



AMBROSE  
SEMINARY

**PT601 - Theology and Practice of Worship**  
**September – December, 2013**  
**Directed Study for Curtis Passmore**

**Instructor: Rev. Bill McAlpine, Ph.D.**

**Instructor Information**

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**Course Description:**

This course is designed to guide the student into a deeper understanding of and appreciation for some of the biblical, theological, historical and philosophical elements of Christian worship. The student will be exposed to different approaches to worship within various traditions. Attention will also be given to the development of the practical skills of planning and leading worship events.

**Course Objectives:**

Assuming a dependence on the Holy Spirit and a commitment to some hard work on the part of the instructor and student alike, by the end of this course, the student should be able to enjoy the following benefits from this course:

***Cognitively ... what the student should know/understand***

- You should gain a basic knowledge of biblical, theological, historical and philosophical elements of Christian worship
- You should understand how worship relates to the overall mission and ministry of the Church

***Attitudinally ... what the student should appreciate***

- You should gain a basic understanding and appreciation for worship styles that represent traditions and/or preferences that are different from his/her own
- You should appreciate the impact that context or venue has on the worship experience

***Experientially ... what the student should do***

- You should demonstrate skills in planning and participating in the leadership of a worship service.
- You should be able to articulate a well-thought out theology of worship

## **Textbooks**

***Required Texts***

Forrester, Duncan B., *Encounter with God: An Introduction to Christian Worship and Practice*.  
J. Ian H. McDonald, Edinburgh: T&T Clark, 1996.  
Gian Tellini

Torrance, James B. *Worship, Community & the Triune God of Grace*. Downers Grove: IVP Press, 1996.

Webber, Robert E. *Worship, Old and New*. Revised Edition, Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 1994.

***Recommended Texts***

Basden, Paul *The Worship Maze: Finding a Style to Fit Your Church*. Downers Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity Press, 1999.

Cherry, Constance M. *The Worship Architect: A Blueprint for Designing Culturally Relevant and Biblically Faithful Services*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2010.

Engle, Paul E., ed. *Exploring the Worship Spectrum: 6 Views*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 2004.

Forrester, Duncan and J. Ian McDonald and Gian Tellini *Encounter with God: An Introduction to Christian Worship and Practice*.  
Edinburgh: T & T Clark, 1999

Liesch, Barry *The New Worship: Straight Talk on Music and the Church*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1996

- Long, Thomas G. *Beyond the Worship Wars: Building Vital and Faithful Worship.* The Alban Institute, 2002.
- Long, Kimberly Bracken *The Worshiping Body: The Art of Leading Worship.* Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2009.
- Morgenthaler, Sally *Worship Evangelism: Inviting Unbelievers into the Presence of God.* Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 1995.
- Navarro, Kevin J. *The Complete Worship Leader.* Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2001.
- Peterson, David *Engaging with God: A Biblical Theology of Worship.* Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1992.
- Redman, Robb *The Great Worship Awakening: Singing a New Song in the Postmodern Church.* San Francisco: Jossey-Bass A Wiley Imprint, 2002.
- Saliers, Don E. *Worship as Theology: Foretaste of Glory Divine.* Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1994.
- Schmidt, Clayton J. *A Theology of Liturgical Expression.* Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2002.
- Segler, Franklin M. *Christian Worship: Its Theology and Practice.* Nashville, TN: Broadman Press, 1967.
- Weil, Louis *A Theology of Worship.* Cambridge, Mass.: Cowley Publications, 2002.

## Course Requirements

### *Theology of Worship Document*

You are to prepare a six to eight page position paper in which you articulate your personal convictions about Christian corporate worship. To give you some guidance regarding what is to be included in this statement, consider the following as basic:

- ❖ *Foundational Statements*
  - Definition of Worship – *What* is worship, really?
  - Purpose of Worship – *Why* should we worship?
  - Participants in Worship – *Who* can worship and why?
- ❖ *Fundamental Issues*

- Underscore the Constants
  - What elements should be included in every corporate Christian worship gathering and why?
- Outcome of Worship
  - How do we know when and if genuine authentic worship has occurred? In other words, what effect(s) should be evident in the lives of those who worship?
- Basic Assumptions
  - What roles are fulfilled by each person in the godhead – Father, Son and Holy Spirit in a corporate worship experience?
  - How does personal, private worship relate to corporate worship?
  - What role does tradition play in corporate worship?
  - To what degree should local culture be allowed to inform worship within the local Church?
- A Matter of Priorities
  - What priority should worship have in the overall ‘big picture’ of the local church life? Explain why.
- Leadership
  - Are there any roles within the worship event that should be limited to specific participants? Why or why not?
  - What are the fundamental tasks of the worship leader?

❖ *Future Considerations*

- Where do you see corporate worship going in the next decade?
- What kinds of challenges and opportunities do you think the Church needs to be prepared to address in the next few years with respect to the worship ministry within the local fellowship?
- How frequently do you think a philosophy of worship statement such as this one should be revisited and revised? Why?

**DUE DATE: December 9, 2013**

## ***Worship Gathering Observation & Reflection***

You are to visit one church worship event representing tradition different from your own, and write a four to six [4-6] page report on the cite visited. The report should include the following:

### ❖ General Information

- Name and address of the Church
- Date when visited
- Time of the service (indicate the length of the service as well)
- Any other significant information (e.g. special feast day or holy day or other special circumstances)

### ❖ Worship Event

- Describe, in detail the venue where the worship event took place (i.e. significant architectural features, furniture, visual aids, overall layout or design.)
- Describe the transition into worship (in other words, how were you ushered from your own personal world into the worship event.)
- List the elements of the worship event (would you say they were focused on God or on those gathered there?)
- Describe those who lead in the worship (Who were they? Number? Both genders represented?)
- Describe how the event was brought to a close: were you challenged, commissioned, blessed? Was there a benediction? a postlude? What did the congregation do after the service?
- Based on the service, what image of God were you left with? What of the Church? Was this the kind of service through which you would feel likely to meet God? Why or why not?

### ❖ Personal Reflection

- What were the most effective or significant features of this worship event for you personally and what made them so?
- What aspects, if any, did you find distracting? Why?
- In what ways did this event reflect or challenge your own theology of worship?

### ❖ In Addition

- Include a bulletin or any handout received at the worship event

- Make every effort to be inconspicuous, that is avoid taking notes or writing a first draft of your assignment during the service. Try to be a genuine and active participant.
- Assessment of this assignment will be on the basis of depth and breadth of observation, thoroughness and form.

**DUE DATE: December 9, 2013**

***Major Paper: Worship - Theology and Practice of Worship in a Hospital Setting***

The student is to prepare a ten to twelve page paper in which he articulates his personal convictions about the significance of, and practical ways of providing worship opportunities for the hospitalized. Consideration should be given to the potential benefits of worship to the individual as well as to the purposes and goals of the organization. The paper should address real and/or potential challenges that are particular to the hospital setting, along with practical solutions to these challenges.

**Due Date: December 9, 2013**

***Reading***

- ❖ In addition to the three required texts, the student is to read an additional 400 pages of collateral reading. The list of recommended reading is one source of such reading. The student may read from other sources in consultation with the instructor. All three required textbooks are to be read in their entirety and a one to three page (1 – 3) review of each book (required texts) is to be written according to the guidelines below:
  - ❖ What would you consider to be the purpose of the author(s) in writing the book?
  - ❖ What proved to be the most helpful insights or sections of the book for you personally? Cite specific passages or sections.
  - ❖ What contribution do you think the authors have made through their books both to the academic community and to the Church at large? If you are of the opinion they failed in this respect, explain why?

**DUE DATE: December 9, 2013**

### ***Submission of Written Work:***

Assignments may be submitted one of three ways: hardcopy, Moodle, and e-mail attachment (least preferred). Although the due date for all assignments is December 9, 2013, which is the last day of regularly scheduled classes, I would encourage you to spread out your assignments over the course of the next several weeks.

✓ Paper Assessment: Your paper will be assessed a grade according to the following criteria:

<b>Letter Grade</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Qualities</b>
A+ A A-	Superior Excellent Very good	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The thesis is well articulated</li> <li>▪ The organization is clear and informed by the thesis</li> <li>▪ Argumentation is convincing and well-reasoned</li> <li>▪ Content is insightful and beyond superficial</li> <li>▪ Paragraphs are coherent and effectively connected</li> <li>▪ Statements and generalizations are backed with appropriate evidence</li> <li>▪ Sources are clearly and properly identified</li> <li>▪ Grammar and spelling are accurate and correct</li> <li>▪ The opening paragraph is convincing and well-written</li> <li>▪ The conclusion is clear, compelling and logically flows from the argument</li> <li>▪ The assignment is completed according to the syllabus description</li> <li>▪ There is evidence of hard work and even struggle with the topic</li> </ul>
B+ B B-	Proficient Good Average	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The central idea is presented, though an obvious thesis statement may be lacking</li> <li>▪ The content shows a limited degree of originality</li> <li>▪ The main ideas of the argument are clear although they may not be naturally connected</li> <li>▪ Sources are clearly and properly identified</li> <li>▪ Grammar and spelling are accurate and correct</li> <li>▪ The opening paragraph is interesting</li> <li>▪ The conclusion follows the overall argument</li> <li>▪ The assignment is completed according to the</li> </ul>

		syllabus description
C+	Adequate  Poor  Minimal Pass	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The central idea is undeveloped or absent</li> </ul>
C		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The organization is random or poorly structured</li> </ul>
C-		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The style is dull or boring</li> </ul>
D+		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Claims are not supported adequately with appropriate evidence</li> </ul>
D		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Sources are not properly identified</li> <li>▪ Grammar and spelling are inaccurate</li> <li>▪ There is little or no obvious link between the argument and conclusion</li> <li>▪ The assignment does not properly follow the syllabus description</li> </ul>
F	Unsatisfactory	

To understand more clearly how your paper will be assessed, please refer to page 13 of this syllabus entitled ‘Major Paper Assessment.’ A copy of this page will be attached to your paper upon return.

### Lateness Policy

All assignments are due by 5:00 p.m. on the due date. Work received after that time will be assessed a penalty of 2% per day (as opposed to per class), including weekends. HOWEVER, there is such a thing as ‘an extension’ in this course. There is but one way in which an extension will be considered and that is by way of application. Should the NEED arise for a student to request an extension on any assignment (the one exception is the reading report. See above under Reading.), an application form must be completed and submitted to the instructor no later than 24 hours prior to the original due date. Verbal and e-mail requests will not be considered

### Course Assessment

<b>Reading</b>	<b>20%</b>
<b>Major Paper</b>	<b>30%</b>
<b>Church Gathering Observation</b>	<b>20%</b>
<b>Theology of Worship Document</b>	<b>30%</b>

## Important Notes

*It is the responsibility of all students to become familiar with and adhere to academic policies of as are stated in the Student Handbook and Academic Calendar.*

*Personal information, that is information about an individual that may be used to identify that individual, may be collected as a requirement as part of taking this class. Any information collected will only be used and disclosed for the purpose for which the collection was intended. For further information contact the Privacy Compliance Officer at [privacy@ambrose.edu](mailto:privacy@ambrose.edu).*

*The last day to enter a course without permission and /or voluntary withdrawal from a course or change to audit without financial penalty is 15 September 2013.*

*The last day to request a revised time for a final examination is 28 October 2013.*

*The last day to voluntarily withdraw from a course without academic penalty is 12 November 2013.*

*The last day to apply for time extension for coursework is 25 November 2013.*

*Although extensions to coursework in the semester are at the discretion of the instructor, students may not turn in coursework for evaluation after the last day of the scheduled final examination period unless they have received permission for a "Course Extension." Alternative times for final examinations cannot be scheduled without prior approval. Requests for course extensions or alternative examination time must be submitted to the Registrar's Office by the appropriate deadline. Course extensions are only granted for serious issues that arise "due to circumstances beyond the student's control."*

*We are committed to fostering personal integrity and will not overlook breaches of integrity such as plagiarism and cheating. Plagiarism and cheating can result in a failing grade for an assignment, for the course, or immediate dismissal from the university college. Students are expected to be familiar with the policies in the current Academic Calendar and the Student Handbook that deal with plagiarism, cheating, and the penalties and procedures for dealing with these matters. All cases of academic dishonesty are reported to the Academic Dean.*