Course Description

In 1544, Emperor Charles V called for the Diet of the Holy Roman Empire to meet at Speyer. Martin Bucer, Strassburg reformer, urged Calvin to write a statement of the doctrines and necessity for the Reformation. What emerged was Calvin’s The Necessity for Reforming the Church, a book which Calvin’s friend and successor, Theodore Beza, thought the most powerful and important book of his time. What was Calvin’s chief concern? Worship!

This course will investigate as many of the issues of worship as time will permit. The canvas is vast: what does the Bible teach about worship? How are we to integrate both Old and New Testament materials for the church today? What does church history teach us? What are the issues facing the church today?

What will we aim to do in this course specifically?

Give you the biblical foundations of worship. Convince you that that gathered worship is legitimate, necessary, and important and should be conducted biblically in both form and content. Address the crucial matters of music, congregational singing, contextualization, “worship styles” and more. The goal is to prepare you to be biblical worshippers, and to prepare you to help others be biblical worshippers, and to prepare you to be effective leaders in worship.

The two instructors have attempted to divide the materials in such a way that duplication is avoided. However, given the nature of this course, some overlap is unavoidable. Dr. Wymond will concentrate on the history of worship and focus on the specific issues of music. He will also cover the practical issues of weddings and funerals.

Course Objectives

1. To acquaint the student with the relevant materials of biblical and historical debate on worship
2. To facilitate the student to become a leader of worship that is both dignified and sensitive to current cultural norms
3. To engage the student in debate over issues currently of major controversy within the Reformed churches

Contact Information

Professors: Rev. William K. Wymond, DMin
Rev. J. Ligon Duncan III, PhD

Campus Office: 601.923.1656 and Ext 1656

Executive Assistant: Jan Hyde

If you would like discuss matters related to this course or future ministry, please contact my assistant to set up an appointment.

Teaching Assistants: Bentley Crawford - bccrawf@gmail.com
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If you have any questions related to the details of this course, its assignments, or with Canvas, please contact my teachings assistants.
Academic Integrity

All work submitted must be the student’s own. Group-produced work is not permitted. Plagiarism and copying of old assignments are considered cheating. Students who do not fulfill assignments with requisite academic integrity will be referred to the Academic Dean with a recommendation for discipline (the student should also consult pp. 33-34 in the Handbook for further details).

Class Methodology

A. Lectures and Attendance

Many of these sessions will be in the form of seminars, to facilitate classroom discussion. Attendance, therefore, is an absolute requirement. Given the huge amount of material we have to cover and the relative scarcity of classroom hours, attendance will be at a premium and, of course, to the benefit of the student. My TA will take roll at every class. If you need to miss a class or to leave early or to arrive late, you should seek permission (via my TA, my EA or myself). Failure to attend class, or to engage while in the class, will be noted. No unexplained absences.

B. Reading Assignments

1. Required Texts:

   
   
   
   
   Robert Vasholz * Benedictions* Christian Focus Publications, 2007
   
   _______ *Calls to Worship*, Christian Focus, 2008

2. Recommended

   
   
   

C. Practical Requirement (60%)

1. Written Prayers. (20%)

   The practice of extemporary praying is a good one and one for which our Puritan and Presbyterian forefathers fought hard to maintain. But even these traditions called for what they termed “studied prayers”: prayers that had been planned and thought through and then delivered without notes. Please follow this format exactly: Font size 10, Times New Roman, single spaced, 1/2” margins. One page exactly (no more, no less). Prayers must be submitted via Canvas on the date listed below.

   In addition to a written prayer, on another page give me a paragraph explaining what it is you hope to accomplish in this prayer. Is it thematic? Is it based on some texts of Scripture?
How should I go about writing these prayers? (from Derek Thomas)

I suggest you take a Psalm and meditate on it. Then begin to formulate the ideas and word structures of the psalm, adapting them for suitability in 20th century parlance. Follow the order of thought in the psalm where appropriate. Grading someone’s prayers poses some problems. Still, a measure of objectivity will be attempted. Grading will depend on such things as style, wording, biblical content, structure.

Although I haven’t made these required texts, I do recommend that you purchase the following books to help you in public prayer. They will prove to be invaluable to most of you.


2. Order of Service/Bulletin (20%)
The Student will create six complete Worship Bulletins/orders of service. One bulletin for each of the following service types is to be submitted:
1.) Funeral
2.) Lord’s Supper
3.) Baptism
4.) Profession of Faith
5.) Wedding
6.) Regular Lord’s Day morning/evening services.
A “Worship Guide” is also expected for each worship order of service. In the guide you will explain the reasons you structured the service the way you did, include reference to historical Presbyterian worship, scriptural basis, elements, forms, circumstances, and rubric etc. Be sure to integrate your worship order, structure, hymn selection, and texts. If you choose to disagree with the philosophy of worship articulated in this course, you must provide a full justification for that in your “worship guide.”

3. Short Essays (20%)
In order to assist you in your own preparation for ordination, ministry, and life, as well as to provide a meaningful outlet for interaction with the materials, philosophies, and issues in this course each student will submit the following three essays:

1. Compare and contrast the historic “Regulative Principle of Worship” with other philosophies of worship. The student will include the history, key proponents, biblical basis, and difficulties of each view.
2. Discuss the use and views of church liturgy, the “church calendar,” and “contextualization” from a biblical as well as historical-theological standpoint. The student will be sure to include benefits and difficulties with various understandings and practices.
The best essays will include copious use of scripture, theologians, and creedal statements. Be sure to make reference to and interact with both the lectures and assigned readings for this course.

**Format:** Please submit your essays using standard formatting (Size 12, Times New Roman, one-inch margins); essays are not to exceed three single spaced pages.

**Collection of Assignments**
Unless otherwise noted, all assignments are to be submitted via the appropriate Canvas upload link.

**Late Work**
Students should make every effort to turn in work on time or early. In the rare case of medical or other providential emergency, extensions and/or alternative arrangements may be granted. In most cases, late assignments will be accepted but penalized one letter grade per day. Please make these arrangements with the TA as soon as possible.

**D. Comprehensive Final Exam (40%)**
The final exam will cover the lecture and reading material in a comprehensive way. Students can expect to be asked both factual and integrative questions. Students can expect to be asked examination questions on all of the reading material.
Course Outline and Assignment Schedule

Listed below are the dates and topics and weekly assignment timetable/due dates for our course. Please factor these into your term calendar now!

Due Dates Summary

All assignments are due the dates posted below. Assignments received after this time will be considered late and penalized accordingly (up to 1 letter grade per day). Assignments are not to be emailed to the TA, but rather uploaded to Canvas in pdf format.

1. October 13, 2015 – Prayer 1 – Justification
2. October 14, 2015 – Prayer 2 – Adoption
4. October 16, 2015 – Prayer 4 – Confession of Sin
5. October 21, 2015 – Essay 1 Due: Compare and contrast the historic “Regulative Principle of Worship” with other philosophies of worship. The student will include the history, key proponents, biblical basis, and difficulties of each view.
6. October 23, 2015 – Prayer 5 – Imprecatory
7. October 28, 2015 – Essay 2 Due: Discuss the use and views of church liturgy, the “church calendar” and “contextualization” from a biblical as well as historical-theological standpoint. The student will be sure to include benefits and difficulties with various understandings and practices.
8. October 30, 2015 – Prayer 6 – Pastoral Prayer
9. November 4, 2015 – Bulletins (Order of Service) due:
   1.) Regular Lord’s Day morning/evening services.
   2.) Funeral
   3.) Wedding
10. November 11, 2015 – Bulletins (Order of Service) due:
    4.) Profession of Faith
    5.) Lord’s Supper
    6.) Baptism
13. December 10-15, 2015 – Final Exam. All reading must be finished by the final exam

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