

FALL 2008

worship@rts/o

SYLLABUS V. 1.0
COURSE NUMBER:
2JT526/01



"HOW
MAJESTIC IS YOUR
NAME IN ALL THE
EARTH"

the theology and practice of worship

APPRECIATING A REFORMED SENSIBILITY & ITS CONTRIBUTION TO THE BROADER CHURCH



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Handouts will be available
(per notification) online.

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course materials

COURSE GOALS

THEOLOGY — Discerning theological and biblical perspectives.

HISTORY — Understanding how we got a "Regulative Principle of Worship."

PRAXIS — Learning to apply Reformed principles in diverse situations.

EXISTENTIAL — Becoming better worshipers ourselves, through considering the disciplines of personal growth and through, well, experiencing something different in worship.

FUTURE — Assessing contemporary alternatives to a Reformed sensibility, and assessing the future of the Reformed contribution to the larger Body of Christ.



REQUIRED RESOURCES

John Frame. *Worship in Spirit & Truth: A Refreshing Study of the Principles and Practice of Biblical Worship*, P&R, 1996 (# ISBN-10: 0875522424; # ISBN-13: 978-0875522425) — contemporary statement of a Reformed philosophy

Hughes Oliphant Old. *Worship Reformed according to Scripture* (revised & expanded). WJKP, 2002 (# ISBN-10: 0804232520; # ISBN-13: 978-0804232524) — kinder & gentler classical statement of a Reformed philosophy

Paxson H. Jeancake. *The Art of Worship: Opening Our Eyes to the Beauty of the Gospel*. Wipf & Stock, 2006. (# ISBN-10: 1597527157; # ISBN-13: 978-1597527156) — putting feet on Frame

Dan Kimball. *Emerging Worship: Creating Worship Gatherings for New Generations*. emergentYS, 2004 (# ISBN-10: 0310256445; # ISBN-13: 978-0310256441)

Thompson, Bard. *Liturgies of the Western Church*. Fortress Press, 1961, 1980 (# ISBN-10: 0800614283; # ISBN-13: 978-0800614287)

Robert E. Webber. *Ancient-Future Worship: Proclaiming and Enacting God's Narrative*. BakerBooks, 2008 (# ISBN-10: 0801066247; # ISBN-13: 978-0801066245)

ASSIGNMENTS

Check all items completed:

3 of the Following 5 (30 total points)

- Sing in the RTS Christmas Concert Choir, if there is one (For some reason I'm kind of out of the loop on this one.) If there is not RTS Christmas choir and you can find another choir to participate in, that will be an acceptable substitute.
 - 3 pp. Report
- Journal the Psalms or *BCW* or *BCP* or *Valley of Vision* (twice per week)
 - 5 pp. Report
- Take in 3 Non-normal (for You) Worship Experiences (1 p. report per service)
 - Report on Service 1 — Church or Event:
 - Report on Service 2 — Church or Event:
 - Report on Service 3 — Church or Event:
- Plan and execute a normal worship service in a real setting
 - 3 pp. Report
- Help Mike Glodo in Chapel — we can negotiate its worth to your grade — if you help out marginally a couple of times (you know, read Scripture, or whatever), that would count for one of these optional items — if you convince him to let you be his worship slave, and you wind up basically leading worship for him or consistently singing or playing an instrument or serving as a regular "liturgist," well, we can assess the value of your service. It'll be worth your while — *if* Mikey likes it (extra credit for naming the product, without googling it).
 - 2-3 pp. Report

Worship Notebook, Part 1 — Turn in 5 of each (20 total points)

- Calls to Worship
- Invocations
- Benedictions
- Prayers of Confession
- Assurances of Pardon

Take Home Final Exam on Lectures and Required Readings (30 total points)

Complete Required Course Readings (10 points)
(Indicate Percentage Completed on the Final Exam)

Optional "A" Project: Biblical or Historical Paper, or Reading Report (500 pp. of additional reading) — (potentially 10 points)

Topic:

“A” PROJECT

Optional “A” Project: Biblical or Historical Paper, or Reading Report (500 pp. of additional reading)

For the extra 10 points that puts you in the “A” range for this course you may do one of two things.

1. You may write a **modest research paper** (in the neighborhood of 1,000 pp) on some aspect of worship that is of interest to you:

- a historical figure — Augustine vs. Ambrose on music; Luther’s attitude toward the liturgy; why Zwingli loved music in the concert hall, but not in church ...
- an historical development: the rise of Gothic architecture; the emergence of a theology of transubstantiation
- a biblical passage or theme: the songs of Revelation; the typological relationship between David and Christ or between the tabernacle, temple, and church
- a theological motif: broad & narrow worship in harmony; “doxological evangelism”
- a troublesome question: is the “regulative principle Anabaptist?”, “how normative should the apostolic fathers be?”, “is one kind of music right, and all others wrong?”, “is spiritual worship disembodied worship?”, “is it OK to follow the church calendar?”

2. You may do a **reading report** on about 500 pp. of extra reading. Suggestions:

- D. A. Carson, ed., *Worship by the Book*. Zondervan, 2002 (# ISBN-10: 0310216257; # ISBN-13: 978-0310216254)
- Simon Chan, *Liturgical Theology: The Church as Worshiping Community*. IVP, 2006 (# ISBN-10: 0830827633; # ISBN-13: 978-0830827633)
- Oscar Cullman. *Early Christian Worship*. Westminster Press. Westminster/SCM Press, 1953 — starts out in a fairly mundane (well, Cullmann’s never really mundane ... just, well, more predictable), then somehow the book turns a corner and becomes the most fascinating “sacramental” reading the Gospel According to John. Well worth the effort to track it down.
- Marva Dawn, *A Royal “Waste” of Time: The Splendor of Worshipping God and Being Church for the World*. Eerdmans, 1999 (# ISBN-10: 080284586X; # ISBN-13: 978-0802845863)
- R. J. Gore, Jr., *Covenantal Worship: Reconsidering the Puritan Regulative Principle*. P&R, 2002 (# ISBN-10: 0875525628; # ISBN-13: 978-0875525624) — an appeal to Calvin over the Puritans
- D. G. Hart & John R. Muether, *With Reverence and Awe: Returning to the Basics of Reformed Worship*. P&R, 2002 (# ISBN-10: 0875521797; # ISBN-13: 978-0875521794) — sober apology for Westminster Directory worship
- Terry Johnson, et al., *The Worship of God: Reformed Concepts of Biblical Worship*. Christian Focus Pub., 2005 (# ISBN-10: 1845500555; # ISBN-13: 978-1845500559) — eclectic old school Reformed voices, with a harder edge than Hart/Muether
- Ralph Martin, *Worship in the Early Church*. Eerdmans, 1964, 1987 (# ISBN-10: 0802816134; # ISBN-13: 978-0802816139)
- Elsie Anne McKee, ed. & trans. *John Calvin: Writings on Pastoral Piety*. Paulist Press, 2001 (# ISBN-10: 0809140462)
- Meyers, Jeffrey, *The Lord’s Service: The Grace of Covenant Renewal Worship*. Canon Press, 2003 (# ISBN-10: 1591280087; # ISBN-13: 978-1591280088) — a Federal Vision guy does worship
- Hughes Oliphant Old, *Themes & Variations for a Christian Doxology: Some Thoughts on the Theology of Worship*. Eerdmans, 1992 (# ISBN-10: 0802806147; # ISBN-13: 978-0802806147)
- Alexander Schmemmann. *For the Life of the World: Sacraments and Orthodoxy*. St. Vladimirs Seminary Press, 1963, 1973. (An accessible [Russian] orthodox philosophy of worship.) — this introductory work could open out into an exploration of Schmemmann’s books on the sacraments, *Of Water and the Spirit: A Liturgical Study of Baptism* and/or *The Eucharist: Sacrament of the Kingdom* — who knows? That might even get you into his fascinating *The Journals of Father Alexander Schmemmann*.
- Robert Webber, *Ancient-Future Faith: Rethinking Evangelicalism for a Postmodern World*. Baker Academic, 1999 (# ISBN-10: 080106029X; # ISBN-13: 978-0801060298)

SCHEDULE

My suggestion is that you read the course books in the following order:

History: Bard Thompson for historical perspective.

Theology: Old and Frame, more or less side by side.

Praxis: Jeancake

The Future: Webber & Kimball, more or less side by side.

WILD CARD

“Worship” is a contentious aspect of church life. Its execution often requires skills pastors feel they do not have. Pastoral wisdom and theological insight are at a premium when strident voices — some informed, some uninformed — emerge. As you face the responsibility of pastoral leadership, you may have a question or so that you’d like to see answered.

I don’t think I answer especially well “on the fly.” But if you can give me a little time, I often think I have something worthwhile to offer.

If you’d like to write out and submit to me any questions you’d like to see us take up, I promise I’ll give it my best shot, even if my best shot is, “I don’t know.”

