



# AMBROSE SEMINARY

30 Carrier Drive, Suite 100  
Toronto, Ontario  
M9W 5T7

*Course Name & Number: PT 601 Theology and Practice of Worship*

*Dates: February 5-7; March 12-14, 2009*

*Location: Mississauga Chinese Alliance Church*

*Instructor: Rev. Dr. Milton Henderson*

## COURSE SYLLABUS

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### 1. Course Description

This course will expose students to the various traditions of Christian worship; provide them with a biblical, theological, and philosophical framework for the evaluation of the theory and practice of these traditions; and thereby enable them to develop a clear understanding of the nature and practice of corporate worship. It will also give students experience in evaluating, planning, and leading services of worship.

### 2. Course Objectives

This course is designed to encourage worship leaders and pastors to

- *Achieve integration in the personal, theological, and ministerial dimensions of their lives*
- *Serve and lead worship effectively in a variety of settings*
- *Reflect theologically on corporate worship from the perspective of an evangelical tradition that has been informed and enriched by the breadth of the Christian tradition*
- *Communicate effectively and relevantly in diverse contexts of worship*
- *Exercise the spiritual gifts and abilities that they have been granted by God*
- *Grow in their personal understanding of the nature and practice of corporate worship*
- *Plan and lead corporate worship experiences in a variety of worship styles.*

### 3. Class Schedule:

Thursday, Feb. 5: 7:00 – 10:00 PM

Friday, Feb. 6: 7:00 – 10:00 PM

Saturday, Feb. 7 : 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Thursday, Mar. 12: 7:00 – 10:00 PM  
Friday, Mar. 13: 7:00 – 10:00 PM  
Saturday, Mar. 14: 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM

#### 4. Course Outline:

- I. Introduction to Worship
- II. Biblical Patterns of Worship – Old & New Testament
- III. Shape of Worship – Content, Structure, Style
- IV. Four-Fold Pattern of Worship
- V. Worship Styles and Traditions
- VI. Worship Leadership
- VII. Role of Music in Worship
- VIII. Symbols in Worship
- IX. Sacred Space in Worship
- X. Current Issues in Worship

#### 5. Required Reading

Kidd, Reggie M. *With One Voice: Discovering Christ's Song in Our Worship*. With a foreword by Robert E. Webber. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2005.

Tozer, A.W. *Whatever Happened to Worship? A Call to True Worship*, comp. & ed. Gerald B. Smith. Camp Hill, PA: Christian Publications, 1985.

Webber, Robert E. *Ancient – Future Worship: Proclaiming and Enacting God's Narrative*. With a foreword by John D. Witvliet. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2008.

#### Supplementary Reading

Basden, Paul A. *Exploring the Worship Spectrum: 6 Views*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2004.

\_\_\_\_\_. *The Worship Maze: Finding a Style to Fit Your Church*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2004.

Best, Harold M. *Unceasing Worship: Biblical Perspectives on Worship and the Arts*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2003.

Byars, Ronald P. *The Future of Protestant Worship: Beyond the Worship Wars*. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2002.

Dawn, Marva J. *Reaching Out Without Dumbing Down: A Theology of Worship for the Turn-of-the-Century Culture*. With a foreword by Martin E. Marty. Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1995.

Drury, Keith. *The Wonder of Worship: Why We Worship the Way We Do*. Indianapolis, IN: Wesleyan Publishing House, 2002.

Frame, John M. *Worship in Spirit and Truth: A Refreshing Study of the Principles and Practice of Biblical Worship*. Phillipsburg, NJ: R & R Publishing, 1996.

Old, Hughes Oliphant. *Worship That Is Reformed According to Scripture*. Guides to the Reformed Tradition, ed. John H. Leith and John W. Kuykendall. Atlanta: John Knox Press, 1984.

Ray, David R. *Wonderful Worship in Smaller Churches*. Cleveland, OH: The Pilgrim Press, 2000.

Van Dyk, Leanne, ed. *A More Profound Alleluia: Theology and Worship in Harmony*. Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2005.

Webber, Robert E. *The New Worship Awakening: What's Old Is New Again*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers, 1994.

\_\_\_\_\_. *Worship Old & New: A Biblical, Historical, and Practical Introduction*, rev. ed. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 1994.

\_\_\_\_\_. *Blended Worship: Achieving Substance and Relevance in Worship*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers, 1996.

Whaley, Vernon M. *The Dynamics of Corporate Worship*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2001.

White, James F. *Protestant Worship: Traditions in Transition*. Louisville: Westminster / John Knox Press, 1989.

\_\_\_\_\_. *Introduction to Christian Worship*, rev. ed. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1990.

Willimon, William H. *With Glad and Generous Hearts: A Personal Look at Sunday Worship*. With an Educational Guide by John Westerhoff III. Nashville: The Upper Room, 1986.

Witvliet, John D. "Beyond Style: Rethinking the Role of Music in Worship." In *The Conviction of Things Not Seen: Worship and Ministry in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*, ed. Todd E. Johnson, 67-81. Grand Rapids, MI: Brazos Press, 2002.

## 6. Course Requirements:

### Assignments:

(a) **Interaction Papers:** Submit a 1-2 page critique for each book in the required reading list. In each paper, you should focus on one issue that you found to be of particular relevance to the study of worship. **Due March 12, 2009** (20%)

(b) **Research Paper:** Submit a research paper of 2500 words on one aspect of worship that is of particular interest to you in your study of worship. **Due April 15, 2009** (40%)

### (c) Practical Involvement

(i) Analysis of a worship service you attended. The church you analyze must be of a denomination different from the one you usually attend. A form will be provided to guide this exercise. **Due March 13, 2009** (20%)

(ii) Each participant will work within a group to plan and lead a segment of a worship service in a worship style as determined by the course instructor. **Due March 14, 2009** (20%)

All completed assignments must be typewritten, double spaced (12 point text) and submitted to the instructor in one of the following methods:

- (i) A paper copy to be given to the instructor at the designated class session indicated by the due dates above
- (ii) By email attachment to [myles2go@sympatico.ca](mailto:myles2go@sympatico.ca) by the due date. A hard copy will be printed and returned to the student with notations and evaluations. Students are encouraged to retain a computer backup and a hard copy of any paper that is sent to the instructor.

**Term Paper Format:**

All written assignments are to be prepared to the standards in *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, by Kate L. Turabian (6<sup>th</sup> edition).

**Returning Assignments to Students:**

Graded assignments will be returned directly to students. Students who wish to have their assignments returned to them by mail must include a stamped, self-addressed envelope. Students can collect their grade papers six weeks after the assignments have been handed in.

**Late Assignments:**

Late penalty is 10% per week, to a maximum of four weeks. No assignments will be received beyond four weeks.

**Attendance Policy:**

Attendance at all classes is expected. If you miss more than 20% of the classes, you are not eligible for a pass in the course.

**IMPORTANT NOTES**

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**Registration**

Registration and payment in full is due for this modular class by 7pm on the first day of class Thursday, February 5, 2009.

Students may withdraw from this modular class and receive a full refund prior to the second class session (i.e., before 7 pm on Friday , February 6, 2009). No tuition refund will be issued after this deadline. Students may voluntarily withdraw or change their registration from credit to audit, without academic penalty, only prior to completing 70% of the course (i.e., before 7 pm on Friday, March 13, 2009). Students who withdraw from a course after this deadline will receive a grade of "F".

All registration changes must be made through the Registrar's Office by complete a Registration Revision Form. Forms are available at the Extension Education office or can be downloaded from [www.ambrose.edu](http://www.ambrose.edu). In either case, please return the form to Extension Education.

**Policy on extensions:**

All coursework requirements and due dates are to be clearly stated in the course syllabus. Coursework submitted after the due date, without prior approval by the Registrar and Academic Dean of a formal "Request for an Extension to Coursework" will receive a grade of "F". Requests for an extension will be considered only in the following circumstances:

- The quality of prior coursework has been satisfactory; AND
- Circumstances beyond the student's control, such as an extended illness or death of a family member, make it impossible for the student to complete the coursework on time; AND
- The student submits a "Request for an Extension to Coursework" application to the registrar on or before the "Last day to apply for time extension for course work" listed on the Academic Calendar of Events.

**Plagiarism and Academic Dishonesty Policy:**

The seminary maintains a zero tolerance policy on plagiarism and academic dishonesty. Plagiarism and academic dishonesty can result in a failing grade for an assignment, for the course, or immediate dismissal from the seminary. Even unintentional plagiarism is to be avoided at all costs. Students are expected to be familiar with the policy statements in the current academic calendar and the student handbook that deal with plagiarism, academic dishonesty (cheating), and the penalties and procedures for dealing with these matters. All cases of academic dishonesty are reported to the Dean.

**Protection of Personal Information:**

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).