COURSE PURPOSE

“Theology of Worship” examines historic Christian ministry and worship according to the Reformed tradition.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. To acquaint you with the biblical foundations of Christian worship.

2. To introduce you to the history of Reformed worship.

3. To prepare you to lead worship reverently.

4. To assist you in understanding the contemporary controversies over Christian worship within Reformed churches.

COURSE TEXTS

Required Texts:

The Bible.


Old, Hughes Oliphant. Worship: Reformed according to Scripture (revised and


**Recommended:**


**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

1. **ATTENDANCE** — Class attendance is mandatory. If a student anticipates an unavoidable absence, he should notify the instructor in advance. Each hour of unexcused absence subjects the student to reduction of his final grade by one-half of a letter grade. Students missing one or more session (for any reason other than sickness) may either submit an additional, compensatory assignment [determined by the instructor] or choose...
to receive a half letter grade reduction of their final grade for each hour missed. In the event of a planned absence, written work and memory verses must be submitted to the teaching assistant electronically by the start time of the class missed. In the event of absence due to sickness, arrangements must still be made with the TA to turn in those assignments that are due on the day that they are due.

2. **READING ASSIGNMENTS AND QUIZZES** — Textbook assignments must be read prior to class. Each week when a reading assignment is due, a reading quiz will be given at the start of class. Be ready for your first quiz on the first day of class!

3. **PAPER FORMATTING** – All papers must be typed double-spaced using 12 pt. Times New Roman font, and include pagination and line numbering. All papers must conform to Kate L. Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, Eighth Edition.

Each assignment must included the following:

a. Name(s)
b. Course
c. Date
d. Assignment (e.g., Book Review 1)

Improperly formatted work will result in a full letter grade reduction for the assignment. See the bottom of the next page for an example of what this formatting is to look like.

For help on how to do line numbering, see the following websites:

*For MS Word:* [http://tinyurl.com/WordLineNumbering](http://tinyurl.com/WordLineNumbering)

*For Apple Pages:* [http://tinyurl.com/PagesLineNumbering](http://tinyurl.com/PagesLineNumbering)

If you still have trouble with formatting, the teaching assistant is happy to help you (really)!

4. **ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADES** –

A. **Written Prayers (20%)**

“Studied prayer” is an important part of the Presbyterian and Puritan tradition. These prayers, carefully prepared in advance for delivery without notes in public worship, provide the pastor the freedom of extempore praying while guarding against prayers bereft of scriptural language and emphases. Your prayers should cover the range of public prayers: invocation, adoration, confession, thanksgiving, illumination, and intercession.

Prayers must be 1½ pages (no more, no less) using the formatting mentioned above.

Late work will not be accepted for this assignment.

B. **Order of Service/Bulletin (20%)**
Each student will create three complete orders of service/bulletin. One bulletin for each of the following service types is to be submitted:

(1) *Regular Lord’s Day Service.* In this service you will include a baptism, profession of faith, and the Lord’s Supper.

(2) *Wedding*

(3) *Baptism*

A “Worship Guide” is also expected for each order of service. In the guide you will explain the reasons you structured the service the way you did and include reference to historical Presbyterian worship, scriptural basis, elements versus 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.”

C. 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 two essays:

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

*Essay 2* - Interacting with your readings and class lectures, explain your view of music and singing in the church’s worship. Include your views on the place of hymnody and psalmody in public worship.

In your essays, you should make copious use of scripture, theologians, and confessional statements.

Each essay will be five pages in length.

D. Weekly Reading Quizzes (20%)

Textbook assignments must be read prior to class. Each week when a reading assignment is due, a reading quiz will be given at the beginning of that class. One of the questions will be whether you have read all assigned readings in their entirety.

E. Comprehensive Final Examination (20%)

The final exam will be administered during exam week, May 5-7.

5. GRADING SCALE -

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78-79%  C-
75-77%  D+
72-74%  D
70-71%  D-
0-69%  F

6. **SPRING BREAK** - There will be no class on Monday, March 9.

7. **DEADLINES** - All course materials must be submitted at the beginning of class on the date due. Hard copies only; do not submit work electronically. Late work will be penalized a full letter grade each day thereafter.

Late work will not be accepted for written prayers.

8. **ELECTRONIC DEVICES** - Computers and tablets are not permitted in the classroom. Cell phones should be turned off and put away. Voice recorders are not permitted in class.

9. **ETIQUETTE** – Gentlemen may not wear caps or hats in the classroom.

10. **DISCLAIMER** - The instructor reserves the right to modify any portion of this syllabus during the semester.

11. **OFFICE HOURS** – Monday through Friday, by appointment or whenever the door is open.

12. **PERMISSION** – In preparing this syllabus, I am grateful to Dr. J. Ligon Duncan III for his permission to include and adapt material from his course syllabus.

**COURSE OUTLINE**

January 26: GPTG, 17-105; WWC, 10-34; D&K, 73-127

February 2: GPTG, 107-169; WWC, 35-60; **written prayer due**

February 9: GPTG, 170-286; **written prayer due**

February 16: GPTG, 375-435; Old 1-90; **written prayer due**

February 23: Old, 91-177; **written prayer due**

March 2: WWC, 61-148; **written prayer due**

March 9: **SPRING Break**
March 16: Essay 1 due

March 23: WWC, 149-239; written prayer due

March 30: D&K, 5-70; written prayer due

April 6: Essay 2 due

April 13: WWC, 240-320; written prayer due

April 20: GPTG, 287-374; written prayer due

April 27: Order of Service/Bulletin – All three Bulletins and Worship Guide Due

May 5-7: Final Exam (TBD)