

# Mennonite Brethren Biblical Seminary

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Fall Semester 2008

PM 618  
Christian Worship  
(3 units)  
Tuesdays, 2:00 – 5:00 pm

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Office Hours: 9-5 M-F

## I. Course Description:

A study of the biblical, historical, and theological foundations of contemporary Christian worship, including a consideration of the changing face of worship, the key elements of corporate worship, selected worship traditions, special services of worship, the planning and leading of corporate worship, and practical strategies for connecting corporate worship with daily life.

## II. Required Texts:

- Barstow, Charles L. *Effective Speech Communication in Leading Worship*. Wipf & Stock, 2005.
- Dawn, Marva J. *A Royal "Waste" of Time*. Eerdmans, 1999.
- DeWaal Malefyt, Martha & Vanderwell, Howard A. *Designing Worship Together*. Alban Institute, 2005.
- Hawn, C. Michael. *One Bread, One Body*. Alban Institute, 2003.
- Labberton, Mark. *The Dangerous Act of Worship*. InterVarsity Press, 2007.
- Vanderwell, Howard A. *The Church of All Ages*. Alban Institute, 2008.
- Webber, Robert. *Worship Old and New*. Zondervan, 1994.

## III. Course Objectives:

At the conclusion of this class, the student should achieve an appropriate foundation for maturing competency in the following areas:

1. Developing a basic understanding of the biblical, historical, and theological foundations of Christian worship.
2. Cultivating a deepening appreciation of key aspects of worship, including the Christian year, architecture, art, music, drama, movement, prayer, baptism, Lord's Supper, preaching.
3. Exploring the practice of worship in different contexts, including denominational, cultural, and charismatic settings of worship.
4. Nurturing an ability to plan and evaluate the faithfulness of corporate Christian worship in light of Scripture, history, tradition & culture.
5. Refining the basic skills necessary for providing effective worship leadership.

6. Grappling with issues related to the complexity of the complex contemporary context in which Christian worship occurs.
7. Exploring ways to connect faith and daily life in the setting of corporate Christian worship.

#### IV: Course Schedule:

Session:	Weekly Topic(s):	Coming to Class Prepared:
Aug. 26 <sup>th</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduction</li> <li>• Discerning the times</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Please become acquainted with the course syllabus in advance of the first class session.</li> <li>• If possible, read Dawn, Part I prior to this first class session.</li> </ul>
Sept. 2 <sup>nd</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Biblical Witness about Worship</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read Webber, chapters 1-4</li> <li>• Biblical Foundations paper due</li> </ul>
Sept. 9 <sup>th</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Theological and Historical Foundations of Worship</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read Webber, chapters 5-11; Dawn, Part II</li> <li>• Theology of Worship.1 paper due</li> </ul>
Sept. 16 <sup>th</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Christian Year</li> <li>• The Content, Structure, and Elements of Worship</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read Webber, chapters 13-17, 20, 23; Dawn, Part III</li> </ul>
Sept. 23 <sup>rd</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planning the Worship Service</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read DM&amp;V, chapters 1, 2, 4, &amp; 5</li> </ul>
Sept. 30 <sup>th</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Leading the Worship Service</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read Bartow, chapter 1-4</li> </ul>
Oct. 7 <sup>th</sup>	-----Fall Module Week: No Class-----	
Oct. 14 <sup>th</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Role of Music in Worship</li> <li>• Space: Architecture, Symbols, and Décor</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read Webber, chapters 12 &amp; 18; Dawn, Part V</li> </ul>
Oct. 21 <sup>st</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prayer, Creeds, Scripture</li> <li>• The Spoken Word</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read Bartow, chapters 5-7</li> </ul>
Oct. 28 <sup>th</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Employing the Arts</li> <li>• Technology in Worship</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read Webber, chapter 19</li> </ul>
Nov. 4 <sup>th</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ordinances/Sacraments</li> <li>• Evaluating Worship</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read Webber, chapter 21; Bartow, chapter 8; DM&amp;V, chapter 6</li> </ul>
Nov. 11 <sup>th</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Worship and Christian Formation</li> <li>• November 5<sup>th</sup> chapel evaluation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read Vanderwell, chapter 3; Dawn, Part IV</li> <li>• Order of Worship due</li> </ul>
Nov. 18 <sup>th</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Guest Presenter</li> <li>• Cultivating Intergenerational Worship</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read Vanderwell, chapters 1,2, 4, 5, and one additional assigned chapter.</li> </ul>
Nov. 25 <sup>th</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Guest Presenter</li> <li>• Cultivating Multicultural Worship</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read Dawn, Part I, Part III, and an assigned chapter from Part II</li> </ul>
Dec. 2 <sup>nd</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Guest Presenter</li> <li>• November 26<sup>th</sup> chapel evaluation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read Dawn, Part VI; Labberton, chapters 1-4</li> <li>• Due: Theology of Worship.2 paper; Observation reports</li> </ul>
Dec. 9 <sup>th</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Worship that Impacts the World</li> <li>• Concluding our time together</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read Labberton, chapters 5-10</li> </ul>

#### IV. **Course Requirements:**

All assignments may be submitted either in class or by email on the dates indicated.

1. **Biblical Foundation of Worship:** A 3-4 page paper (single spaced, outline format) identifying at least three Old Testament passages and at least three New Testament passages which are foundational for your theology of worship. List passages and briefly highlight key thoughts from each passage (use bullet or number list). Be prepared to discuss your passages and turn in your paper. **Due Sept. 2<sup>nd</sup>.**
2. **Theology of Worship:** A 5-6 page paper (double spaced) that states your theology of worship. This paper should be an expansion of your biblical foundations paper and should include your definition of worship, purpose, key values, etc. **Initial draft due Sept. 9<sup>th</sup>; final draft due Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup>.**
3. **Class Presentations:** Students will plan and lead an in-class learning activities based on assigned textbook chapters. The student is required to prepare a handout to share with classmates. Time limit for presentations: approximately 10-15 minutes.
4. **Element Analysis:** When a specific worship element is discussed in class, the student will prepare a one-half to one-page, single-spaced critique of how that specific element is presented in the required readings and used in her/his present church situation. This paper will contain a brief sketch of how the element is used in the worship situation and a critique of how the use of the element might be improved, if deemed necessary. This paper is due at the time of class.
5. **One Written Order of Worship:** Students will write a complete order of worship. Entire worship service should be written out (excluding the sermon). This assignment is **due on or before November 11<sup>th</sup>**. It should include the following elements:
  - a. A written description of the setting and theme.
  - b. Five written prayers for public presentation:
    - i. Invocation
    - ii. Prayer of intercession
    - iii. Confession
    - iv. Offertory
    - v. Benediction
  - c. Music and/or other expressions of worship.
  - d. A rationale for the order and movement of the service.
  - e. A worship folder/bulletin printed as you would present it to the congregation.

6. **Collaborative Planning and Leading of Chapel Services:** Each student will participate in planning and presenting one worship service for the seminary community during Wednesday chapels on November 5<sup>th</sup> or November 26<sup>th</sup>. As preparation for this assignment, the instructor and class will work together to plan and lead the chapel services on September 17<sup>th</sup> and October 15<sup>th</sup>. Worship should demonstrate a synthesis of the knowledge and skills learned in the course. Students will be evaluated as a group and as individuals in reference to:
- a. The composition and presentation of the order of worship;
  - b. Leadership of the worship experience.

The worship service will be evaluated by the instructor, the class, and the team members involved in leading the service. The group is responsible for making a DVD of the presentation.

**Analysis of Student-led Worship Service:** Each student will write a brief evaluation of the student-led chapel services. The student should include an evaluation of the order of service and the presentation using the form that will be provided in class.

7. **Observation Report:** Students will visit and evaluate two of the following worship services:
- |                         |                       |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| Lutheran                | Presbyterian/Reformed |
| Charismatic/Pentecostal | Ethnic Group          |
| Catholic                | Baptist               |
| Episcopal               | Methodist             |
| Orthodox                | Jewish                |
| Mennonite               | Other                 |

Students should observe a worship setting other than that with which they are most familiar. Seek to learn about different approaches to worship. If possible, seek to dialogue with worship leaders in these different settings. Use the worship forms provided to evaluate these services. **Due on or before December 2<sup>nd</sup>.**

V. **Grading:**

Biblical Foundations paper	10%
Theology of Worship paper	10%
Element Critiques	10%
Written Worship Service	20%
Worship-led Presentation	20%
Worship Critiques	10%
Worship Observations	10%
Class participation, etc.	10%

[PLEASE NOTE: All Required activities must be completed. Student cannot pass the course until they are done.]

**Late policy:** All work is due at the time of class on date specified, unless otherwise arranged with the professor. In case of serious illness or emergency, please communicate with the professor ASAP. Grace is available.

MBBS academic policies (as well as other school policies) are described at <http://www.mbseminary.edu/fresno/policies>. These policies provide guidance on academic integrity and plagiarism, accommodations for disability, incomplete course work, extensions, dates for changing registration, non-discriminatory and inclusive language, appeals, grading templates, etc. Students are expected to be familiar with these policies and will be held responsible for adhering to them. If you have questions about how these policies relate to you or to a situation that you face in your studies, please speak to your professor or consult the Registrar.

Course evaluations are to be completed online and are due one week after the completion of the course. Official grades will not be posted until the student's evaluation of the course is completed.

#### **VI. The Instructor's Commitment:**

Having outlined the basic expectations to which you will be held accountable this semester, I also would like to identify the essential commitments that can be expected of me as your instructor. My commitment to you is that I will strive:

1. To model an attitude of openness and an earnestness toward the purposes of God's reign.
2. To honor your investment of time by always being as prepared as I can be.
3. To assume primary responsibility for cultivating within the classroom an atmosphere of hospitality that will enable all participants to feel free and safe to engage openly in discussion and in discerning God's purposes.
4. To provide constructive and helpful feedback on all written assignments in a timely fashion.