



AMBROSE  
UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

## **PT601 Theology and Practice of Worship**

**February 2012**

**Ambrose Seminary**

**Peter Ralph ThM, DMin : instructor**

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### **Course Description**

This course will guide the student in understanding and appreciating the biblical, theological, historical and philosophical elements of Christian worship. Attention will be given to the practice and leading of specific worship experiences.

### **Course Objectives**

As a result of this course the student will

1. have a basic knowledge of biblical, theological, historical and philosophical aspects of worship.
2. understand how worship related to the overall mission and ministry of the church.
3. understand critically evaluate and appreciate worship styles that represent traditions or preferences different from their own.
4. appreciate the impact of environmental factors on the experience of worship.
5. demonstrate discernment and skill in planning and participation in leadership of a worship service.
6. articulate a grounded theology of worship.

### **Required Texts**

Torrance, J. *Worship, Community and the Triune God of Grace*. Downer's grove: IVP 1996

Webber, R. *Worship Old and New*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan.

### **Recommended Texts**

Basden, Paul. *The Worship Maze: Finding a Style to Fit Your Church*. Downer's grove: IVP. 1999

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

Forrester, D, and J. I. MacDonald 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.

Morgenthaller, Sally. *Worship Evangelism: Inviting Believers into the Presence of God*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1995.

Peterson, David. *Engaging With God: A Biblical Theology of Worship*. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans, 1992

Redman, Robb. *The Great Worship Awakening: Singing a New Song in the Postmodern Church*. San Francisco: Jossey Bass. 2002

Saliers, Don. *Worship as Theology: Foretaste of Glory Divine*, Nashville: Abingdon. 1994

Schmidt, Clayton J. *A Theology of Liturgical Expression*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox. 2002

Segler, Frank M. *Christian Worship: Its Theology and Practice*. Nashville: Broadman. 1967



Webber, Robt. E. *Worship Old and New*. Revised Ed. Grand rapids: Zondervan. 1994

Weil, Louis. *A Theology of Worship*. Cambridge: Cowley. 2002

Willimon, William. *The Service of God: How Worship and Ethics are Related*. Abingdon: Nashville. 1983

### Course Requirements

Students are expected to attend all classes in their entirety.

1. *Reading*: Students will read the required texts and will write response papers of approximately 5 pages length to each. **Due: May 31**
2. *Reading*: In addition students will read 800 pages from the reading list and submit a 3 page report on each reading. The report will major (2 pages) on how the reading has affected or changed the student's theology and/or practice of worship. **Due: 400 pages Apr. 12, 400 pages May 31**
3. *Worship Spectrum Assignment*: Students will read Engle's *Exploring the Worship Spectrum: 6 Views* and will attend a worship service that is different from their own usual worship experience and conforms substantially to one of the worship forms discussed in the book. Students will submit an 8 page analysis, critique and evaluation of that service using a format which will be supplied in class. **Due: Apr. 12**
4. *Historical Worship Service*: Students will participate in a group experience of leadership, presentation and evaluation of an in-class historic worship service. Each day students will write a two page reflection on the service experience of the day. **Due: next morning**
5. *Paper*: Students will prepare and submit a paper of not less than ten pages on the theme, "What is Christian Worship?" using a format to be presented in class. **Due: May 31**
6. *Worship Service Planning and Design*: Students will prepare a complete service suitable for use in a local church using a design and reporting format to be presented in class. **Due: May 31**
7. *Students wishing to design their own substitute (5 or 6 above), applied project for this course may do so with the professor's permission after submitting a written project design for modification and/or approval.*

### Course Assessment

Text Reading:	20%
Additional reading	10%
Spectrum Assignment	10%
In class service reflection	10%
Paper	20%
Worship service planning and design	20%