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
Filed: WO510.Syllabus

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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 read the following texts. It is strongly suggested that all students purchase each of these texts.

- The approximate cost of required texts at the time of syllabus posting is $118.00. Bookstore prices are constantly subject to change.
- The approximate number of total pages of required reading is 1,500 for a 3-credit course. Students will be expected to verify approximately 120 pages of reading per week via ten Reading Verification Forms, noted below.
- Of the ten required titles, three are brief pamphlets, one is a research data booklet, three are instructive-type/manuals and three are theological/historical type books.

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

*Authentic Worship in a Changing Culture* (Grand Rapids: CRC Publications, 1997). [Note: This booklet is approximately 80 pages. ATS/CBS price, $4.45]

Bateman IV, Herbert W. *Authentic Worship: Hearing Scripture’s Voice, Applying Its Truths* (Grand Rapids: Kregel Publications, 2002). [Note: This book is approximately 297 pages. Estimated price is $15.00.]

DeArtega, William L. *Forgotten Power: The Significance of the Lord’s Supper in Revival* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2002). [Note: This book is approximately 273 pages. ATS/CBS price, $15.00]


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]


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 required to purchase/own the book containing the official worship services of your denomination. Student ownership of your official denomination book must be verified by the second class period. A reading schedule for your denominational book will be distributed at the first class session. For some denominations the official book of worship services is as follows:

- United Methodist Book of Worship
- Church of the Nazarene Manuel (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.

**Class Method:**
The intention of the professor is that each weekly class session will be a combination of lecture, group exchange, interaction and small-group processing. Significant amounts 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. Required course will be fulfilled through progressive increments.

**Entrance Photo:** During the second and third class sessions, 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* will be handed in to the professor after you have read it to the class.

**Reading Verifications:** Throughout the class term, each student will submit a total of 10 Reading Verifications, each a minimum of 120 pages. 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 single week of RV reporting, but no two weeks in succession. 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 1200 pages during the class (see *Earning Interest*). Reading Verifications represent an honor/integrity system.

**Overnight Deliveries:** Ten times throughout the semester, the professor will distribute a pertinent article or sketch to be read prior to the subsequent class. These will average a maximum of three-to-four pages. Students will verify O.D. readings in class (via a check-board circulated in class).

**Exit Tickets:** At the close of each class, the final five minutes will be given to completion of an Exit Ticket on which the student will simply reflect upon class for that day (see *Exit Ticket*).

**Worship Critiques:** Three 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 of worship attended in Estes Chapel (not lecture-type)

c) 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:** At the conclusion of the class, within three days following the final session, 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).

**Exit Photo:** 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 capture who you were and what you think you brought to class as the class began, i.e., who I was….  
b) final page will reflect who you are and what you feel you have gained, how you have grown in worship and how you now feel about your personal understanding of worship and your capacity to guide and facilitate corporate worship, i.e., who I am…  
c) the pages in between will reflect specific things that you feel you are taking from the class and are now prepared to implement in your own ministry, i.e., what I believe I have gained and will now use.  

Papers must be 1” margin, double-spaced, typed and must demonstrate careful editing and graduate level writing.

**B/P Attendance:** 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, a brain with cognitive capacity (the B). 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 (the P). 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.

**Interest Earnings:** A maximum of five additional grade points may be earned in one of two ways:  
a) submitting additional RV’s (1-3) points each, and/or  
b) submitting a two page, quality abstract of any of the books listed as additional reading, (1-3 points each).

**Late Work:** No late work will be accepted. Grace periods are built into all aspects of the class requirements so as to make late work unnecessary.

**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. Compensatory interest earnings are possible, but not recovery of original account points.

**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. A student may choose to “earn interest” and credit the “interest” to the account, via two methods listed above.

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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Entrance Photo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50</td>
<td>Reading Verifications (10 RV’s @ 5 ea.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Overnight Deliveries (10 OD’s @ 1 ea.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>B/P Attendance factor (subjective)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Class Exit Tickets (12 @ .25 ea.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Worship Critiques (3 @ 2 ea.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Class Notebook</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Exit Photo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100</td>
<td>Deposit existing in student’s account at beginning of semester.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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*.

**Class Schedule:**

At the first class session the professor will distribute a topic schedule for the term. It will serve as a general guide and map for the direction and flow of class session throughout the term. It is to be understood that in the best interest of the class, appropriate diversions from the schedule may occur.

**Forms To Be Distributed by Professor:**

At the first class session the professor will distribute appropriate forms for 1) Reading Verifications, 2) Worship Critiques, 3) Notebook Guidelines and 4) Class Exit Tickets. In addition, a supplementary list of additional suggested books for reading and future reference will be distributed.