

## **CWP 5512 WORSHIP AND THE COMMUNITY OF GOD**

Ashland Theological Seminary

Fall Semester, 2020

Tuesday, 9-10a via Zoom, or Wednesday, 7-8p via Zoom

Dr. Shane L. Johnson, Adjunct Instructor

Phone: 330/327-7804

Email: [sjohnson@ashland.edu](mailto:sjohnson@ashland.edu)

Note- the best way to contact Doc Johnson is via email.

Note- Due to Covid precautions, this is an online course, with a mandatory weekly, synchronous Zoom meeting component, with your choice of meeting Tuesday mornings, 9-10a, or Wednesday evenings, 7-8p.

### **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.

### **II. Student Learning Outcomes**

This course format consistently meets the same quality, assessment, learning outcomes, and requirements of the traditional face-to-face semester offering of this course. For fall 2020, the sessions for this class may be offered 100% face-to-face in a physical classroom (with remote access for pre-scheduled students) 100% face-to-face virtually using technologies such as Zoom or Collaborate, as a combination of face-to-face sessions and digital activities/lectures (virtually or in-person), or as a combination of any of these elements. In the event of extended disruptions of normal classroom activities due to the pandemic, the format for this course may be modified to utilize 100% face-to-face virtual/digital classroom sessions.

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

Cherry, Constance M. *The Worship Architect: A Blueprint for Designing Culturally Relevant and Biblically Faithful Services*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2010. ISBN-13: 978-0-8010-387-7.

Labberton, Mark. *The Dangerous Act of Worship: Living God's Call of Justice*. Downers Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity Press, 2007. ISBN: 978-0830834143.

Maynard-Reid, Pedrito. *Diverse Worship: African-American, Caribbean, and Hispanic Perspectives*. Downers Grove, Ill.: IVP Academic, 2009. ISBN: 978-0830815791.

Noland, Rory. *Worship on Earth as It Is in Heaven: Exploring Worship as a Spiritual Discipline*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2011. ISBN-13: 978 0310331285.

#### 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 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. Read the book by Rory Noland, in its entirety, and write a reflection paper in response to your encounter with the book. The paper should be 5 pages of text in length, not including Title page, etc.** This assignment is not a book review. I do not want a synopsis of the content of the book. Instead, I want you to share insights that you gained from this book. Discuss

- how the book altered your thinking,
- provided you with a fresh understanding,
- triggered a memory and helped you interpret that memory differently,
- reinvigorated your sense of calling, and
- especially contributed to your understanding of worship, spirituality, and/or ministry.

**Note:** As part of this paper I recommend that you include excerpts from this book, and that you interact with those important excerpts.

**2. “Dangerous” Act of Worship and a 5 page report (5 pages of text, not including Title page, etc.)**

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 about your experience and any personal growth that may have occurred.

### **3. Worship Attendance and Evaluation (Note- this worship experience can either be in person, or online)**

**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 #3A above.

**C. Write a 7 page (7 pages of text, not including Title page, etc.) reflection paper where you**

1) briefly describe the settings and services (1 half page per service).

2) compare the services- how were they similar?

3) contrast the services- how were they different?

4) Briefly describe how you grew, what you learned, and/or how your perspectives were expanded by worshipping in a different worship service.

### **4. 10 Weekly discussion posts, via Blackboard (25% of final grade)**

These weekly discussion posts will likely deal with content from the Cherry and Maynard-Reid texts, and/or worship issues which Dr. Johnson may wish to surface with the class. Please note- Students must answer the initial discussion question(s) (300 word minimum, worth 6 points) by Thursday 11.59p EST of each discussion week, and 1 response post (150 word minimum, worth 4 points) due by Saturday at 11.59p EST. **Students cannot go back and make up weeks that are missed.** We move through the course in community.

### **5. A Final Synthetic and Summative Paper of 15-20 pages on Worship in One's Home Church (25% of Final grade).**

Each student will write a final paper in which she/he will engage in an in-depth look at the student's own local worshipping community. This study should draw from the materials introduced in class and observable data from the practices of the local church. The paper will consist of four parts:

**1) A description of the local congregation,** including its perceived theology of worship (what does its behavior tell us about its beliefs?). (2 pages).

**2) A summary of the place this congregation takes in the overall history of worship praxis** (free worship/liturgical, importance of sacraments/ordinances, etc.). In other words, trace the lineage of this congregation's worship and place it in an historical context. (3-5 pages).

**3) An analysis, based on the student's study and observation, of his/her worshiping congregation's strengths and weaknesses.** While the focus should be on the main weekly worship gathering, the entire life of the church in worship (as in Labberton) may also be discussed. (3-5 pages).

**4) A section dealing with steps the church's worship leadership can take to strengthen areas that are already healthy and to make corrections in areas that are not.** Attention should be given to broader, more —macro issues that need to be resolved over an extended time and not just peripheral or technical items that can be easily addressed. (2-3 pages).

**5) A final section delineating your own philosophy of worship,** as a result of your learning in this course, including each worship component, and why each component should be included. In other words, if/when you become the lead pastor of a local church, what will you insist on or work toward as biblical elements of the worship experience that are relevant in your context?

#### D. Calculation of Grade and Connection with Learning Outcomes

	<i>Assignments</i>	<i>Learning Outcomes</i>	<i>Percent of Final Grade</i>
IV.	Noland Reflection Paper	4	15%, 60 points
	“Dangerous” (Labberton) Act of Worship Report	4	15%, 60 points
	Worship Visits & Reflection/Evaluation Paper	2, 4	20%, 80 points
	Final Paper	1, 4	25%, 100 points
	Weekly discussion posts	1, 4	<u>25%, 100 points</u>
			100%, 400 points

#### Tentative Course Schedule

<i>Week/Session #</i>	<i>Date(s)</i>	<i>Lecture/Topic (subject to change)</i>	<i>Readings/Assignments (subject to change)</i>
	Each week we will have 2 identical, synchronous Zoom meetings- 9a on Tuesday, and 7p on Wednesday. You may choose which one to attend.		Note- material from Noland, Labberton and Dr. Johnson may be used as well.
1	Zoom meeting 9/1, 9-10a or 9/2, 7-8p	Course Introduction; Worship foundations Christocentric worship	Cherry, chapters 1-2 Weekly discussion posts
2	Zoom meeting 9/8, 9-10a or 9/9, 7-8p	Culture and worship A biblical paradigm Historical perspectives	Maynard-Reid, chapters 1-2 Weekly discussion posts
3	Zoom meeting 9/15, 9-10a or 9/16, 7-8p	Cherry’s 4 rooms	Cherry, chapter 3-4 Weekly discussion posts
4	Zoom meeting 9/22, 9-10a or 9/23, 7-8p	Cherry’s 4 rooms	Cherry, chapters 5-6 Weekly discussion posts
5	Zoom meeting 9/29, 9-10a or 9/30, 7-8p	Cherry’s 4 rooms	Cherry, chapters 7-8 <b>DUE: Noland Reflection Paper</b>
6	Zoom meeting 10/6, 9-10a or 10/7, 7-8p	Prayer Music	Cherry, chapters 9-10 Weekly discussion posts
7	Zoom meeting 10/13, 9-10a	Leadership	Cherry, chapters 11-12

	or 10/14, 7-8p	Worship and the Christian calendar	Weekly discussion posts
8	Zoom meeting 10/20, 9-10a or 10/21, 7-8p	Style Convergence	Cherry, chapters 13-14 Weekly discussion posts
9	Zoom meeting 10/27, 9-10a or 10/28, 7-8p	Hospitality Worship design	Cherry, chapters 15- appendices <b>DUE: Report of “Dangerous” Act of Worship (Labberton)</b>
10	Zoom meeting 11/3, 9-10a or 11/4, 7-8p	African-American worship	Maynard-Reid, chapters 3-4 Weekly discussion posts
11	Zoom meeting 11/10, 9-10a or 11/11, 7-8p	African-American music African-American preaching	Maynard-Reid, chapters 5-6 Weekly discussion posts
12	Zoom meeting 11/17, 9-10a or 11/18, 7-8p	The response Caribbean worship	Maynard-Reid, chapters 7-8 Weekly discussion posts
	Thanksgiving break		
13	Zoom meeting 12/1, 9-10a or 12/2, 7-8p	Caribbean music The Word and response	Maynard-Reid, chapters 9-10 <b>DUE: Worship Visits Reflection and Evaluation Paper</b>
14	Zoom meeting 12/8, 9-10a or 12/9, 7-8p	Hispanic worship Hispanic music	Maynard-Reid, chapters 11-12
15	Zoom meeting 12/15, 9-10a or 12/16, 7-8p	Preaching, prayer and response Rational and physical	Maynard-Reid, chapters 13-14 <b>DUE: Final Paper</b>

## V. Recommendations for Lifelong Learning

### 1. SCHOOLS:

**The Robert E. Webber Institute for Worship Studies** (Orange Park, FL) offers a DWS (Doctorate of Worship Studies).

<http://iws.edu/>

### 2. 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.

### 3. 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.

*The Hymn: A Journal of Congregational Song*, a quarterly research journal by The Hymn Society, contains articles about hymns and reviews of new books and hymn-based compositions. Regular columns include —Hymns in Periodical Literature—Hymn Performance, and —Hymn Interpretation. 1949-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.

*Worship* is a bi-monthly ecumenical journal focused on liturgical renewal published the monks at St. John's Abbey. An online table of contents are available for all issues since 1999. 1954-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 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. Seminary Writing Consultation Service

The Seminary Writing Consultation Service can help you brainstorm, draft, and revise your writing assignments in your graduate Seminary classes. Masters and doctoral qualified Consultants can advise you online or in person.

**To schedule an appointment**, visit [Writing Center Online](#) and select “Online and Graduate” from the schedule menu.

## C. Accessibility Resources and Accommodations

It is Ashland University’s goal that learning experiences be as accessible as possible. If you anticipate or experience physical or academic barriers based on a disability, please contact the Student Accessibility Center at 419-289-5904, or send an email to [dservices@ashland.edu](mailto:dservices@ashland.edu). The Student Accessibility Center office and the course instructor will work together in order to establish accommodations and to meet your learning needs.

## D. ATS Grading Scale

Grade	Quality	Percent	Description
A	4.0	97-100	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.
A-	3.7	92-96	
B+	3.3	89-91	
B	3.0	86-88	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.
B-	2.7	83-85	
C+	2.3	80-82	
C	2.0	77-79	Acceptable work completed, satisfactory achievement of course objectives, demonstrating at least some ability to utilize course knowledge, satisfactory class contribution.
C-	1.7	74-76	
D+	1.3	71-73	
D	1.0	68-70	Passing but minimal work, marginal achievement of course objectives, poor performance in comprehension of work submitted, inadequate class contributions.
D-	0.7	65-67	
F	0.0	Below 65	Unacceptable work resulting in failure to receive class credit, inadequacy of work submitted or of performance and attendance in class.

## VII. Selected Bibliography or References

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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.

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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 < [www.iwsfla.org](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/>