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WO 510 Worship Leadership in the Church

William C. Goold

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Worship Leadership in the Church
ASBURY THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
Course Syllabus ~ WO 510
Instructor: William C. Goold
Three (3) Credits

Professor:

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Course Description:

The primary focus of WO 510 *is* corporate worship. The course *is not* about a preferred worship style nor is it about a preferred musical expression in worship. The Bible, theology, history and practical application will be the lens through which acts/components/elements of worship are viewed, including worship space, time, prayer, Scripture, and the church's music. Attention will be given to worship design, worship planning, worship leading, the sacraments/ordinances, the marriage service, the funeral service and other worship experiences with specific needs and foci. Throughout the course, the repeated, prevailing emphasis will be to equip and encourage pastors and worship leaders who are prepared to bring skill, passion and grace to the awesome privilege and responsibility of equipping and edifying the whole congregation as the people of God for its primary, collective act of corporate worship.

Course Goals:

Upon completion of this course you will:

- 1) Understand and articulate a sound Biblical, theological and historical basis for corporate, Christian worship. You will comprehend a cohesive story of worship.
- 2) Understand and practice competent, appropriate and gracious leadership of corporate, Christian worship.
- 3) Understand and evidence familiarity with a variety of corporate worship styles and how each may or may not function contextually and appropriately.
- 4) Understand and implement multiple ways to enrich corporate worship through prayer, sacraments, ordinances and other acts of Christian worship.
- 5) Understand and implement ways to glorify God and to graciously lead others in so doing.
- 6) Understand, locate and identify multiple aids, publications and denominational resources available for use in enriching the corporate, Christian worship of the local congregation.
- 7) Understand modes and methods for meaningful and productive staff critique of worship within the local church or any other corporate worship context.

Required Reading List:

All students enrolled/registered for the class will be expected to purchase and read the following texts.

- **Texts have been order by the Wilmore Cokesbury Bookstore. Prices are constantly subject to change. Supplies of shelf are first come, first served.**
- **The typical pages of required reading for a 3-credit course are 1,500. Students will be expected to verify approximately 135 pages of reading per week via ten Reading Verification Forms, noted below (135 X 10 RV's =1,350 pages). Students may elect to complete required reading any prior to end of term, after which no further verifications would be expected.**
- **RV's will not be accepted late. Please read this and clearly note it.**

Reading verification forms are included elsewhere in this syllabus and will be utilized weekly as per course requirements listed further.

Hickman, *The Worshipping Life*.

Mulder, Timothy J. *So You've Been Asked to Lead in Prayer* (Grand Rapids: CRC Publications, 1996). [This small pamphlet is 20 pages. ATS/CBS price, \$1.95]

Peterson, David. *Engaging with God: A Biblical Theology of Worship* (Downers Grove, Illinois: Intervarsity Press, 1992). [Note: This book is approximately 293 pages. ATS/CBS price, \$24.00]

Parry, *Worshipping Trinity*.

Schultz, *High-Tech Worship*.

Staples, *Outward Sign and Inward Grace*.

Townley, *Designing Worship Teams*

White, James F. *A Brief History of Christian Worship* (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1997).

[Note: This book is approximately 180 pages. ATS/CBS price, \$18.00]

Witvliet, John D. *So You've Been Asked to Plan a Worship Service* (Grand Rapids: CRC Publications, 1999). [This small pamphlet is 20 pages. ATS/CBS price, \$1.95]

Required Official Denominational Book

Every student is strongly advised to purchase/own the book containing the official worship services of your denomination. For some denominations the official book of worship services is as follows:

United Methodist Book of Worship

Church of the Nazarene Manual (current edition)

Free Methodist Pastor's Handbook

The Discipline of the Wesleyan Methodist Church (current edition)

Students uncertain about official denominational publication should check with your denominational publishing house or the Asbury Theological Seminary Cokesbury Bookstore staff. If your church or denomination does not publish an official manual, please speak the professor about options.

Class Method:

The intention of the professor is that each weekly class session will be a variety of lecture, group exchange, interaction and small-group processing. Significant experiences of in-class singing, modeling, role playing, exchange of worship resources, video clips, process groups and as-needed "time-outs" for *appropriate improvising* on pertinent topics will be woven into each class session. The professor will attempt to share ownership of the class *with* the class. Agreement with the professor is not the primary intent of this class. Rather, cognitive formation of well-grounded worship axis and praxis is the intent. All class members are expected to consistently contribute towards this end, via attitude, participation, acceptance of class peers and preparation through faithful reading and processing.

Expectations and Requirements of the Student:

Several basic requirements are expected of each student enrolled for the class (see *Grading Process*).

Examinations and Term Papers: No mid-term and no final examination will be given. No formal term paper, as such, is required. Course requirements will be fulfilled through progressive increments. Completing each requirement is essential. No student will achieve a grade of A without fulfilling all requirements.

Entrance Photo (2): Each student will read a **typed, one-page, double spaced page** representing your *entrance photo* from which the entire class will learn three things about you:

- a) what is your present understanding and experience with Christian worship...
- b) what gifts and graces in worship do you feel you possess...
- c) what aspects of worship may require the most growth and challenge for you.

Your *entrance photo* is **due at the first class period**. Each student will then read his/her photo at a given class period, determined by professor's random return of your photos. We will average about *three entrance photos per class period*. The professor will select three students to read each week.

Reading Verifications (50): Throughout the term, each student will submit a total of 10 Reading Verifications, each a minimum of 135 pages (**total of 1,350 pages for the term**). RV's must be submitted on the form(s) distributed by the professor. RV's must be submitted at the beginning of each class, as the attendance ticket for that class. Students may elect to skip a single week of RV reporting, but no two weeks in succession. **This policy will be strictly observed.** The simple point of this process is to distribute the required reading throughout the term. Texts may be read in any order. The result should be that each student will read a minimum of 1,350 pages during the class. Reading Verifications represent an honor/integrity system. **The student is expected to record his/her own cumulative total each week. The professor will not do the weekly addition. Simply put: No math, no credit. Be sure to keep your own weekly, running total on a sheet in your own notebook.**

Overnight Deliveries (5): Five times throughout the semester, the professor will distribute a pertinent article or sketch to be read prior to the following class. These may be used as discussion points in the subsequent class. These will average a maximum of three-to-four pages. Students will verify OD readings in class and **may choose to use these pages towards cumulative, required total of 1,350 pages.**

Exit Tickets (8): At the close of random classes, the final few minutes will be given to completion of an Exit Ticket on which the student will briefly reflect upon class for that day (see *Exit Ticket*).

Worship Critiques (6): Two times during the semester, students will complete a worship critique form (distributed in-class, prior to next due-date) on which the student will reflect and evaluate a service of worship attended by the student:

- a) one service in the local church regularly attended by the student
 - b) one service attended out of "your regular zone", a church other than your own.
- Methods for observation and critique will be discussed in class. Appropriate forms will be distributed in class.

Class Notebook (14): On the Tuesday of exam week (10:00 AM) each student will submit an organized, structured notebook containing the essence of what the student has gained and learned. This notebook represents a considerable portion of the student's grade and is to be taken seriously (see and study carefully syllabus *Notebook Guidelines*). **Notebooks may be submitted following the concluding class, but will not be accepted beyond 10:00 AM, Tuesday of final exam week. They may be brought to the classroom or deposited in a marked box outside classroom door.**

Exit Photo (8): A four page, post-class reflection paper will be submitted in which the student will very carefully craft the following:

- a) 2/3 of the first page will highlight we you were as class began, i.e., **Who I Was:**
- b) final page will reflect who you are at class end and how you believe you have grown in in your understanding of Christian worship and your capacity to develop, guide and facilitate corporate worship, i.e., **Who I Am:**
- c) the pages in between will reflect specifics that you feel your are taking from the class and and are now prepared to implement into your own ministry (keepers!), i.e., **What I Have Gain and Will Now Use:**

Class Project (5 for B only):

A) Mid-way through the term, one Tuesday evening will be given to a class worship service to be held in the Richard Allen Chapel. The service will be Eucharistic. The class will be invited to actively participate. Attendance is required. A visiting minister will preach and preside in our worship.

B) The class will be divided into three teams, each with an assigned team leader. Each team will be given specific instructions and expected to plan, develop, format and formally print and entire service of Christian worship. Each of the three worship services will be planned to be enacted in a specific worship mode. At the conclusion of class (when your notebooks are returned), each member will receive a printed copy of each of the three services. **Teams, team leaders, formats and directions will all be detailed more specifically as our semester progresses. Each member of the particular team will receive the same number of points (a team grade on the project).**

Present and Contributing Factor in Attendance (7): This expectation is the point of subjective evaluation by the professor. Throughout the class the professor will have numerous occasions to observe each student. Each student is totally unique; no person is exactly like another. At the same time, each student ought to bring to the class a mind with cognitive capacity. Each student also brings a capacity to make a unique, emotive contribution of energy and synergy to the total class. Simply put, each student has an emotional pulse. Beyond simply being physically present, each student is expected to register B/P (Brain & Pulse) attendance! Evidence of passivity and apathy will factor into B/P considerations.

Students should understand at the very beginning of the term that attendance at every class session is extremely important.

Late Work: No late work will be accepted, period. Do not come to the professor with a request to accept late work. Likewise, no work will be accepted via e-mail. All aspects of the class requirements are carefully structured so as to make late work unnecessary. Essentially, WO 510 is a seminar type class that is structured to be done in progressive increments, that is, one bite at a time.

Absences:

Students are expected to be present at all sessions. One evening session is the equivalent of three fifty minutes classes. Therefore an absence is not to be taken lightly. **Class points missed because of absence are simply forfeited. See *Late Work* statement, in previous paragraph.**

Grading:

Grading in WO 510 is a very simple process. The professor will not award a grade to any student. Rather, each student will award and determine his/her own grade. Each student will begin with a standing deposit of 100 points in the student's grade account, equivalent to a grade of A+. **Points are not earned; they may only be forfeited.** Each course requirement carries with it a specific point value. When work is returned, the number indicated by the professor will be expressed in minus numbers. **Minus points are then subtracted from the student's standing account.** (For example: Each *worship critique* carries a point value of 2. A critique returned with a minus .5 means that ½ point has been deducted from the account total. **(The best score on a returned paper is zero!)** At any point during the term, the student is thus able to determine his/her standing grade.

Account points will be translated into letter grades. Qualitative descriptions of letter grades may be found on page 28 of the *Asbury Theological Seminary Academic Catalog 2003-2004*. In WO 510 student points will be translated to letter grade on the following basis: 98 and above = A+; 94-97 = A; 90-93 = A-; 87-89 = B+; 84-86 = B; 80-83 = B-. Further letter calculations are made on the same diminishing scale.

Student's Calculation of Grade:

Students will determine their own grades by simply subtracting "minus points" (indicated on all work returned) from the following point values:

2	Points	Entrance Photo
50	Points	Reading Verifications (10 RV's @ 5 ea.)
5	Points	Overnight Deliveries (5 OD's @ 1 ea.)
7	Points	Present & Contributing (attendance factor)
7	Points	Class Exit Tickets (6 @ 1 pt each)
6	Points	Worship Critiques (2 @ 3 pts ea.)
10	Points	Class Notebook
8	Points	Exit Photo
5	Points	Team Project (Project B only)
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100	Points	Deposit existing in student's account at beginning of semester.

A helpful analogy may be to think of the above points translated into dollars. Each student begins with 100 "grade bucks" to be spent or saved as you desire. The balance of "grade bucks" in the account at any given point in the term determines the grade at that time. Students may assume full, existing "buck" values for any project not yet due. Students may earn "interest" on the existing account via one or both of the *Interest Earnings* options.

Forms To Be Distributed by Professor:

At the first class session the professor will distribute appropriate forms for 1) Reading Verification, 2) Notebook Guidelines and 3) Class Exit Ticket. In addition, comments and suggestions for notebooks will be made.