

MS 3B3: Christian Worship / Spring 2021



Faculty Information:

Dr. Leslie Williams

Course Description

Explores the historical, biblical and theological foundations of Christian worship as a forum for discussing contemporary trends in corporate worship. The modern tension over worship is set against the history of Christian worship from the early church through the reformation and restoration movements. The Old and New Testaments are surveyed with the intent of developing a foundational theology of Christian worship. All practical issues addressed in the class will be evaluated against this theological ground.

Course Objectives

1. To provide an introduction to the current discussion of worship.
2. To acquaint the student with the history of worship within the Christian faith.
3. To survey significant biblical texts so as to develop a biblical-theological framework for the discussion of contemporary worship.
4. To help the student process the contemporary discussion of worship with the aim of applying a biblical framework to modern worship questions.

Course Evaluation

1. The student is expected to complete all assigned readings prior to the class.
There will be discussion via online forum based upon the readings and the student must be prepared to participate in the discussion. (10% of grade)
2. There will be 2 exams:
 - a. Mid-Term Exam (25% of grade)
 - b. Final Exam (25% of grade)
3. The student has two options regarding a paper for the class:
 - a. To research and write one 5-7 page paper on an approved topic of his/ her choice related to worship.
 - b. To complete a book review on the subject of worship or an aspect of worship. 5 page minimum. This will constitute 25 % of the grade.
4. Reading assignments with short response essays. (15% of grade)

Required Readings

- Robert E. Webber, *Worship Old & New*
- Everett Ferguson, *The Church of Christ, A biblical Ecclesiology for Today*
- Other articles will be listed on the weekly schedule.

Course Schedule

Week 1	Jan. 4	Intro/ Historical: Early Church & Orthodox Traditions	Webber: 51-63, 93-107 Ferguson: 247-279
Week 2	Jan. 11	Historical: Reformation & Free Church Traditions	Weber: 109-120
Week 3	Jan. 18	Historical: American Restoration Tradition	All day Class 9a.m – 4pm Jan. 23 Holloway, Gary. “The Pleasures of Worship” Pg.32-38 Sikes, Walter, “Worship Among Disciples of Christ, 1809-1865”pg. 5-32
Week 4	Jan. 25	Biblical: Old Testament Worship	Shipp, Mark, “Trivializing the Holy” pg. 14-21 Webber, pg. 33-39
Week 5	Feb. 1	Biblical: Backgrounds to New Testament Assemblies	Ferguson, 207-280
Week 6	Feb. 8	Biblical: Worship of New Testament Assemblies	All day Class Feb. 13 Readings: Webber, 41-49
Week 7	Feb. 15	Test	
Week 8	Feb. 22	Spring Break	
Week 9	Mar 1	Theological: A Biblical Theology of Worship	McNicol,”Sorting...”,20-45 Weed, “Amusing the Saints...”46-58
Week 10	Mar. 8	Theological: The Nature of Christian Worship	Hicks, “The Lord's Table...4-7
Week 11	Mar. 15	Theological: Music in Worship	Hicks, “Music”Pg.1-15 All day Class Mar. 20
Week 12	Mar. 22	Practical: The Role of Preaching	Dozier, 191-215 Resner, 65-80
Week 13	Mar. 29	Practical: Worship & the Community	Ellas, 57-72
Week 14	Apr. 5	Practical: Cultural Challenges in Christian Worship	All day Class Apr. 10

Week 15	Apr. 12	Test 2	
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Bibliography

Dozier, Dan, "Listen Up—God is Speaking" in Come Let Us Adore Him. Joplin, MO. College Press, 1994. Pg. 191-215

Ellas, John W. "Worship Choices," in Clear Choices for Churches: Trends Among Growing and Declining Churches of Christ (Houston: Center for Church Growth, 1994), 57-72.

Hicks, John Mark, "The Lord's Table: A Covenant Meal," Leaven 3.3 (1995), 4-7.

Hicks, John Mark, "Why Don't You Have Music In Your Church," A sermon delivered at Ross Road Church of Christ, 1995.

Holloway, Gary, "'The Pleasures of Worship': Heartfelt Devotion in Stone and Campbell," Christian Studies 13 (1993), 32-38.

McNicol, Allan J., "Sorting Through the Confusion About Worship: Appraisal of Two Paradigms," Faculty Bulletin 8 (1987), 20-45 in Readings.

Resner, Andre, "To Worship or to Evangelize? Ecclesiology's Phantom Fork in the Road," Restoration Quarterly 36.2 (1994), 65-80

Sikes, Walter W., "Worship Among the Disciples of Christ, 1809-1865," Mid-Stream 7.4 (1968), 5-32.

Shipp, R. Mark, "Trivializing the Holy: Current Trends in Worship and Isaiah 1:10-17," Christian Studies 13 (1993), 14-21

Weed, Michael, R. "Amusing the Saints: Edification Without Transcendence," Faculty Bulletin 8 (1987), 46-58 in Readings.