WO 601 Worship Design: Study-Discussion-Practicum

Lester Ruth

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WO 601 WORSHIP DESIGN: Study-Discussion-Practicum
Fall 2001; Wednesdays, 1 p.m.

Facilitators:
--William Goold; 407 Kenyon; 858-2255
--Lester Ruth; 218 Beeson; 858-2175
--J. D. Walt; 203 Estes; 858-2183

Course Description
The course will provide a study-discussion-performance format for practical interaction and application with the course content of WO510. The primary work of the class will be the planning and design of worship services, some to be used in the campus Chapel services and beyond, with a secondary goal of providing resources to the local church. Students will construct a biblical, theological and historical matrix through which to critically evaluate worship services as well as develop a series of worship values to inform sound worship planning. Credit only. 2 hours.

Learning Objectives
1. Students will develop disciplines of prayer and discernment relevant to the planning and design of Christian worship.
2. Students will understand, articulate and internalize appropriate and relevant values underlying all Christian worship.
3. Students will gain ability to work as part of teams to plan and lead worship.
4. Students will demonstrate an ability to design a variety of different styles of worship services applying consistent theological, biblical, pastoral and historical concepts.
5. Students will gain exposure to a wealth of worship resources and develop a worship resources bibliography for future use.
6. Students will develop critical evaluation tools with which to analyze worship practices.
7. Students will gain appreciation for issues relating to worship environment, including time, remembrance, space, symbols, technology, and other issues.

Course Format
Students will work in groups of four to plan, design, and lead worship services. Class will meet together once per week in a two hour session. Generally some class time will be devoted to discussion and evaluation of worship services and some will be given to worship planning and design in smaller groups. Students will also be required to attend Tuesday/Thursday services in Estes Chapel throughout the semester. A student will receive no credit for the class if he or she misses more than 4 chapel services in the semester.

Readings & Texts
Required Books


**Required articles (on reserve in the library)**


For a reading schedule, please see the class schedule below. Read the Frankforter and Wright book as you have opportunity. (Early is better than later.)

**Means of evaluation**

The class is graded credit/no credit. No letter grade will be given. In order to receive credit, each student must:

- participate satisfactorily in all class discussions and attend all class-conducted worship services (Generally, attendance at all Estes chapels is required. If a student misses more than 4 Estes chapel services, no credit can be given.);
- develop an annotated bibliography of resources to be turned in on Wednesday, December 5;
- turn in a reading report on Wednesday, December 5, verifying that all required reading has been done; and
- participate satisfactorily within the student’s small group as it plans its assigned worship services.

**Group assignments**

These will be distributed in the first class session.

Each group will create a written order of worship with brief commentary to be distributed to the entire class. Provide a list of all resources used in constructing the service.

**Class Schedule**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading to be done</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>September 5</td>
<td>Introductions</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Topic</td>
<td>Reading/Article</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 12</td>
<td>What’s happening in worship? (discussing readings)</td>
<td>Long book</td>
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<td>Witvliet article</td>
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<td>September 19</td>
<td>Theologically, what is worship? (discussing readings analysis of Estes)</td>
<td>Wainwright article</td>
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<td>September 26</td>
<td>Corporate intercessory prayer (done in class time)</td>
<td>none</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 3</td>
<td>Blended and creative worship</td>
<td>Webber book</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Phillips article</td>
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<td>October 10</td>
<td>Open discussion</td>
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<td>October 17</td>
<td>Open discussion</td>
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<td>October 24</td>
<td>Open discussion</td>
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<td>October 31</td>
<td>Open discussion</td>
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<td>November 7</td>
<td>Open discussion</td>
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<td>November 14</td>
<td>Open discussion</td>
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<td>November 28</td>
<td>Open discussion</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 5</td>
<td>Open discussion</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Supplemental Bibliography
**=on reserve for Ruth, WO510

When in doubt, check out www.calvin.edu/worship/bookshlf/

Category: Architecture

Category: Worship and the Arts

Category: Worship and the Bible

Category: Worship in the Bible

Category: Calendar
**Hickman, Hoyt et. al. *The New Handbook of the Christian Year*. Nashville: Abingdon. (Provides a complete set of services for special days in the calendar with a great commentary.)

Category: Children in worship
Category: **Conflict** in worship

Category: Worship and **cultural/multi-cultural** worship

Category: **Denominational** books
**United Methodist Book of Worship**
**Church of the Nazarene Manual (current edition)**
**Free Methodist Pastor’s Handbook**
**The Discipline of the Wesleyan Church (current edition)**

Category: **Discernment** and the American context for worship

Category: **Evangelism** and “Contemporary” Worship

Category: **Guides** to “nuts-and-bolts” issues
Hickman, Hoyt et. al. *The New Handbook of the Christian Year*. Nashville: Abingdon. (Provides a complete set of services for special days in the calendar with a great commentary.)


**Category: History**


**Category: Hospitality**


**Category: Music**


**Category: Worship in a postmodern context**


**Category: Praise-and-Worship**


**Category: Communal Prayer**


**Category: Being a pastor and presider in worship**


**Category: Prophetic “Whoa Nellie” readings**


**Category: Resource materials**


**Category: Sacraments: Baptism and the Lord’s Supper**


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**Category: Worship in small churches**


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**Category: Worship teams**


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**Category: Theology of Worship**


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**Category: Worship in a United Methodist context**


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