



**Contemporary Issues in Worship**  
**Professor: Dr. John Haines, Dr. Daniel Cason**

**Jan Term 2020: Jan 9-11**

**Credit Hours: 2**

**Course Time: Thurs/Fri: 8:00-5:00, Sat: 8:00-12:00**

**WM3505**

**Classroom: A202**

**Email: [jhaines6@gmail.com](mailto:jhaines6@gmail.com)**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

The Contemporary Issues in Worship class is designed to focus students' attention on a variety of different trends and topics relevant to the diversity of worship methodologies in the contemporary church. Attention will be given to Style, Performance, Technology, Character, and other like identifiers. The student will explore these issues from a grounded, biblical theology of worship.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- The student will become conversant with the current trends and issues in the worship practice.
- The student will apply a Biblical view of worship to major trends and issues.
- The student will become acquainted with styles and purpose in modern worship movements
- The student will observe and evaluate a variety of worship contexts
- The student will develop a Biblical paradigm for evaluating worship trends.

**COURSE TEXTS**

Required Texts:

Ingalls, Monique M. *Singing the Congregation: How Contemporary Worship Music Forms Evangelical Community*. Oxford University Press. 2018

Van Opstal, Sandra Maria. *The Next Worship: Glorifying God in a Diverse World*. IVP Books. 2016.

Smith, James K.A. *Imagining the Kingdom: How Worship Works*. Baker Academic. 2013.

Recommended Texts:

Olds, Hugh Oliphant. *Worship: Revised and Expanded Edition: Reformed According to Scripture*. Prophetic Lament.

Pinson, Matthew, Ed. *Perspectives on Christian Worship: Five Views*. 1<sup>st</sup> Ed. B&H Academic. 2009.

**COURSE SCHEDULE & ASSIGNMENTS (may be realigned)**

**Unit One:** Style (Classical/Traditional, Gospel, Folk, Pop)/Style Fusion (successful/unsuccessful)

**Unit Two:** Presentational/Performative vs. Participatory

**Unit Three:** Millennial Exodus (Contributing Factors, Appeal in worship)

**Unit Four:** Worship and Missional Focus (Urban, Suburban, Rural, and International)

**Unit Five:** Evangelistic Worship/Discipleship Worship

**Unit Six:** Character and Personhood in Worship ministry

**Unit Seven:** Musical Training as un/necessary

**Unit Eight:** Retrograde of Musical Content (Reformation and Musical Education)

**Unit Nine:** Technology and Media (Implementation, Theology, Communication)

## COURSE ASSESSMENTS AND DUE DATES

- Personal Assessment and Interview Questions: (to be given in class): Students will answer seven questions of themselves concerning positions on current worship trends and then ask these same questions to a person in worship ministry leadership, recording the answers of both. Responses must be specific. Please record any biblical references made during Q/A. Clarify questions during your interview if ministry leader responses are not specific. **This will be due on Feb 12, 2020**
- Book Reviews: Students will complete a 2-3-page book response of each book in the required reading. Each review will follow standard Turabian formatting procedure and allow for personal pronouns and engagement, after giving a brief summary of content. Please identify and respond to at least 3 major points the author makes in their text. In addition to being personal, please make sure your responses also have biblical foundations. One response will be due at the end of each month of the duration of the course. **(Book Reviews Due Dates: Jan 31/Feb 28/March 31)**
- Project: The student will conduct 3 separate worship mini-case studies based on a pre-determined rubric. The case study form will be given to students at the beginning of the course lectures. The student will write a 2-3-page evaluation based on the case-study (details provided with rubric). When choosing other churches, the student must choose churches that are both unlike and distinctly unlike their current worshiping environment. **Due on final class due date (April 24).**
- All typed assignments should be submitted as an MS Word or PDF file to [jhaines6@gmail.com](mailto:jhaines6@gmail.com) on the day of their due date.

## GRADING WEIGHT & SCALE

Assess/Interview Questions:	15% of final grade	Project:	35% of final grade
Book Reviews:	20% of final grade	Class Participation:	20% of final grade
Attendance:	10% of final grade		

The BTS grading scale is as follows:

A 96-100	B 85-89	C 75-79	D 65-69	F Below 60
A- 90-95	B- 80-84	C- 70-74	D- 60-64	