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# WO 510 Worship Leadership in the Church

Kandace Brooks

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## Syllabus

**Course:** WO510 X1 (SP 2009)  
**Title:** Worship Leadership/Church  
**Hours:** 3.00  
**Published:** Yes, on 10/15/2008  
**Prerequisites:**

*None*

**Department:** Worship  
**Faculty:** Dr. Kandace Brooks



Email: [kandace.brooks@asburyseminary.edu](mailto:kandace.brooks@asburyseminary.edu)  
 Office: FC  
 SPO:

### **Meetings:**

During 02/09/2009 to 05/22/2009 Online via ExL.

### **Maximum Registration:** 12

**Catalog Description:** This course lays the foundation for the ministry of the whole congregation in corporate worship. Biblical, theological, historical, and practical focus is brought to bear on the elements of prayer, Scripture, music, and proclamation in terms of the design of services, the keeping of time, and worship space. Attention is given to interpreting, planning, and presiding at the church's principal worship services, sacraments, weddings, and funerals.

## **Objectives:**

**WO510 Syllabus - Spring 2009**  
**Office Phone:** (407) 482-7584

**Dr. Kandace Brooks**  
**[kandace\\_brooks@asburyseminary.edu](mailto:kandace_brooks@asburyseminary.edu)**

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course lays the foundation for the ministry of the whole congregation in corporate worship. Biblical, theological, historical, and practical focus is brought to bear on the elements of prayer, Scripture, music, and proclamation in terms of the design of services, the keeping of time, and worship space. Attention is given to interpreting, planning, and presiding at the church's principal worship services, sacraments, weddings, and funerals. (from *Academic Catalog 2008-2009*)

### **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

Upon completion of this course you will:

- 1) Understand and articulate a sound Biblical, theological and historical basis for corporate, Christian 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.

### **Virtual Support Contact Information**

For **technical support, library research support, library loans, and Virtual media** contact Information Commons:  
[Info\\_Commons@asburyseminary.edu](mailto:Info_Commons@asburyseminary.edu) Phone: (859) 858-2233; Toll-free: (866) 454-2733

For **general questions and administrative assistance regarding the Virtual program**, contact Dale Hale:  
[ExL\\_Office@asburyseminary.edu](mailto:ExL_Office@asburyseminary.edu) Phone: (859) 858-2393

### **Accessing Information Commons Materials**

#### **1. General Questions:**

a. The Information Commons is a "one-stop shop" for all student research, circulation and technical needs. The Information Commons hours are posted here: <http://www.asburyseminary.edu/information/hours.htm>

## 2. Materials Requests:

a. To search the library catalog for available materials, click here:

<http://www.asburyseminary.edu/information/index.htm>

b. Virtual Students may request books, photocopies or emailed attachments of journal articles/portions of reference books from Asbury Seminary's Library. Please allow 3-10 business days for all requests to be filled. Contact the Information Commons for costs and instructions on how to make requests.

c. Virtual students are encouraged to make use of local library resources. Students who live within a 50 mile radius of either the Florida or the Kentucky campus should come to campus to obtain their materials.

## 3. Research Questions:

a. Virtual students are encouraged to contact the Information Commons for research assistance including help determining the best sources to use for a paper, finding book reviews, or research questions about using the online databases or any other library materials.

## 4. Online Databases:

a. To access the online library resources including the library catalog and full-text journal databases, go to <http://www.asburyseminary.edu/information/index.htm> and enter your 10-digit student ID# number in the login box. Your student ID# is provided on the biographical information section of the student registration webpage. Add a 2 and enough 0's to the front to make a 10-digit number (20000XXXXX where XXXXX = your student id).

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## REQUIRED TEXTS

Long, Thomas. *Beyond Worship Wars* (Herndon, VA: The Alban Institute, 2001)

Peterson, David. *Engaging with God: A Biblical Theology of Worship* (Downers Grove, Illinois: Intervarsity Press, 1992).

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

Willimon, William. *Sunday Dinner* (Nashville: The Upper Room, 1981)

Willimon, William. *Remember Who You Are* (Nashville: The Upper Room, 1980)

**NOTE: In addition to the required texts, I will be posting several required articles in the course center.**

## Not required, but highly recommended (pamphlets, approximately \$2.00 each)

Mulder, Timothy J. *So You've Been Asked to Lead in Prayer* (Grand Rapids: CRC Publications, 1996). pamphlet

Witvliet, John D. *So You've Been Asked to Plan a Worship Service* (Grand Rapids: CRC Publications, 1999). pamphlet

Witvliet, John D. *So You've Been Asked to Lead a Worship Service* (Grand Rapids: CRC Publications, 1999). pamphlet

## Official Denominational Book

Every student is strongly advised to purchase 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)

## COURSE ELEMENTS

*\*each of these is explained in detail below*

1.	Worship Evaluations (2)	10%
3.	Group Paper: Long	10%
4.	Exam: White, History of Worship	10%
5.	Supplemental Reading Paper	10%
6.	Weekly Assignments and discussions	30%
7.	Final Project	30%

## WORSHIP EVALUATIONS (10%)

You will prepare two different worship critiques; format requirements for each critique will be posted. Please note due dates:

- 1) Hospitality - due February 27, 2009

2) Theological Strength - due April 17, 2009**GROUP PAPER (10%)**

During Module #3 you will be working together in your small group to discuss and present a summary paper on Thomas Long's book *Beyond Worship Wars*. Specific instructions will be given at the beginning of Module #3.

**EXAM: HISTORY OF WORSHIP (10%)**

At the end of Module #6 you will be required to take an online exam based on the material and relevant discussion of James White's *A Brief History of Christian Worship*. This will be a closed book exam, and further instructions will be given at the beginning of that module.

**SUPPLEMENTARY READING AND REFLECTION PAPER (10%)**

This is a marvelous opportunity for you to choose, read and reflect on a book in an area of worship that particularly interests you, or that might help in your current (or future) ministry setting. You might want to explore styles or trends in worship (Emergent Worship, for example); multicultural aspects of worship; specific theological dimensions of worship (sacramental theology; arts in worship); worship with specific communities (children; special needs); the list goes on and on. *Please check with the instructor for guidance and/or approval of your chosen text before you move forward on this. A format guide for your reflection paper will be provided. Due by May 15, 2009*

**WEEKLY ASSIGNMENTS AND DISCUSSIONS (30%)**

**Do not underestimate the importance of regular and significant contributions to class discussions, collaborative projects and weekly assignments!** Online learning is not 'independent study' but rather a different way of providing continual interaction and a model for collaborative learning. Depending on your personality, you may find this to be demanding in different ways. At the beginning of each module, you will be given very specific directions and expectations. You will be asked to interact with others in your group in a manner that would be expected if we were face to face; that is, in a way that fosters creative learning, gracious challenge and dialogue, and a spirit of encouragement and thoughtful feedback.

Weekly assignments given in class build toward your final project, and you will have the opportunity to utilize both instructor and peer feedback from these weekly assignments and apply them toward a high quality project. Take this work seriously!

**FINAL PROJECT (30%)**

A detailed discussion of your final project is posted in the Course Center. **PLEASE TAKE THE TIME TO READ THIS NOW!** Much of our activity during the semester will build toward the final project and it would be to your advantage to become familiar with the requirements as early in the semester as possible in order to make the best use of your time and efforts.

**THE RHYTHM OF THE COURSE**

As you look at the course schedule, you will notice that I have broken the semester down into 7 two-week modules. Each module contains the following:

**Principles** - the foundations of worship: theology, biblical worship, history

**Patterns** - the structures of worship, including styles, ordering of time, etc.

**Practice** - the movements and actions of worship

Excellent worship consists in part of gracious practice based on accepted patterns undergirded by solid principals. For this reason, we will try to keep these three 'streams' flowing throughout the semester. I have tried to keep a consistency in the rhythm of the course, with a few exceptions shaped by the liturgical season.

At the end of each module you will have the opportunity to complete a short reflection and evaluation of the material, your interaction with the same, and the work of your colleagues. I want you to take these reflections seriously as they will be of benefit in the continual shaping of the course delivery.

**NOW, FOR A PERSONAL NOTE**

I want you to know that I am passionate about several things that gather themselves in this course:

- I am passionate about worship! I pray that this will manifest itself throughout the semester. There is no greater joy, no greater responsibility, no greater use of our time than the worship of God.
- I am passionate about teaching, and am committed to a transformational, relational approach rather than a simple transaction of information
- I am passionate about learning and stretching myself to improve my own methodology and knowledge base. This means both course content and delivery system.
- I am absolutely committed to helping you get all you can out of this course.

When I did my MDiv at Asbury, I was able to complete the full 2/3 of the program online. For me, it was an opportunity filled with blessing. Quite honestly, it was the only way, given my life circumstances, that I would have been able to do the degree. I had some fabulous experiences, participated in some extraordinary group projects, experienced community that blessed me in ways I had not anticipated. I also had some experiences that were ... forgettable. I pray that this course will be the former and not the latter - for you and for me. I am so excited to be on the journey with you this semester. I'm rolling up my sleeves...won't you join me? Let's do this together!