and church music. 1957-2002.

   *Creator* describes itself as “the bimonthly magazine of balanced music ministries” with articles focused on music as ministry and previewing new choral music for churches. 1995-present.


   *Image: a Journal of Arts and Religion* is a quarterly journal of art and literature which wrestles with religious faith. Issues include poetry, fiction, book reviews, art, and interviews with artists and authors. Tables of contents and selected items from back issues are available online 1995-present.

   *Reformed Worship*, a quarterly journal, contains ideas for planning worship that is geared around the church year including responsive readings, suggestions for songs, and ideas on how to incorporate Christian symbols into worship. The accompanying website provides access to selected feature articles, an index of past issues, and some articles from past issues. A subscription is required to access current issues online. 2003-present.

   *Worship* is a bi-monthly ecumenical journal focused on liturgical renewal published the monks at St. John’s Abbey. An online tables of contents are available for all issues since 1999. 1954-present.

   *Worship Leader*, a bi-monthly magazine, focuses on a different theme related to worship in each issue, includes several regular columns by leaders in the area of worship, and features many reviews of various worship resources. The website offers access to selected feature articles. 1999-present.

   *In addition many worship leaders have blogs that are worthwhile. Some Facebook Discussion/Resource sharing groups are beneficial as well.*
VI. Seminary Guidelines

A. ATS Academic Integrity Policy
Ashland Theological Seminary expects each student to uphold the Seminary’s core value of academic excellence by contributing to an environment that is both challenging and supportive. In such an environment a student will neither seek nor offer improper assistance. All students have an obligation to be forthright in their academic endeavors and to respect ethical standards. The work that one submits for academic evaluation must be one’s own, unless an instructor expressly permits certain types of collaboration. Academic integrity requires that each student will use one’s own capabilities to achieve one’s fullest potential and will neither offer nor accept aid that is not in keeping with regularly accepted standards of academic integrity. Failure to conform to this conduct shall constitute academic dishonesty. The full Academic Integrity Policy statement may be found in the Student Handbook.

B. Academic Support Services
If you need assistance with writing projects for your coursework, contact the ATS Academic Support Center. The center provides free sessions with a peer consultant who can help you with all of your concerns about academic support including writing, critical thinking, documentation, reading skills, study skills, test taking skills, time management. Contact the center if you have a question about how to complete your assignment, if you have documentation questions, or if you would like to have your paper evaluated for areas needing improvement. The ATS Academic Support Center can be reached at 419-289-5162 or by e-mail at atswc@ashland.edu.

C. Students with Disabilities
A student who has a specific physical, psychological or learning disability and requires accommodations is encouraged to inform the instructor during the first days of the semester so that learning needs can be appropriately met. It is the student’s responsibility to document the disability with Disability Services located in the Center for Academic Support, Library Seventh Floor, (419) 289-5904, ssalvo@ashland.edu prior to receiving accommodations. Ashland University makes every effort to comply with Sections 504 and 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, and the Amendments to the Act (2008).

D. ATS Grading Scale

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percent</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>97-100</td>
<td>Superior achievement of course objectives, diligence and originality, high degree of freedom from error, outstanding evidence of ability to utilize course knowledge, initiative expressed in preparing and completing assignments, positive contributions verbalized in class.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>92-96</td>
<td>Good work submitted, commendable achievement of course objectives, some aspects of the course met with excellence, substantial evidence of ability to utilize course material, positive contributions verbalized in class, consistency and thoroughness of work completed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>89-91</td>
<td>Acceptable work completed, satisfactory achievement of course objectives, demonstrating at least some ability to utilize course knowledge, satisfactory class contribution.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>86-88</td>
<td>Good work submitted, commendable achievement of course objectives, some aspects of the course met with excellence, substantial evidence of ability to utilize course material, positive contributions verbalized in class, consistency and thoroughness of work completed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>83-85</td>
<td>Acceptable work completed, satisfactory achievement of course objectives, demonstrating at least some ability to utilize course knowledge, satisfactory class contribution.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>80-82</td>
<td>Acceptable work completed, satisfactory achievement of course objectives, demonstrating at least some ability to utilize course knowledge, satisfactory class contribution.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>77-79</td>
<td>Acceptable work completed, satisfactory achievement of course objectives, demonstrating at least some ability to utilize course knowledge, satisfactory class contribution.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade</td>
<td>Percentage</td>
<td>Description</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------</td>
<td>------------</td>
<td>-------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>74-76</td>
<td>Passing but minimal work, marginal achievement of course objectives, poor performance in comprehension of work submitted, inadequate class contributions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>71-73</td>
<td>Unacceptable work resulting in failure to receive class credit, inadequacy of work submitted or of performance and attendance in class.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>68-70</td>
<td>Unacceptable work resulting in failure to receive class credit, inadequacy of work submitted or of performance and attendance in class.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td>65-67</td>
<td>Unacceptable work resulting in failure to receive class credit, inadequacy of work submitted or of performance and attendance in class.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

VII. Selected Bibliography or References


Hall, Christopher A. *Worshipping with the Church Fathers.* Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 2009. ISBN:


Johnson, Maxwell E., ed. *Between Memory and Hope, Readings on the Liturgical


Reference Works


  Vol. 1 – The Biblical Foundations of Christian Worship;
  Vol. 2 – Twenty Centuries of Christian Worship;
  Vol. 3 – The Renewal of Sunday Morning;
  Vol. 4 – Music and the Arts in Christian Worship;
  Vol. 5 – The Services of the Christian Year;
  Vol. 6 – The Sacred Actions of Christian Worship;
  Vol. 7 – The Ministries of Christian Worship.


For a highly extensive worship studies bibliography to be used as an aid to your paper (not as a source for required reading), go to the Webber Institute for Worship Studies website <http://www.iwsfla.org> and look under the Resources tab for “Bibliography.”

Another excellent resource is the Calvin Institute for Worship Studies: <http://worship.calvin.edu/resources/resource-library/>