



PT601 - Theology and Practice or Worship
January – April 2011
Instructor: Rev. Bill McAlpine, Ph.D.

Class Schedules:

Wednesday 2:30 – 5:15 p.m.

Room A1085-2

Instructor Information

Office: L2077

Office Phone: (403) 410-2000, Ext. 4901

Email Address: bmcalpin@ambrose.edu.ca

Course Description:

This course is designed to guide the student into a deeper understanding of and appreciation for some of the biblical, theological, historical and philosophical elements of Christian worship. The student will be exposed to different approaches to worship within various traditions. Attention will also be given to the development of the practical skills of planning and leading worship events.

Course Objectives:

Assuming a dependence on the Holy Spirit and a commitment to some hard work on the part of the instructor and student alike, by the end of this course, the student should be able to enjoy the following benefits from this course:

Cognitively ... what the student should know/understand

- You should gain a basic knowledge of biblical, theological, historical and philosophical elements of Christian worship
- You should understand how worship relates to the overall mission and ministry of the Church

Attitudinally ... what the student should appreciate

- You should gain a basic understanding and appreciation for worship styles that represent traditions and/or preferences that are different from his/her own
- You should appreciate the impact that context or venue has on the worship experience

Experientially ... what the student should do

- You should demonstrate skills in planning and participating in the leadership of a worship service.
- You should be able to articulate a well-thought out theology of worship

Textbooks

Required Texts

Forrester, Duncan B., *Encounter with God: An Introduction to Christian Worship and Practice*. J. Ian H. McDonald, Edinburgh: T&T Clark, 1996.
Gian Tellini

Torrance, James B. *Worship, Community & the Triune God of Grace*. Downers Grove: IVP Press, 1996.

Webber, Robert E. *Worship, Old and New*. Revised Edition, Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 1994.

Recommended Texts

Basden, Paul *The Worship Maze: Finding a Style to Fit Your Church*. Downers Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity Press, 1999.

Cherry, Constance M. *The Worship Architect: A Blueprint for Designing Culturally Relevant and Biblically Faithful Services*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2010.

- Engle, Paul E., ed. *Exploring the Worship Spectrum: 6 Views*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 2004.
- Forrester, Duncan and J. Ian McDonald and Gian Tellini *Encounter with God: An Introduction to Christian Worship and Practice*. Edinburgh: T & T Clark, 1999
- Liesch, Barry *The New Worship: Straight Talk on Music and the Church*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1996
- Long, Thomas G. *Beyond the Worship Wars: Building Vital and Faithful Worship*. The Alban Institute, 2002.
- Long, Kimberly Bracken *The Worshiping Body: The Art of Leading Worship*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2009.
- Morgenthaler, Sally *Worship Evangelism: Inviting Unbelievers into the Presence of God*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 1995.
- Navarro, Kevin J. *The Complete Worship Leader*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2001.
- Peterson, David *Engaging with God: A Biblical Theology of Worship*. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1992.
- Redman, Robb *The Great Worship Awakening: Singing a New Song in the Postmodern Church*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass A Wiley Imprint, 2002.
- Saliers, Don E. *Worship as Theology: Foretaste of Glory Divine*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1994.
- Schmidt, Clayton J. *A Theology of Liturgical Expression*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2002.
- Segler, Franklin M. *Christian Worship: Its Theology and Practice*. Nashville, TN: Broadman Press, 1967.
- Weil, Louis *A Theology of Worship*. Cambridge, Mass.: Cowley Publications, 2002.

Course Requirements

Theology of Worship Document

You are to prepare a six to eight page position paper in which you articulate your personal convictions about Christian corporate worship. To give you some guidance regarding what is to be included in this statement, consider the following as basic:

❖ *Foundational Statements*

- Definition of Worship – *What* is worship, really?
- Purpose of Worship – *Why* should we worship?
- Participants in Worship – *Who* can worship and why?

❖ *Fundamental Issues*

- Underscore the Constants
 - What elements should be included in every corporate Christian worship gathering and why?
- Outcome of Worship
 - How do we know when and if genuine authentic worship has occurred? In other words, what effect(s) should be evident in the lives of those who worship?
- Basic Assumptions
 - What roles are fulfilled by each person in the godhead – Father, Son and Holy Spirit in a corporate worship experience?
 - How does personal, private worship relate to corporate worship?
 - What role does tradition play in corporate worship?
 - To what degree should local culture be allowed to inform worship within the local Church?
- A Matter of Priorities
 - What priority should worship have in the overall ‘big picture’ of the local church life? Explain why.
- Leadership
 - Are there any roles within the worship event that should be limited to specific participants? Why or why not?
 - What are the fundamental tasks of the worship leader?

❖ *Future Considerations*

- Where do you see corporate worship going in the next decade?
- What kinds of challenges and opportunities do you think the Church needs to be prepared to address in the next few years with respect to the worship ministry within the local fellowship?

- How frequently do you think a philosophy of worship statement such as this one should be revisited and revised? Why?

DUE DATE: WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2011

Worship Gathering Observation & Reflection

You are to visit one church worship event representing tradition different from your own, and write a four to six [4-6] page report on the site visited. The report should include the following:

❖ General Information

- Name and address of the Church
- Date when visited
- Time of the service (indicate the length of the service as well)
- Any other significant information (e.g. special feast day or holy day or other special circumstances)

❖ Worship Event

- Describe, in detail the venue where the worship event took place (i.e. significant architectural features, furniture, visual aids, overall layout or design.)
- Describe the transition into worship (in other words, how were you ushered from your own personal world into the worship event.)
- List the elements of the worship event (would you say they were focused on God or on those gathered there?)
- Describe those who lead in the worship (Who were they? Number? Both genders represented?)
- Describe how the event was brought to a close: were you challenged, commissioned, blessed? Was there a benediction? a postlude? What did the congregation do after the service?
- Based on the service, what image of God were you left with? What of the Church? Was this the kind of service through which you would feel likely to meet God? Why or why not?

❖ Personal Reflection

- What were the most effective or significant features of this worship event for you personally and what made them so?

- What aspects, if any, did you find distracting? Why?
- In what ways did this event reflect or challenge your own theology of worship?

❖ In Addition

- Include a bulletin or any handout received at the worship event
- Make every effort to be inconspicuous, that is avoid taking notes or writing a first draft of your assignment during the service. Try to be a genuine and active participant.
- Assessment of this assignment will be on the basis of depth and breadth of observation, thoroughness and form.

DUE DATE: WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9, 2011

Worship Service Planning and Design

The class will be divided into four groups which will be given the responsibility and opportunity to design and execute a 45 minute chapel service to be presented in one of four regularly scheduled chapel services during the month of March, 2011.

- ❖ Theme of the Service: Each group will craft and execute a worship event that ties in somehow with the overall theme for this year's chapel services, ***Walking in the Light*** (John 8:12).
- ❖ Written work:
 - As a group prepare an order of service that could be used in a bulletin or other handout. Be as creative as you wish feeling free to use any kinds of visuals that you feel would enhance the worship experience of those gathered.
 - Also provide a brief description of your reason or rationale for including the various components of the worship event. This need not be lengthy, but it is important that you be able to explain why each aspect is included and how it relates to other aspects.
 - Individually you are to write a brief (as in one to two pages) assessment of the worship service describing your part in the preparation and execution of the service as well as a statement on elements you felt were effective or well done and aspects that, in your opinion, could have been improved.
- ❖ Assessment of this assignment will pay special attention to the logical flow and transition from one aspect to another, as well as the effectiveness of how the service is introduced and concluded. Furthermore consideration will be given to how effective the various elements were in relation to the overall theme of the gathering.
- ❖ Some time will be provided during regularly scheduled classes to work on the worship gatherings.

DUE DATE: One of the following: March 3, 10, 17, or 24, 2011.

Reading

- ❖ All three required textbooks are to be read in their entirety and a one to three page (1 – 3) review of each book is to be written according to the guidelines below:
 - ❖ What would you consider to be the purpose of the author(s) in writing the book?
 - ❖ What proved to be the most helpful insights or sections of the book for you personally? Cite specific passages or sections.
 - ❖ What contribution do you think the authors have made through their books both to the academic community and to the Church at large? If you are of the opinion they failed in this respect, explain why?

DUE DATE: WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13, 2011

Final Examination – Monday, April 25, 9:00 a.m. in room A2133

- ❖ The exam will cover material dealt with in class, including material presented by guest resource people and will be *primarily* objective in nature (i.e. short answer, fill in the blank, multiple choice and/or true and false), with one or two short essay questions as well.
- ❖ Graded final examinations will be available for supervised review at the request of the student.

Guidelines for Writing a Good Paper

Reading a well-thought and well-written paper is one of the most enjoyable aspects of being a teacher. However, papers that are poorly done are not only unpleasant for you as the learner, but also are tedious for the instructor and have been known to generate major mood swings in professors.

You are being asked to write an academic paper which is not the same as an essay or other forms of writing. Hopefully the following information will help you in completing and enjoying this assignment.

- ✓ Research: Start working on this paper soon. Insight that comes from good research seldom, if ever comes from last minute preparation. Asking God for a miracle when research has been put off until a few days before due date qualifies as presumption, or putting God to the test. Complete most of your research before writing. Try to establish a preliminary outline early in the process as well.
- ✓ Reflection: Prior to writing your final draft you should be able to answer the following questions:
 - What is my central theme in this paper?
 - What are a few questions I am addressing related to this theme?
 - What line of argument am I taking in answering those questions?
- ✓ Thesis: Surprise endings have no place in writing an academic paper like this. The main ‘plot’ should be evident from the beginning. Therefore consider the following: Your first paragraph should grab the reader’s interest and convince him/her that the following pages merit careful attention and reflection. Next, provide a clear purpose statement in which you describe the overall direction of your paper, the conclusions you have developed and how you intend on getting there. In essence, that is your thesis. Conclude well. A summary is not a conclusion. A conclusion demonstrates that you have reflected on and interpreted your research material convincingly.
- ✓ Argumentation, not assertion: The aim of a paper like this is to develop skills in analysis, evaluation and critical thinking. Therefore, a summary of other people’s views and ideas is inadequate. Likewise simply stating a personal conviction in the absence of reasonable arguments suggesting why a certain position is held is to be avoided.
- ✓ Style: Academic writing does not have to be boring. Be creative and interesting. Avoid the use of well-worn clichés. Each paragraph should address one idea or concept and each sentence should be a complete, grammatically correct unit (that is, it should contain a subject and a verb at least.). At this stage in your academic development you should be expanding your vocabulary. However, avoid the use of big words that are awkwardly imposed on a sentence. Words with multiple syllables are impressive only if they clarify or enhance what

you are trying to say. Read your paper out loud or have someone else read it. You will be amazed how much sloppy grammar can be purged out of a paper by simply reading it aloud.

- ✓ Plagiarism: Plagiarism comes from the Latin word for ‘kidnapper’ and is defined as taking ideas, thoughts, or words of another and passing them off as one’s own. Including another person’s words or ideas in a manner that gives the impression that they were born in your mind is academic theft. Ideas and concepts that others have developed may be included in your paper legitimately, but only if correctly and accurately acknowledged and documented. Alliance University College operates on a zero-tolerance approach to plagiarism. If it is determined that a student has committed plagiarism, the assignment will automatically be assessed a failing grade and further disciplinary action may be initiated.

- ✓ Basic Format: Papers should all be written as follows:
 - Print is to be the equivalent of 12 point font.
 - PLEASE NOTE: Do NOT use paper clips to fasten the pages of your assignments. Only papers that are stapled together will be accepted.
 - All pages are to be numbered
 - Citation of Sources: The learners is free to use his/her preferred style (e.g. Kate Turabian’s *A Manual for Writers*, or *The Chicago Manual of Style*), but must remain consistent throughout the entire paper.
 - Regarding inclusive language: The student is encouraged to avoid the consistent used of masculine terminology in reference to people in the general sense. For example, the terms “humanity” or “people” or “humankind” are to be preferred to terms such as “man” or “mankind” when referring to the human race.
 - Please include a title page even with electronic submissions.

Submission of Written Work:

Assignments may be submitted one of three ways: hardcopy, Moodle, and e-mail attachment (least preferred).

✓ Paper Assessment: Your paper will be assessed a grade according to the following criteria:

Letter Grade	Description	Qualities
A+ A A-	Superior Excellent Very good	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The thesis is well articulated ▪ The organization is clear and informed by the thesis ▪ Argumentation is convincing and well-reasoned ▪ Content is insightful and beyond superficial ▪ Paragraphs are coherent and effectively connected ▪ Statements and generalizations are backed with appropriate evidence ▪ Sources are clearly and properly identified ▪ Grammar and spelling are accurate and correct ▪ The opening paragraph is convincing and well-written ▪ The conclusion is clear, compelling and logically flows from the argument ▪ The assignment is completed according to the syllabus description ▪ There is evidence of hard work and even struggle with the topic
B+ B B-	Proficient Good Average	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The central idea is presented, though an obvious thesis statement may be lacking ▪ The content shows a limited degree of originality ▪ The main ideas of the argument are clear although they may not be naturally connected ▪ Sources are clearly and properly identified ▪ Grammar and spelling are accurate and correct ▪ The opening paragraph is interesting ▪ The conclusion follows the overall argument ▪ The assignment is completed according to the syllabus description

C+	Adequate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The central idea is undeveloped or absent ▪ The organization is random or poorly structured ▪ The style is dull or boring ▪ Claims are not supported adequately with appropriate evidence ▪ Sources are not properly identified ▪ Grammar and spelling are inaccurate ▪ There is little or no obvious link between the argument and conclusion ▪ The assignment does not properly follow the syllabus description
C		
C-		
D+	Poor	
D	Minimal Pass	
F	Unsatisfactory	

To understand more clearly how your paper will be assessed, please refer to page 13 of this syllabus entitled ‘Major Paper Assessment.’ A copy of this page will be attached to your paper upon return.

Lateness Policy

All assignments are due by 5:00 p.m. on the due date. Work received after that time will be assessed a penalty of 2% per day (as opposed to per class), including weekends. HOWEVER, there is such a thing as ‘an extension’ in this course. There is but one way in which an extension will be considered and that is by way of application. Should the NEED arise for a student to request an extension on any assignment (the one exception is the reading report. See above under Reading.), an application form must be completed and submitted to the instructor no later than 24 hours prior to the original due date. Verbal and e-mail requests will not be considered

Course Assessment

Reading	10%
Final Exam	15%
Chapel Planning and Execution	20%
Personal assessment of Chapel service	5%
Church Gathering Observation	20%
Theology of Worship Document	30%

Important Notes

It is the responsibility of all students to become familiar with and adhere to academic policies of as are stated in the Student Handbook and Academic Calendar.

Personal information, that is information about an individual that may be used to identify that individual, may be collected as a requirement as part of taking this class. Any information collected will only be used and disclosed for the purpose for which the collection was intended. For further information contact the Privacy Compliance Officer at privacy@ambrose.edu.

The last day to enter a course without permission and /or voluntary withdrawal from a course without financial penalty is 21 January 2011.

The last day to voluntarily withdraw from a course or change to audit without academic penalty is 18 March 2011.

The last day to request a revised time for a final examination is 4 April 2011.

The last day to apply for time extension for coursework is 4 April 2011.

Although extensions to coursework in the semester are at the discretion of the instructor, students may not turn in coursework for evaluation after the last day of the scheduled final examination period unless they have received permission for a "Course Extension." Alternative times for final examinations cannot be scheduled without prior approval. Requests for course extensions or alternative examination time must be submitted to the Registrar's Office by the appropriate deadline. Course extensions are only granted for serious issues that arise "due to circumstances beyond the student's control."

We are committed to fostering personal integrity and will not overlook breaches of integrity such as plagiarism and cheating. Plagiarism and cheating can result in a failing grade for an assignment, for the course, or immediate dismissal from the university college. Students are expected to be familiar with the policies in the current Academic Calendar and the Student Handbook that deal with plagiarism, cheating, and the penalties and procedures for dealing with these matters. All cases of academic dishonesty are reported to the Academic Dean.

Moodle Course Login Information: *Information on the course can also be found on moodle Direct link to the course is found at:*

<http://moodle.ambrose.edu/course/view.php?id=406>

Enrolment code: 6011

PT601- Theology and Practice or Worship
Major Paper Assessment

NAME: _____

1. Content and Research: **1 2 3 4 5 x 13 =** _____

Does the paper fulfill the purpose of the assignment?
Thoroughness, comprehensiveness of research and content

2. Originality **1 2 3 4 5 x 3 =** _____

Persuasiveness of Argumentation
Depth of insight

3. Style **1 2 3 4 5 x 2 =** _____

Meaningful and evident organization and progression of thought
Clarity of thought and grammar

4. Format **1 2 3 4 5 x 2 =** _____

Title page, neatness, spelling, pagination, punctuation, length
Accuracy of documentation

TOTAL: **/100**

DAYS LATE:

FINAL GRADE:

COMMENTS:

REL370/PT601 - THE THEOLOGY AND PRACTICE OF WORSHIP
Class Schedule & Important Dates

January	12	
	19	
	26	No Class – Seminary Winter Retreat
February	2	Theology of Worship Paper
	9	
	16	
	23	Winter Modules – No Class
March	2	
	9	Worship Gathering Observation Paper
	16	
	23	
	30	
April	6	
	13	Reading Report

Other dates to remember:

- Thursday, January 27, 2011 – Community Day (by programme)
- Thursday, February 3, 2011 @ 7:30 p.m. Reginald Bibby Lecture – *Beyond the Gods and Back: Religion's Demise and Rise and Why it Matters.*
- Wednesday, Thursday, February 16 & 17, 2011 – Theology Lectureship with David Fitch – *The Future of Evangelicalism: Forging a New Faithfulness in Post-Christendom North America.*
- February 22 – 26, 2011 Winter Modules/Mid-semester break; no regularly scheduled classes
- March 18 – 20, 2011 - Legacy Youth Conference