



**PMEV8304 Worship and Healthy, Evangelistic  
Church Growth**  
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary  
Division of Church Ministry  
Spring 2025

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**Mission Statement**

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and Leavell College prepare servants to walk with Christ, proclaim His truth, and fulfill His mission.

**Course Description**

The work of this seminar involves the investigation of the biblical mandate, foundations, and principles of worship. Various elements of Christian worship as modeled by healthy, evangelistic churches will be examined. Special attention will be given to the styles of worship often referred to as traditional, blended, and contemporary.

**Student Learning Outcomes**

1. Students will be able to articulate a personal theology of worship as it pertains to the healthy, evangelistic, growing church. The theology will have a biblical base.
2. Students will be exposed to multiple models of worship (in reading and by experience) in order to better understand and discuss 'styles' of worship.
3. Students will clarify the role of worship in the evangelism of unsaved people.
4. Students will develop skills in assessing the worship experiences of their own congregation as it relates to the community around them.
5. Students will design a strategy to educate the people of their own church regarding worship in the healthy, evangelistically growing church.

**Textbooks**

Required:

Powers, Mark C. *Going Full Circle: Worship that Moves Us to Discipleship and Missions*. Eugene, OR: Resource Publications, 2013.

Wheeler, David and Vernon M. Whaley. *The Great Commission to Worship: Biblical Principles for Worship-Based Evangelism*. Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman Academic, 2011.

Sharp, Michael and Argile Smith. *Holy Gatherings: A Leader's Guide for Engaging the Congregation in Corporate Worship*. Denver, CO: Outskirts Press, 2009.

## Course Teaching Methodology

The course will involve the following methodologies: reading and seminar discussion of required textbooks; research and seminar presentations; professor and guest lectures and discussion.

## Course Requirements

### Pre-Seminar Preparation

1. Required reading/Book review. Each student will read the three required textbooks and one additional individually assigned book. For each of the required texts, the student will prepare a set of discussion questions. Additionally, each student will be assigned to lead seminar discussion of specific assigned reading materials.

#### Required:

Powers, Mark C. *Going Full Circle: Worship that Moves Us to Discipleship and Missions*. Eugene, OR: Resource Publications, 2013.

Wheeler, David and Vernon M. Whaley. *The Great Commission to Worship: Biblical Principles for Worship-Based Evangelism*. Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman Academic, 2011.

Sharp, Michael and Argile Smith. *Holy Gatherings: A Leader's Guide for Engaging the Congregation in Corporate Worship*. Denver, CO: Outskirts Press, 2009.

For the individually assigned book, the student will write a formal book review and be prepared to present an overview of the book during the seminar. The formal book review should include: (1) Bibliographic information; (2) A critical analysis of the strengths and weaknesses of the messages of the book; (3) An evaluation of the degree to which the author accomplishes the stated purpose; and (4) Three to five ideas encountered from this work that may be applied in future ministry. An emphasis should be placed upon the student's interaction with the content rather than a written summary of the material. Reviews should be in third person and meet Turabian form and style standards.

A List of Options for Individually Assigned Books will be provided by the professor once enrollment is complete.

2. Interviews. Each student is to conduct and report on interviews of church staff (other churches) and laypersons (home church):
  - (1) Interview three (3) staff members from other churches regarding their view of the corporate worship service gathering as a means of evangelism/church growth. The preference is that the student interview one or more staff members of churches that have successfully transitioned their worship services to be more culturally connected with the surrounding community. The student should develop the questions for the interview.
  - (2) Interview seven (7) laypersons in the student's church regarding their perceptions as to how well the church connects with first-time guests through the corporate worship service. The student is to inquire in the following areas:

- a. What do you view as the purpose of our primary worship service?
- b. To you, how do you determine when your church has been successful in the worship service?
- c. What do you view as strengths and areas in need of improvement of our primary worship service?
- d. What does our church do in corporate worship to provide a welcoming environment for those in the community who might visit for the first time?
- e. Is there something the church could do differently which would cause you to be more likely to invite your neighbors and friends?

Following the interviews, the student is to write one combined summary report of both sets of interviews. Note: Although no specific page requirements are given, the student is expected to cover adequately and succinctly the interview material.

3. Live observation of a worship service. Each student will observe an alternative style of worship (Baptist or non-Baptist) available to people in the student's geographical area. The student should make arrangements to attend (in person) a worship experience at the church. Afterwards, the student should prepare a reflection paper to present to the seminar dealing with how different aspects of the worship service might be perceived by a non-churched individual. Additionally, from an outsider's perspective, the observer should reflect his/her own emotional responses and thought patterns during the event. Did you connect? As an outsider, to what degree were you able to engage? How did the leadership and/or format help or hinder you from doing so? Were there specific ways in which the church made you feel welcome?

All pre-seminar work is due on the first day of the seminar, **March 5, 2025**.

#### During Seminar Assignments

1. Each student will be responsible for leading a portion of the seminar in a discussion of required texts. Assignments will be made by the professor once enrollment is complete.
2. Each student will overview the individually assigned textbook in a presentation to the seminar.
3. Each student will share with the seminar findings from the interviews of church staff and laypersons.
4. Each student will present insights gained from visiting a worship service from an outsider's point of view.

#### Post-Seminar Assignments

1. Using the resources of the seminar experiences, students will develop a worship assessment instrument to be employed in their own churches. Students should enlist a variety of key leaders to complete the instruments for two consecutive weeks. Every effort should be made to secure the confidentiality of responses. Afterwards, students will prepare an objective review of the state of authentic worship in their church as pertains to the health and evangelistic growth of their churches. Students will submit this report with two components:
  - The worship assessment instrument (as designed for use in this project).

- An interpretation of the raw data results, with projected suggestions for implementation to improve deficiencies as noted.
2. In response to this objective analysis, students should design ONE of the following:
    - Four sermon briefs for a four-part sermon series that teaches the church about the subject of worship, informed by the completed analysis.
    - Four lesson plans for a four-session training event to be taught to the church family on the subject of worship, informed by the completed analysis.
  3. As a synthesis assignment for this seminar, each student will prepare a 1500–2000-word position paper on the subject “The Intersection of the Ministries of Corporate Worship and Evangelism/Church Growth in the Local Church.” The paper should include biblical support and communicate the student’s personal philosophy of corporate worship ministry as it relates to evangelism and outreach.

All post-seminar work is due in Canvas no later than **April 16, 2025**.

### **Evaluation of Grade**

The student's grade will be computed as follows:

10%	Required reading, prepared discussion questions, and leading seminar discussion
15%	Individually assigned book review and presentation
15%	Interviews paper and presentation
15%	Live observation report and presentation
15%	Post-seminar survey and report
15%	Sermon briefs or lesson plans
15%	Final position paper

### **Course Schedule**

The seminar will meet on Wed., March 5, 2025 (1PM-9PM); Thurs., March 6 (8AM-4PM); Fri., March 7 (8AM-4PM). NOTE: All times listed are for the Central Time Zone.

### **Late Assignments and Attendance Policies**

All assignments should be submitted by the due date. Late work will be penalized one-half letter grade per day. Attendance at all seminar sessions is required.

### **Technical Assistance**

For assistance regarding technology, consult ITC (504-816-8180) or the following websites:

1. [Selfserve@nobts.edu](mailto:Selfserve@nobts.edu) - Email for technical questions/support requests with the [Selfserve.nobts.edu](http://Selfserve.nobts.edu) or [My.nobts.edu](http://My.nobts.edu) site (Access to online registration, financial account, online transcript, etc.)
2. [Canvas@nobts.edu](mailto:Canvas@nobts.edu) - Email for technical questions/support requests with the NOBTS Canvas Learning Management System (Faculty/Students/Staff) [Canvas.NOBTS.edu](http://Canvas.NOBTS.edu).
3. [Video Conferencing Help Desk](#) - Email for technical questions/support requests with the Video Conferencing NOBTS classrooms (On and Off-Campus)
4. [TelephoneHelpDesk@nobts.edu](mailto:TelephoneHelpDesk@nobts.edu) - Email for technical questions/support requests with the NOBTS On-Campus Phone system.

5. [ITCSupport@nobts.edu](mailto:ITCSupport@nobts.edu) - Email for technical questions/support requests in the Flex classrooms and for general technical questions/support requests. If you are not sure who to contact, use this email address!
6. [504.816.8180](tel:504.816.8180) - Call for any technical questions/support requests. (Currently available Mon-Thurs 7:00am-9:00pm & Fri 7:00-7:00pm Central Time)
7. [www.NOBTS.edu/itc/](http://www.NOBTS.edu/itc/) - General NOBTS technical help information is provided on this website.

### **Disability Accommodations**

Accommodations for students with disabilities are determined and approved by the Assistant Dean of Students for Student Affairs. If you, as a student, believe you are eligible for accommodations but have not obtained approval please contact Conner Hinton immediately at [chinton@nobts.edu](mailto:chinton@nobts.edu) or 504-816-8246. Students must complete the Accommodation Request Form and provide documentation of their disability. The Assistant Dean of Students notifies students and faculty members of approved academic accommodations and coordinates implementation of those accommodations. While not required, students and faculty members are encouraged to discuss details of the implementation of individual accommodations. The seminary reserves the right to consider each request for special accommodations on a case-by- case basis pursuant to the criteria enumerated above.

### **Help for Writing Papers at “The Write Stuff”**

NOBTS maintains a Writing Center designed to improve English writing at the graduate level. Students can receive writing guides, tips, and valuable information to help in becoming a better writer. A copy of the approved NOBTS Style Guide can be found in the course Canvas shell, or can be located online at the Writing Center’s page on the seminary website at:

<https://www.nobts.edu/resources/pdf/writing/StyleGuide.pdf>

### **Plagiarism on Written Assignments**

NOBTS has a no tolerance policy for plagiarism. Plagiarism in certain cases may result in expulsion from the seminary. See the NOBTS Student Handbook for definition, penalties, and policies associated with plagiarism.

### **Selected Bibliography**

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