

CH/ MC/ TH 664 – HISTORY AND THEOLOGY OF WORSHIP

Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary (Nassau, Bahamas)

May 20-25, 2019

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Course Description

This course explores worship (our individual and/ or collective engagement with God) using biblical analysis and theological reflection. Special focus will be Christology and ecclesiology as we develop a theological understanding of why and how we worship. This course will also engage our theological understanding of worship in relation to ontology and eschatology. Students will be challenged to formulate a biblically-based and theologically-sound statement on worship and culture.

Course Textbooks

Carson, D.A. *Worship by the Book*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing, 2002. **ISBN-13:** 978-0310216254 [Available on Kindle](#).

Davis, John Jefferson. *Worship and the Reality of God: An Evangelical Theology of Real Presence*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2010. **ISBN-13:** 978-0830838844 [Available on Kindle](#).

Peterson, David. *Engaging with God: A Biblical Theology of Worship*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 1992. **ISBN-13:** 978-0830826971 [Available on Kindle](#).

White, James F. *A Brief History of Christian Worship*. Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press, 1993. **ISBN-13:** 978-0687034147 [This book is different that James F. White's *Introduction to Christian Worship*] [Available on Kindle](#).

Course Objectives

The student who successfully completes this course should be able:

1. To understand the vital importance of a theological approach to worship.
2. To develop a working knowledge of the origins and history of Christian Worship.
3. To effectively read, understand, learn from and engage texts in theological studies.
4. To have a deeper appreciation for theology as it relates to preparation for ministry in the context of the local church, the global church, and the broader contemporary culture.
5. To design a personal and congregational statement on Worship and Culture.

Course Requirements

Attendance – Class participation is essential for successful completion of this course. Attendance and active participation are required for all class sessions.

Writing Assignments – Four writing assignments are mandatory to the success of the course. All papers will be submitted on time using 12 pt. font (Times New Roman) with 1 inch margins, double space and free of any glaring grammatical spelling errors.

1) Response Paper (due in class 5/20)

Leading worship is a privilege and a huge responsibility! Whether you have a statement on Theology and Culture or not, your approach to leading worship has a huge impact on what your congregation/ parishioners walk away believing. Take for instance this 34 second video clip of Victoria Osteen sharing with Lakewood Church (Houston, TX) her articulation of “why we worship.” Take a look at the quick clip (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZLWm48fhCGQ>) then compose a 3-page response (more is fine, less is not) to her statement. Please back up your agreement/ disagreement with biblical evidence and theological reflection.

2) Reflection on D.A. Carson’s *Worship by the Book* (due in class 5/20)

According to the back cover of the book, “Worship is a hot topic, but the ways that Christians from different traditions view it vary greatly. What is worship? More important, what does it look like in action, both in our corporate gatherings and in our daily lives? These concerns – the blending of principle and practice – are what *Worship by the Book* addresses.” In 3 pages (more is fine, less is not) share your thoughts, reflections and/ or analysis on the book as a whole. What did you glean, discern or gain from the book? Feel free to also share your criticisms, dislikes or disagreements as well. Also feel free to share which viewpoint or perspective you find yourself in alignment with relative to the principles and practices of worship.

3) Theological Reflection Paper (due in class 6/26)

After attending a worship experience at a local gathering (any church, communal setting, etc.) please compose a 5-page theological reflection (more is fine, less is not) on your engagement with God. After you mention your own experience take a moment to reflect on what you noticed as others engaged with God in the setting. Then share, from your own assessment, was there a documented theological statement that guided the engagement with God? If not written, or shared, was it implied? Did the worship setting, ambiance and/ or atmosphere aid/ distract the worship endeavor? What else might you share that you observed as a result of our time together that you might not have otherwise considered? Feel free to attach a bulletin, order of service, photograph or any other supplementary materials to your paper.

4) Final Paper

Final Paper (Personal/ Congregational Theology of Worship and Culture) - personal/ congregational worship statements give us a theological framework for why we do what we do as well as establish a foundation for assessment and instruction. Students will develop a 10-page (more is fine, less is not) personal/

congregational statement on Worship and Culture that will be **due on July 26, 2019**. More information will be provided during the course.

Warning on Plagiarism: Helpful guidelines on plagiarism can be found here:

http://www.gordonconwell.edu/hamilton/current/documents/hamreg_plagiarism.pdf. This document has the official recognition of the Gordon-Conwell faculty and provides very helpful tools to guide you as you prepare for your assignments. If a student is caught plagiarizing, the student will receive the consequences of this act according to the process established by the seminary.

Grading Policy

Student grades will be determined as follows:

Attendance/ Class Participation	5%
Reading Report	10%
Writing Assignments (3)	60%
Final Paper	25%

The following letter grades and their achievement equivalents are used by the instructor to reflect a student's performance in the course:

Grade	Achievement	Quality Points	
A	100-96	<i>Work of exceptional quality</i>	4.00
A-	95-93		3.70
B+	92-90		3.30
B	89-86	<i>Work of commendable quality</i>	3.00
B-	85-83		2.70
C+	82-80		2.30
C	79-76	<i>Work of acceptable but minimal quality</i>	2.00
C-	75-73		1.70
D+	72-70		1.30
D	69-66	<i>Substandard and barely passing work</i>	1.00
D-	65-63		0.70
F	62-below	<i>Failure</i>	0.00

After all the requirements of the course have been completed, the instructor will use the following rubric for the assignment of grades, based on the overall performance of the class. The grades assigned will represent the instructor's interpretation of the following standard:

A = Outstanding mastery of the subject – excellence is evident in preparation and participation in class sessions; unusual ability to retain, analyze and synthesize the material; a positive attitude; consistent productive contributions both within and beyond the classroom.

B = Superior mastery of the subject – sincere effort in preparation and participation in class sessions; mastery of the essential aspects of the material; a positive attitude; mostly consistent in making productive contributions both within and beyond the classroom.

C = Basic mastery of the subject – inconsistent effort in preparation and participation in class sessions; engagement with the material but difficulty in grasping some of its aspects; positive attitude; occasional contributions both within and beyond the classroom.

D = Inadequate mastery of the subject.

F = Failure – course must be repeated.

Course Schedule

MONDAY (May 20, 2019) [6:00 – 10:00 PM]

Topics for Discussion:

- Introduction to the Class
- Review of the Syllabus
- What is Theology?
- What is Worship?
- What is Culture?
- What is Liturgy/ Liturgical?

TUESDAY (May 21, 2019) [6:00 – 10:00 PM]

Supplemental Reading:

The *Didache*: <http://www.earlychristianwritings.com/text/didache-roberts.html>

Parrett, Gary A. [9.5 Theses on Worship: A disputation on the role of music](#). *Christianity Today* (January 28, 2005)

Topics for Discussion:

- Theological Senses of Worship
- Worship from OT to NT (Retentions & Changes)
- Christology and Worship

WEDNESDAY (May 22, 2019) [6:00 – 10:00 PM]

Topics for Discussion:

- Historical Adaptations to the way we Worship
- Ecclesiology and Worship

THURSDAY (May 23, 2019) [6:00 – 10:00 PM]

Supplemental Reading:

Price III, Emmett G. [“Singing the Sermon: Where Musicology Meets Homiletics”](#)
Yale Journal of Music & Religion. Vol. 1, Issue 2 (2015): 49-66

Topics for Discussion:

- The Book of Hebrews
- Ontology and Worship

FRIDAY (May 24, 2019) [8:00 AM – 5:00 PM]

Supplemental Reading:

Nairobi Statement on Worship & Culture: <http://worship.calvin.edu/resources/resource-library/nairobi-statement-on-worship-and-culture-full-text>

Cartigny Statement on Worship & Culture: Biblical & Historical Foundations (Handout)

The Cape Town Commitment: A Confession of Faith and a Call to Action (Handout)

Topics for Discussion:

- The Revelation of Worship
- Eschatology and Worship
- Developing a Theological Statement

SATURDAY (May 25, 2019) [8:00 AM – 5:00 PM]

Topics for Discussion:

- Cultural Expressions in Worship
- The Future of Worship (extensions and innovations)

Highly Recommended Books:

- Anderson, Allan Heaton. *To the Ends of the Earth: Pentecostalism and the Transformation of World Christianity* (Oxford Studies in World Christianity). New York, NY: Oxford University Press, 2013. ISBN: 0195386426
- Farhadian, Charles E. (editor). *Christian Worship Worldwide: Expanding Horizons, Deepening Practices* (Calvin Institute of Christian Worship Liturgical Studies Series). Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2007. ISBN: 9780802828538
- Hawn, C. Michael. *One Bread, One Body: Exploring Cultural Diversity in Worship* (Vital Worship, Healthy Congregations Series). Durham, NC: The Alban Institute, 2003. ISBN: 9781566992770
- Labberton, Mark and John Ortberg. *The Dangerous Act of Worship: Living God's Call to Justice*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Press, 2012. ISBN: 0830834141
- Maynard-Reid, Pedrito U. *Diverse Worship: African-American, Caribbean and Hispanic Perspectives*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Press, 2000. ISBN: 0830815791
- Miller, Donald E. & Tetsuno Yamamori. *Global Pentecostalism: The New Face of Christian Social Engagement*. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press, 2007. ISBN: 0520251946
- Morgenthaler, Sally. *Worship Evangelism: Inviting Unbelievers into the Presence of God*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1999 (1995). ISBN: 031022649
- Plantinga, Jr., Cornelius & Sue A. Rozeboom. *discerning the spirits: A Guide to Thinking about Christian Worship Today*. Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2003 ISBN: 0802839991
- Sailers, Don E. *Worship and Spirituality* (Spirituality & The Christian Life Series). Philadelphia, PA: The Westminster Press, 1984. ISBN: 0664246346
- _____. *Worship as Theology: Foretaste of Glory Divine*. Nashville, TN: Abington Press, 1994. ISBN: 0687146933
- Van Dyk, Leanne. *A More Profound Alleluia: Theology and Worship in Harmony* (Calvin Institute of Christian Worship Liturgical Studies Series). Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2005. ISBN: 9780802828545
- Webber, Robert E. *Worship Old & New* (Revised Edition). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1994. ISBN: 0310479908
- White, James F., *Protestant Worship: Traditions in Transition*. Louisville, KY: Westminster/John Knox Press, 1989. ISBN: 0664250378