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WO 510 O1 Worship Leadership/Church

Kandace Brooks

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Course: WO510 O1 (SP 2009)  
Title: Worship Leadership/Church  
Hours: 3.00  
Published: Yes, on 10/15/2008  
Prerequisites:  
None

Department: Worship  
Faculty: Dr. Kandace Brooks

Meetings:  
During 02/09/2009 to 05/22/2009 on Thursday from 9:00a to 11:40a in EXLEXL.

Maximum Registration: 80  
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. (from Academic Catalog 2008-2009)

Objectives:  

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.

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

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)
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%
2. Group Paper: Long 10%
3. Exam: White, History of Worship 10%
4. Supplemental Reading Paper 10%
5. Weekly Assignments and discussions 30%
6. 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 26, 2009
2) Theological Strength - due April 16, 2009

GROUP PAPER (10%)
During Module #3 you will be working together in small groups 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 given a written 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. The exam will be given in class on Thursday, May 7.

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 14, 2009

WEEKLY ASSIGNMENTS AND CLASS PARTICIPATION (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 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.

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!