

PM 618: Christian Worship

Mennonite Brethren Biblical Seminary

Spring Semester 2010

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. Instructor Information:

Cory L. Seibel, PhD, Assistant Professor of Pastoral Ministries
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Office Hours: 9-5 M-F

III. Credit Options:

This course can be taken for 1, 2, or 3 units. The full three units are required to complete the requirements for the MDiv program.

IV. Meeting Times and Format:

Class sessions will be held on Saturdays January 23rd, January 30th, March 6th & March 20th from 9 AM to 5 PM (with a 1 hour lunch break). Students enrolling in the course for 1 credit unit are required to attend all class sessions taking place during the two January dates. Students registering for two units must attend these session plus those taking place on March 6th and 20th. In addition to attending these class sessions, students who are registered for three units must participate in a series of threaded online discussion that will be facilitated by the instructor.

V. Required Texts:

- Barstow, Charles L. *Effective Speech Communication in Leading Worship*. Wipf & Stock, 2005.
- DeWaal Malefyt, Martha & Vanderwell, Howard A. *Designing Worship Together*. Alban Institute, 2005.
- Hawn, C. Michael. *One Bread, One Body*. Alban Institute, 2003.

- Peterson, David. *Engaging With God: A Biblical Theology of Worship*. InterVarsity Press, 2002.
- Schmit, Clayton. *Sent and Gathered: A Worship Manual for the Missional Church*. Baker Academic, 2009.
- Vanderwell, Howard A. *The Church of All Ages*. Alban Institute, 2008.

VI. 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:
January 23 rd	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction • The Biblical Witness about Worship • Theological and Historical Foundations of Worship 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please become acquainted with the course syllabus in advance of the first class session. •
January 30 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Theological and Historical Foundations of Worship cont. • The Christian Year • The Content, Structure, and Elements of Worship 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biblical Foundations paper due •
February 17 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student Group #1 to lead MBBS chapel (11:45 am-12:30 pm). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All students are required 1) to attend chapel, 2) to complete a written evaluation, and 3) to participate in group evaluation through an online threaded discussion. Group #1 must submit posts to the evaluation

		thread by Saturday, February 20 th ; all other students must submit posts by Tuesday, February 23 rd .
February 24 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student Group #2 to lead MBBS chapel (11:45 am-12:30 pm). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All students are required 1) to attend chapel, 2) to complete a written evaluation, and 3) to participate in group evaluation through an online threaded discussion. Group #2 must submit posts to the evaluation thread by Saturday, February 20th; all other students must submit posts by Tuesday, February 23rd.
March 6 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning the Worship Service • Leading the Worship Service • The Role of Music in Worship • Space: Architecture, Symbols, and Décor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Theology of Worship.1 paper due • Read DM&V, chapters 1, 2, 4, & 5 • Read Bartow, chapter 1-4
March 20 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prayer, Creeds, Scripture • The Spoken Word • Employing the Arts • Technology in Worship • Ordinances/Sacraments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Bartow, chapters 5-8 • Read DM&V, chapter 6
March 21 st - 27 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online discussion about Cultivating Intergenerational Worship 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Vanderwell, chapters 1, 2, 4, 5. • All students are required to make an initial post to each discussion thread by Wednesday evening at 11:59 pm and at least one additional post to each thread by 11:59 on Saturday evening.
March 28 th - April 3 rd	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued online discussion about Cultivating Intergenerational Worship 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Vanderwell, chapter 3, plus one additional chapter from chapters 6-10 as assigned by the professor. • All students are required to make an initial post to each discussion thread by Wednesday evening at 11:59 pm and at least one additional post to each thread by 11:59 on Saturday evening.

April 4 th – 10 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Online discussion about Cultivating Multicultural Worship 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read Hawn, Part I, and Part III All students are required to make an initial post to each discussion thread by Wednesday evening at 11:59 pm and at least one additional post to each thread by 11:59 on Saturday evening.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued online discussion about Cultivating Multicultural Worship 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read one chapter from Part II as assigned by the professor All students are required to make an initial post to each discussion thread by Wednesday evening at 11:59 pm and at least one additional post to each thread by 11:59 on Saturday evening.
April 14 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Student Group #1 to lead MBBS chapel (11:45 am-12:30 pm). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All students are required 1) to attend chapel, 2) to complete a written evaluation, and 3) to participate in group evaluation through an online threaded discussion. Group #1 must submit posts to the evaluation thread by Saturday, February 20th; all other students must submit posts by Tuesday, February 23rd.
April 21 st	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Student Group #2 to lead MBBS chapel (11:45 am-12:30 pm). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All students are required 1) to attend chapel, 2) to complete a written evaluation, and 3) to participate in group evaluation through an online threaded discussion. Group #2 must submit posts to the evaluation thread by Saturday, February 20th; all other students must submit posts by Tuesday, February 23rd.
April 30 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Final Due Date 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Observation Reports, written Order of Service, and final draft of Theology of Worship paper are due no later than this date.

VII. Course Requirements:

Students who have registered for this course for 3 units must complete all of the following assignments. All assignments may be submitted either in class or by email on the dates indicated.

PLEASE NOTE: Attendance at all class sessions is a fundamental expectation of this course. It is assumed that students will come to each session having completed the reading assignments and prepared to participate in group

discussion based upon these readings. In addition, students are expected to refrain from surfing the internet or texting on their phones while class is in session. Students enrolled in this course for 3 units are required to contribute to all posted online discussion threads in a timely and substantive manner.

PLEASE NOTE: All assignment can be submitted in either hardcopy or electronic formats. Students submitting papers as email attachments must entitle their emails and documents in accordance with the guidelines provided below [in brackets]. Students also must be certain that their names appear on the electronic document itself.

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 January 30th.**

[Email subject line: PM618 Biblical Foundations Paper; Document title: lastname_firstnamePM618BibFounds]

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 March 6th; final draft due April 30th.**

[Email subject line: PM618 Theology Paper; Document title: lastname_firstnamePM618TheoWorship]

3. **Element Analysis:** When specific worship elements (e.g., prayer, communion, liturgical readings) are discussed in our March class sessions, students will prepare a one-page, single-spaced overview of how a 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. Each student will give a brief presentation to the class in which he/she shares these insights. This paper is due before the conclusion of the day's class session. Students will be assigned specific elements to analyze in advance of the March class sessions.

[Email subject line: PM618 Element Analysis; Document title: lastname_firstnamePM618ElementAnalysis]

4. **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 April 30th**. 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.

[Email subject line: PM618 Worship Order; Document title: lastname_firstnamePM618WorshipOrder]

5. **Collaborative Planning and Leading of Chapel Services:** Each student will participate in planning and leading worship for the seminary community during Wednesday chapels on either February 17th or February 24th (11:45 am-12:30 pm). The instructor will divide the class into two groups, each of which will work together with the instructor to plan and lead chapel on one of these dates. All students are required to attend chapel on both of these dates. Later in the semester, students will again be divided into two groups who will be charged with responsibility to plan and lead the chapel services on April 14th and 21st without the aid of the instructor. Once again, all students are required to attend chapel on both of these dates.

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.
6. **Analysis of Student-led Worship Service:** Each student will submit to the professor 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.

In addition, the worship services will be evaluated by the instructor, the class, and the team members involved in leading the services through online threaded discussions. The team providing chapel leadership is responsible

for making an audio/visual recording of the service and is expected to view it following the service. Students involved in leading the chapel gathering must submit posts to the evaluation discussion by 11:59 PM on the Saturday following the chapel gathering. All other students in the class must submit posts by the following Monday at 11:59 PM.

[Email subject line: PM618 Chapel Analysis; Document title: lastname_firstnamePM618ChapelAnalysis]

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 April 30th.**

[Email subject line: PM618 Observation Report; Document title: lastname_firstnamePM618ObservReport]

PLEASE NOTE: Students who enroll in this class for 2 units must complete assignments 1, 2, 4, and 7. Students who enroll for 1 unit must complete assignments 1, 2, and 7.

VIII. Grading:

Biblical Foundations paper	10%
Theology of Worship paper	10%
Element Critiques	10%
Written Worship Service	20%
Chapel Leadership	20%
Chapel Analyses	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.

IX. 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.