COURSE DESCRIPTION

In 1544, Emperor Charles V called for the Diet of the Holy Roman Empire to meet at Speyer. Martin Bucer, Strassburg reformer, urged Calvin to write a statement of the doctrines and necessity for the Reformation. What emerged was Calvin’s *The Necessity for Reforming the Church*, a book which Calvin’s friend and successor, Theodore Beza, thought the most powerful and important book of his time. What was Calvin’s chief concern? Worship!

This course will investigate as many of the issues of worship as time will permit. The canvas is vast: what does the Bible teach about worship? How are we to integrate both Old and New Testament materials for the church today? What does church history teach us? What are the issues facing the church today?

But what does the latest RTS Catalog say?

The biblical foundations of worship, including music, worship strategies, creative styles, and worship for special occasions, are considered in this course. The goal is to prepare students to be worshippers and effective leaders in worship.

The two instructors have attempted to divide the materials in such a way that duplication is avoided. However, given the nature of this course, some overlap is unavoidable. Dr. Wymond will concentrate on the history of worship and focus on the specific issues of music. He will also cover the practical issues of weddings and funerals.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. To acquaint the student with the relevant materials of biblical and historical debate on worship
2. To facilitate the student to become a leader of worship that is both dignified and sensitive to current cultural norms
3. To engage the student in debate over issues currently of major controversy within the Reformed churches

CONTACT INFORMATION

PROFESSORS: REV. WILLIAM K. WYMOND, DMIN
REV. J. LIGON DUNCAN III, PhD

Campus Office: Dean Center, Phone 601.923.1689 (extension 689 if dialed internally)
Church Office: First Presbyterian Church
1390 North State Street
Jackson, MS 39202
Phone 601.973.9104

Executive Assistant: Jan Hyde: jhyde@fpcjackson.org
If you would like discuss matters related to this course or future ministry, please contact my assistant to set up an appointment.

HONORS SCHOLARS
Ryan Biese – rbiese@rts.edu
Rev. Kevin C. Phipps –
ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

All work submitted must be the student’s own. Group-produced work is not permitted. Plagiarism and copying of old assignments are all considered cheating. Students who do not fulfill assignments with requisite academic integrity will be referred to the Academic Dean with a recommendation for discipline (the student should also consult pp. 33-34 in the Handbook for further details).

CLASS METHODOLOGY

A. LECTURES AND ATTENDANCE

Many of these sessions will be in the form of seminars, to facilitate classroom discussion. Attendance, therefore, is an absolute requirement. Given the huge amount of material we have to cover and the relative scarcity of classroom hours, attendance will be at a premium and, of course, to the benefit of the student. My TA will take roll at every class. If you need to miss a class or to leave early or to arrive late, you should seek permission (via my TA, my EA or myself). Failure to attend class, or to engage while in the class, will be noted. No unexplained absences.

B. READING ASSIGNMENTS

1. REQUIRED TEXTS:

   The Westminster Directory of Public Worship, discussed by Mark Dever and
   Sinclair Ferguson Christian Focus Publications, 2009. (D&F)
   Hughes Oliphant Old, *Worship: Reformed according to Scripture (Revised and
   Philip Graham Ryken, Derek W.H. Thomas, and (Eds.) *Give Praise to God: A
   Robert Vasholz *Benedictions* Christian Focus Publications, 2007
   _______ *Calls to Worship*, Christian Focus, 2008

2. RECOMMENDED

   (Eds.) Cheslyn Jones, Edward Yarnold, Paul Bradshaw, and Geoff Wainwright,
   Terry Johnson, *Leading in Worship* Covenant Foundation.
   Matthew J. Pinson, *Perspectives on Christian Worship: 5 Views*. B & H Academic,
   2009.
1. **Written Prayers. (20%)**

   The practice of extemporary praying is a good one and one for which our Puritan and Presbyterian forefathers fought hard to maintain. But even these traditions called for what they termed “studied prayers”: prayers that had been planned and thought through and then delivered without notes. **Please follow this format exactly:** Font size 10, Times New Roman, single spaced. One page exactly (no more, no less).

   In addition to a written prayer, on another page give me a paragraph explaining what it is you hope to accomplish in this prayer. Is it thematic? Is it based on some texts of Scripture? Please staple this page to your prayer.

**How should I go about writing these prayers? (from Derek Thomas)**

   I suggest you take a Psalm and meditate on it. Then begin to formulate the ideas and word structures of the psalm, adapting them for suitability in 20th century parlance. Follow the order of thought in the psalm where appropriate. Grading someone’s prayers poses some problems. Still, a measure of objectivity will be attempted. Grading will depend on such things as style, wording, biblical content, structure.

   Although I haven’t made these required texts, I do recommend that you purchase the following books to help you in public prayer. They will prove to be invaluable to most of you.


2. **Order of Service/Bulletin (20%)**

   The Student will create six complete Worship Bulletins/orders of service. One bulletin for each of the following service types is to be submitted:

   1. Funeral
   2. Lord’s Supper
   3. Baptism
   4. Profession of Faith
   5. Wedding
   6. Regular Lord’s Day morning/evening services.

   A “Worship Guide” is also expected for each worship order of service. In the guide you will explain the reasons you structured the service the way you did, include reference to historical Presbyterian worship, scriptural basis, elements vs. forms and circumstances, etc. Be sure to integrate your worship order, structure, hymn selection, and texts. If you choose to disagree with the philosophy of worship articulated in this course, you must provide a full justification for that in your “worship guide.”
3. **Short Essays (20%)**

In order to assist you in your own preparation for ordination, ministry, and life, as well as to provide a meaningful outlet for interaction with the materials, philosophies, and issues in this course each student will submit the following three essays:

1. Compare and contrast the historic “Regulative Principle of Worship” with other philosophies of worship. The student will include the history, key proponents, biblical basis, and difficulties of each view.

2. Discuss the use and views of church liturgy, the “church calendar,” as well as contextualization from a biblical as well as historical-theological standpoint. The student will be sure to include benefits and difficulties with various understandings and practices.


The best essays will include copious use of scripture, theologians, and creedal statements. Be sure to make reference to and interact with both the lectures and assigned readings for this course.

**Format:** Please submit your essays using standard formatting (Size 12, Times New Roman, one-inch margins); essays are not to exceed three single spaced pages.

**COLLECTION OF ASSIGNMENTS**

All assignments are due at the beginning of class. Assignments received after this time will be considered late and penalized accordingly. Assignments are not to be emailed to the TA, but rather physical copies should be submitted.

**LATE WORK**

Students should make every effort to turn in work on time or early. In the rare case of medical or other providential emergency, extensions and/or alternative arrangements may be granted. In most cases, late assignments will be accepted but penalized one letter grade per day. Please make these arrangements with the TA as soon as possible.

**D. COMPREHENSIVE FINAL EXAM (40%)**

The final exam will cover the lecture and reading material in a comprehensive way. Students can expect to be asked both factual and integrative questions. **Students can expect to be asked examination questions on all of the reading material.**
Listed below are the dates and topics and weekly assignment timetable/due dates for our course. Please factor these into your term calendar now!

**DUE DATES SUMMARY**
All assignments are due at the beginning of class. Assignments received after this time will be considered late and penalized accordingly. Assignments are not to be emailed to the TA, but rather physical copies should be submitted.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Assignment</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3/18</td>
<td>Essay 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>3/25</td>
<td>Essay 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>4/1</td>
<td>Bulletin 6</td>
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<td>4/8</td>
<td>Bulletins 2 &amp; 3</td>
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<td>4/15</td>
<td>Bulletins 4 &amp; 5</td>
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<tr>
<td>4/22</td>
<td>Bulletin 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>4/29</td>
<td>Essay 3</td>
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January 28: GPTG, 17-106; February 4: GPTG, 107-169; D&F, all; February 11: GPTG, 170-287; February 18: GPTG, pp. 375-436; Old, 1-90; February 25: GPTG, 289-374; Old, 91-177; March 4: AHK, 11-135; March 11: No Class today — Happy Spring Break! March 18: AHK, 136-249; **Essay 1 Due**: Compare and contrast the historic “Regulative Principle of Worship” with other philosophies of worship. The student will include the history, key proponents, biblical basis, and difficulties of each view.

March 25: **Essay 2 Due**: Discuss the use and views of church liturgy, the “church calendar,” as well as contextualization from a biblical as well as historical-theological standpoint. The student will be sure to include benefits and difficulties with various understandings and practices.

April 1: **Order of Service 6 Due**: Regular Lord’s Day Morning & Evening
April 8: **Order of Service 2 and 3 Due**: Lord’s Supper and Baptism
April 15: **Order of Service 4 and 5 Due**: Wedding and Profession of Faith
April 22: **Order of Service 1 Due**: Funeral
April 29: **Essay 3 Due**: Describe in sufficient detail your own theology of public worship

Paper Day: May 6, 2013 5:00 p.m.
Final Exams: May 7-9, 2013
## Course Objectives Related to MDiv Student Learning Outcomes
### With Mini-Justification

**Course:** Theology of Worship  
**Professor:** Rev. Dr. J. Ligon Duncan III; Rev. William K. Wymond  
**Campus:** Jackson  
**Date:** Spring 2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MDiv Student Learning Outcomes</th>
<th>Rubric</th>
<th>Mini-Justification</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Articulation (oral &amp; written)</strong></td>
<td>strong</td>
<td>The student will demonstrate that understanding in weekly pastoral prayer submissions incorporating those details, concepts, and frameworks in a way that glorifies God and edifies the hearers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Scripture</strong></td>
<td>strong</td>
<td>Worship is to be governed by the Word of God; the question of how to apply the principles God decrees for His worship in His Word for modern and post-modern people will be discussed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Reformed Theology</strong></td>
<td>strong</td>
<td>The course will teach a consistent Reformed, Westminsterian Theology of Worship, and include significant discussion of the Regulative Principle of Worship (RPW).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sanctification</strong></td>
<td>strong</td>
<td>Worship is both demanded by the Creator of His Creatures, but as His redeemed and adopted sons, we long to worship our Father.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Desire for Worldview</strong></td>
<td>strong</td>
<td>Church power is ministerial and declarative; in worship we both minister to God and His people as well as declare His glory to a watching world.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Winsomely Reformed/Evangelistic</strong></td>
<td>moderate</td>
<td>The student will be taught a love for the gospel rightly displays a winsome desire to worship the Lord and bring others to do so.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Preach</strong></td>
<td>minimal</td>
<td>The student will be able to structure the whole worship of God so that the climax is the preached word.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Worship</strong></td>
<td>strong</td>
<td>The student will be able to articulate and argue for the Reformed view of worship as well as trace the development of the RPW and alternative views of worship through the history of the Church.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Shepherd</strong></td>
<td>strong</td>
<td>Particular shepherding issues of weddings, funerals, baptisms, and hymn selection will be covered in this course as well as the theology behind the; the student will demonstrate his understanding of these issues in written assignments and essays.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Church/World</strong></td>
<td>minimal</td>
<td>Study of the Trinity Hymnal as well as other worship media will be considered.</td>
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</table>

**Articulation (oral & written)**: Broadly understands and articulates knowledge, both oral and written, of essential biblical, theological, historical, and cultural/global information, including details, concepts, and frameworks.

**Scripture**: Significant knowledge of the original meaning of Scripture. Also, the concepts for and skill to research further into the original meaning of Scripture and to apply Scripture to a variety of modern circumstances. (Includes appropriate use of original languages and hermeneutics; and integrates theological, historical, and cultural/global perspectives.)

**Reformed Theology**: Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.

**Sanctification**: Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student’s sanctification.

**Desire for Worldview**: Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God.

**Winsomely Reformed/Evangelistic**: Embraces a winsomely Reformed ethos. (Includes an appropriate ecumenical spirit with other Christians, especially Evangelicals; a concern to present the Gospel in a God-honoring manner to non-Christians; and a truth-in-love attitude in disagreements.)

**Preach**: Ability to preach and teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm.

**Worship**: Knowledgeable of historic and modern Christian-worship forms; and ability to construct and skill to lead a worship service.

**Shepherd**: Ability to shepherd the local congregation: aiding in spiritual maturity; promoting use of gifts and callings; and encouraging a concern for non-Christians, both in America and worldwide.

**Church/World**: Ability to interact within a denominational context, within the broader worldwide church, and with significant public issues.