

**CWP 5512: Worship and the Community of God**  
ASHLAND THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY  
Spring Semester 2023, January 9 – May 4  
Ashland Campus  
Tuesdays - 6:00-9:00 PM  
Dr. Thomas W. Gilmore  
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### **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**

Cherry, Constance M. *The Worship Architect: A Blueprint for Designing Culturally Relevant and Biblically Faithful Services*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2010. ISBN: 978-080103877.

Liesch, Barry. *The New Worship: Straight Talk on Music and the Church*, Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2001. ISBN: 0-8010-6356-6

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

Kimball, Dan, *Emerging Worship: Creating Worship Gatherings for New Generations*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2004. ISBN-13: 978-0-3102-5644-1.

Webber, Robert. *Worship: Old and New*, Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1994. ISBN: 0-310-47990-8

## **B. Assignments/Assessment of Student Learning**

### 1. Online Assignments: (5% of final grade)

- A. Reading assignments, questions and discussion boards are set up in Blackboard. Each student must complete the assignments and engage in discussion with their classmates. **Assignments will be posted weekly from Jan. 9 – April 18**

### 2. 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, and 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 assignment is due on or before February 21, 2023.**

### 3. Act of Worship/Service (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. 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 assignment is due March 14, 2023.**

### 4. Group Work (25% of final grade)

- A. Design and lead a worship service.

Each group will plan and lead a 15–20-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.

**This assignment is due on March 28, 2023.**

5. 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 assignment is due May 2, 2023**

**C. Calculation of Grade and Connection of Learning Outcomes**

<i>Assignments</i>	<i>Learning Outcomes</i>	<i>Percent of Final Grade</i>
Online Assignments	1, 2, 6	5%
Worship Attendance & Evaluation	4	25%
Group Work: Planning & Leading Worship Sequence	1, 2, 6	25%
Act of Worship	2, 6	15%
Final Paper	1, 4, 6	30%

**IV. Course Schedule**

<b>Week/Session #</b>	<b>Date(s)</b>	<b>Lecture/Topic</b>	<b>Readings/Assignments</b>
1	Jan 10	Worship, Theology, and Ethics	Cherry p 1-33 Webber p 9-51
2	Jan 17	Preparation	Cherry p 35-52; 273-275 Webber p 65-121
3	Jan 24	Invitation	Cherry p 53-66 Webber p 135-264
4	Jan 31	Revelation	Cherry, p 67- 83; Liesch p 19-52
5	Feb 7	Revelation	Cherry pp. 85- 121; Liesch p 53-76
6	Feb 14	Participation	Cherry, pp. 123- 149); Liesch p 77-120
7	Feb 21	Participation	Cherry, pp 151- 203; Liesch p 121-140 <b>Worship Attendance Evaluation Due</b>
8	Feb 28	Formation	Cherry, pp. 205- 218; Liesch p 141-208
<b>Spring Break</b>	<b>Mar 7</b>	<b>Spring Break – No Class</b>	
9	Mar 14	Intersection	Cherry, pp. 261- 271; Liesch p 209-234 <b>Assignment – Acts of Service Due</b>

10	Mar 21	Contextualization	Kimball Part 1
11	Mar 28	Imagination	Kimball Part 2 <b>Assignment Group Work Due</b>
12	April 4	Incarnation	Cherry, pp. 221- 257;
13	April 11	Integration	Noland Part 1
14	April 18	Celebration	Noland Part 2
15	April 25	Mission/ Blended Worship	
16	May 2	<b>No Class</b>	<b>Final Paper Due</b>

## V. Recommendations for Lifelong Learning

### 1. 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.

*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.

*Discipleship Ministries, Worship* is a website of the United Methodist Church dedicated to planning worship. <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/worship>.

*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. 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.

## VI. Selected Bibliography

Berglund, Brad. *Reinventing Sunday: Breakthrough ideas for transforming worship*, Valley Forge: Judson Press, 2001. ISBN: 0-8170-1414-4

\_\_\_\_\_. *Reinventing worship: Prayers, readings, special services and more*. Valley Forge: Judson Press, 2006. ISBN: 0-8170-1493-4

Boone, Dan, *The Worship Plot: Finding Unity in Our Common Story*. Kansas City, MO: Beacon Hill Press, 2007. ISBN-13: 978-0-8341-2312-0.

Kraeuter, Tom. *Worship is What?: Rethinking our ideas about worship*, Lynwood, Washington: Emerald Books, 1996. ISBN: 1-883002-38-9

Labberton, Mark, *The Dangerous Act of Worship: Living God's Call to Justice*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2007. ISBN-13: 978-0-8308.

Lathrop, Gordon W. *Holy People: A Liturgical Ecclesiology*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2006. ISBN: 978-0800638405.

Maynard-Reid, Pedrito U. *Diverse Worship: African-American, Caribbean and Hispanic Perspectives*. Downers Grove: IVP Academic, 2000. ISBN: 978-0830815791.

Noland, Rory. *The heart of the artist: A character-building guide for you & your ministry team*, Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1999. ISBN: 0-310-22471-3

Pedrito, U. Maynard-Reid. . *Diverse Worship: African-American, Caribbean, & Hispanic Perspectives*, Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 2000. ISBN: 978-0830815791

Rienstra, Debra and Ron. *Worship Words: Discipling Language for Faithful Ministry*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2009. ISBN: 978-0-8010-3616-3.

Webber, Robert. *Planning blended worship: The creative mixture of old and new*, Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1998. ISBN: 0-687-03223-7

\_\_\_\_\_. *Ancient-Future worship: Proclaiming and enacting God's narrative*, Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2008. ISBN: 978-0-8010-6624-5

## 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. 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.

### **C. 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.

### **D. Attendance Reporting:**

Students are required to participate in a course related activity in the first and third weeks of the course. Students may be administratively withdrawn from the course and/or may lose financial aid benefits if a qualifying activity has not occurred between the student and the course work or faculty within the first three days of the course. Simply logging into a course online via the Learning Management System (LMS) is not considered a qualifying activity.

Student non-participation during the first 8 days of a course may initiate the administrative course withdrawal process. Student non-participation, mid-course, for 14 consecutive days may also initiate the administrative course withdrawal process.

According to policies and procedures set forth by Ashland University's Department for Veterans' Services, AU will grant any service member requiring more than a 30-day leave a release from coursework. Contact the Office of Veterans' Services for more information regarding this process.

### **E. 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](tel:419-289-5904), or send an email to [au-sac@ashland.edu](mailto:au-sac@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.

### **F. ATS Library**

The Ashland Theological Librarians are available to help with your research project or assignment in-person or online. How? Schedule an appointment, email Sarah Thomas or Daniel O'Brien at [ats-library@ashland.edu](mailto:ats-library@ashland.edu), or call at 419-289-5169.

### **G. Writing and Communication Center (WCC)**

The Writing and Communication Center (WCC) can help you brainstorm, draft, and revise your writing and communication assignments in your graduate classes. All graduate consultants have a graduate degree and extensive experience with writing center theory and practice and can advise you online or in person. The aim of our service is to support and mentor students as they explore ways to improve their graduate-level academic writing and communication skills. All consultations are confidential.

- Receive one-on-one feedback from an WCC graduate consultant on any project that involves communication— essays, speeches, group presentations, lab reports, poster presentations, video productions, and much more!
- Our default type of appointment for graduate students is conducted asynchronously via email. In other words, after you make an appointment through our online scheduler (WOnline), you attach a draft to the appointment. Then, within 48 hours of the scheduled appointment, one of our consultants reviews your paper and emails you feedback. We also offer synchronous (live) appointments via Zoom upon request.
- To schedule an asynchronous appointment, go to [www.ashland.mywconline.com](http://www.ashland.mywconline.com) (you will need to create an account the first time you use the scheduler).
- To schedule a synchronous (live) Zoom appointment, please email us at [writingcenter@ashland.edu](mailto:writingcenter@ashland.edu).

Visit our graduate services webpage for more information -

<https://www.ashland.edu/administration/graduate-online-adult-center-academic-support/resources-students/graduate-writing-consultation>