

**Reformed Theological Seminary – Washington, D. C.**

Worship 06PT5300

**Course Syllabus**

February 3 – May 12, 2022

Thursdays, 1:00 – 3:00 PM

Visiting Lecturer in Pastoral Theology: Dr. David V. Silvernail, Jr.

* **Contact Information for Dr. Silvernail:** If you have questions, cannot attend a class, or need any further assistance, please don’t hesitate to contact me.

Address: Potomac Hills Presbyterian Church

2 Cardinal Park Drive, SE Suite 101A

Leesburg, VA 20175

Cell #: (703) 431-0046

Email: [dsilvernail@potomachills.org](mailto:dsilvernail@potomachills.org) **(best way to reach me)**

A brief biography of Dr. Silvernail is available at

[**http://www.potomachills.org/dr-david-silvernail**](http://www.potomachills.org/dr-david-silvernail)

* **Office Hours:**
  + Office hours will be in the classroom both before and after class. Otherwise, please make an appointment to meet at the RTS office or you may contact the professor to setup an alternate time and place.

**NOTICE – PLEASE READ CAREFULLY!**

**THERE ARE WRITTEN PRAYERS**

**DUE ON THE SECOND DAY OF CLASS,**

**AND A BOOK REPORT**

**DUE ON THE THIRD DAY OF CLASS!**

* **Course Description:**

In 1544, Emperor Charles V called for the Diet of the Holy Roman Empire to meet at Speyer. Martin Bucer, Strasburg reformer, urged Calvin to write a statement of the doctrines and necessity for the Reformation. What emerged was Calvin’sThe 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!

Every human being is, by virtue of being created in the image of God, a worshipper. Everyone worships, even the atheist who says he has no gods. The problem is that, because of sin, we worship the wrong things. Into this desperate situation, the gospel shows us that Christians are called to worship God through Christ by the Spirit. Therefore, the goal of the gospel is to transform our hearts from worshipping idols to worshipping the living and true God as He has instructed us in His word!

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?

* **Course Purpose:**

“Worship” examines historic Christian ministry and worship according to the Reformed tradition. The purpose of this course is to provide students with the biblical foundations of worship. This course will convince students that the gathered worship is legitimate, necessary, and important and should be conducted biblically in both form and content. In addition, the course will address the crucial matters of music, congregational singing, contextualization, “worship styles” and more. The goal is to prepare students to be biblical worshippers, and to prepare you to help others be biblical worshippers, and to prepare you to be effective leaders in worship.

* **Course Objectives:**

To acquaint the student with the relevant materials of historical debate on worship. To explore how the theme of worship develops in the Old and New Testament and to understand how congregational worship fits within this Biblical framework.

To facilitate the student to become a leader of worship that is both dignified and sensitive to current cultural norms, enabling the student to grow in commitment to congregational worship.

To engage the student in debate over issues currently of major controversy within the Reformed churches, such as the Regulative Principle of Worship, cultural contextualization, and the roles of emotions, evangelism, and edification in worship.

* **Course Counsel:**

1. I recognize that many of you work long days and have awkward commutes. Please leave sufficient time to battle adverse traffic so that you can arrive on time.
2. Please come to each class prepared, with readings, prayers, liturgies, and reading reports completed. From the first class, I will call on students to discuss assigned material. It is a courtesy to teacher and fellow students alike if your class contributions are informed by prior study. Take notes of these discussions. These exchanges are a vehicle for learning, and you will be expected to retain the material that we discuss.
3. Please ask questions in class. When necessary, I will establish the boundaries and let you know when I need to press on in delivering information and when we should to stop to enjoy a discussion. But a certain amount of time is set aside each week for discussion and I would be disappointed if we did not make it useful.
4. Give some thought to your questions. There is no question too simple to ask (although there are many that are too difficult to answer). But please do not stop the class to regale it with stories, ride hobbyhorses, play teacher to your fellow students, or ask to have a word spelled.
5. Please turn off your cell phones. Checking your mobile phone in a class discussion or lecture is as thoughtless as checking it while holding a conversation.
6. Please do not use web access for web-surfing, chatting, and emailing.
7. You may quietly snack and drink and stretch in class, or pace about the back of the room if it helps you stay alert.

* **Course Objectives Related to MDiv\* Student Learning Outcomes**

Course: 06PT5300

Professor: Dr. Silvernail

Campus: Washington DC

Date: 11/2/21

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| **MDiv\* Student Learning Outcomes**  *In order to measure the success of the MDiv curriculum, RTS has defined the following as the intended outcomes of the student learning process. Each course contributes to these overall outcomes. This rubric shows the contribution of this course to the MDiv outcomes.*  *\*As the MDiv is the core degree at RTS, the MDiv rubric will be used in this syllabus.* | | **Rubric**   * Strong * Moderate * Minimal * None | **Mini-Justification** |
| **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. Also includes ability to preach and teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm. | Strong | Students will study the major components of Reformed worship to be able to articulate and explain them faithfully and persuasively by preparing answers to a comprehensive exam as well as in required assignments such as written prayers, essays, and bulletins or orders of service in a manner that glorifies God and edifies the hearers. |
| **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.) | Strong | 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. |
| **Reformed Theology** | Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards. | Strong | The course will teach a consistent Reformed Theology of Worship, and include significant discussion of the Westminster Confession of Faith (WCF) and the Regulative Principle of Worship (RPW). |

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| **Sanctification** | Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student’s sanctification. | Strong | Students will study Reformed worship to attain a wholesome and comprehensive grasp of biblical truth in order to glorify God and pursue godliness. |
| **Desire for Worldview** | Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God. Includes ability to interact within a denominational context, within the broader worldwide church, and with significant public issues. | Strong | Church authority is ministerial and declarative; students will be exposed to the components of Reformed worship in order to effectively minister to God’s church as well as declare His glory to a watching world. |
| **Winsomely Reformed** | 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.) | Moderate | 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. |
| **Pastoral Ministry** | Ability to minister the Word of God to hearts and lives of both churched and unchurched, to include preaching, teaching, leading in worship, leading, and shepherding the local congregation, aiding in spiritual maturity, concern for non-Christians. | Strong | Particular shepherding issues of weddings, funerals, baptisms, and hymn selection will be covered in this course as well as the theology behind them; the student will demonstrate his understanding of these issues in written assignments and essays. |

* **Required Readings.** The reading requirement for this course is on par for a Master’s Degree course, as is evident below. Students will be responsible for the reading assignment as the requirements of the course will demonstrate.

**Due February 17, 2022:**

* + - **Required**

**Ryken, Philip Graham, Thomas, Derek W.H., and Duncan, J. Ligon III, eds., *Give Praise to God: A Vision for Reforming Worship.* Phillipsburg, NJ: Presbyterian and Reformed, 2003, 2011. (456 pages)**

\*Dr. Duncan’s chapter has been edited and published separately as *Does God Care How We Worship?* Phillipsburg, NJ: Presbyterian and Reformed, 2020.

* + - Recommended

Hall, David W. and Master, Jonathan L., eds., *On Reforming Worship.* Midway, GA: The Covenant Foundation, 2018. (269 pages)

**Due March 3, 2022:**

* + - **Required**

**Cruse, Jonathan Landy, *What Happens When We Worship*. Grand Rapids, MI: Reformation Heritage Books, 2020. (189 pages)**

* + - Recommended

Johnson, Terry L, *Worshipping with Calvin.* Welwyn Garden City: EP Books, 2014. (310 pages) – usually cheaper at heritagebooks.org

**Due March 24, 2022:**

* + - **Required**

**Old, Hughes Oliphant, *Worship: Reformed according to Scripture (Revised and Expanded Edition).* Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2002. (176 pages)**

* + - Recommended

Okholm, Dennis., *Learning Theology through the Church’s Worship.* Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2018. (225 pages)

**Due April 7, 2022:**

* + - **Required**

**Johnson, Terry L.,  *Leading in Worship (3rd Edition).* Welwyn Garden City: EP Books, 2019. (240 pages) – usually cheaper at heritagebooks.org**

* + - Recommended

Hughes, R. Kent, *The Pastor’s Book: A Comprehensive and Practical Guide to Pastoral Ministry.* Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2015. (437 pages)

**Due May 5, 2022:**

* + - **Required**

**Chester, Tim, *Truth We Can Touch: How Baptism and Communion Shape Our Lives*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2015. (155 pages)**

* + - Recommended

Chapell, Bryan,  *Christ-Centered Worship: Letting the Gospel Shape Our Practice.* Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2009. (284 pages)

**1,201 Total Pages**

* **Other Recommended Texts (Biblical Theologies of Worship in Bold):**
  + - **Block, Daniel I., *For the Glory of God: Recovering a Biblical Theology of Worship*.** Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2014. (360 pages)
    - **Forrest, Kaiser, Whaley, *Biblical Worship: Theology for God’s Glory*.** Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Publications, 2021. (544 pages)
    - **Peterson, David, *Engaging with God: A Biblical Theology of Worship*.** Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1992. (278 pages)
    - **Ross, Allen P., *Recalling the Hope of Glory.***Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Publications, 2006. (477 pages)

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* + - Carson, Ashton, Hughes, Keller., *Worship by the Book.* Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2002. (238 pages)
    - Croft, Brian and Adkins, Jason, *Gather God’s People: Understand, Plan, and Lead Worship in Your Local Church*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2002. (106 pages)
    - Hart, D.G. and Muether, John R., *With Reverence and Awe.* Phillipsburg, NJ: Presbyterian and Reformed, 2002. (276 pages)
    - Horton, Michael, *A Better Way: Rediscovering the Drama of God-Centered Worship.* Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2002. (231 pages)
    - Johnson, Terry L, *Serving with Calvin.* Welwyn Garden City: EP Books, 2015. (227 pages)
    - Merker, Matt, *Corporate Worship: How the Church Gathers as God’s People*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2021. (143 pages)
    - Payne, Jon D., *In the Splendor of Holiness: Rediscovering the Beauty of Reformed Worship for the 21st Century*. White Hall, WV: Tolle Lege Press, 2008. (95 pages)
    - Peterson, David G., *Encountering God Together*. Phillipsburg, NJ: Presbyterian and Reformed, 1996. (175 pages)
    - Pinson, J. Matthew, *Perspectives of Christian Worship: 5 Views*. Nashville, TN; B & H Academic, 2009. (352 pages)
    - Rayburn, Robert G., *O Come, Let Us Worship*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2002. (279 pages)
    - Greenville Seminary Theology Conference, *The Worship of God: Reformed Concepts of Biblical Worship*. Ross-Shire, Scotland: Christian Focus Publications, 2005 (228 pages)
* **REQUIREMENTS:**
* **Attendance**: **Each student is required to attend each class. If you know you cannot make it to a class session, notify me in advance.** Pastors readily reflect that some of the most important lessons learned in seminary were learned from classmates. Therefore, a portion of the final grade will be allotted to attendance and participation in the listening and feedback process.
* **Policy On Cheating and Plagiarism:** Cheating is the use of another person’s work on behalf of your own work, with the assumption being that it is your work. The MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers says, “To plagiarize is to give the impression that you have written or thought something that you have in fact borrowed from someone else.” Plagiarism is the use of ideas, information and content from a particular source without giving credit to that source by footnoting the source or accounting for it in a bibliography. Plagiarism is a Serious Violation of Academic Standards and will result in a grade of zero for that assignment. Plagiarism, whether intentional or unintentional, is considered academic theft. The RTS academic consequences of plagiarism are as follows: 1) First offense: The student must rewrite the assignment and receive no better than a passing “D” grade for it. 2) Second offense: The student fails the entire course and will result in a referral to the Academic Dean for Disciplinary Action.
* **Policy on Grammar and Spell Check:** Any work turned in which appears to lack “proofing” or displays poor grammar will receive a penalty affecting the grade.
* **Policy on Late Assignments**: Late assignments will be dropped **one full grade** on the above scale **for each day** they are late. For example, an assignment that is **one day late** will be dropped from an A to a B, **two days late** will be dropped from an A to a C, and so on. Missing assignments will be given a zero (0). Late and Missing assignments are the primary reason for low course grades.
* **All Written Work should have Name, Date, Course, and Assignment listed in the header (First Page Only) according to the following format:**

Name of Student Here Worship 06PT5300

June 17, 2021 Hughes Reading Report

* **All Written Work is to be submitted in Microsoft Word (no PDF’s).**
* **All Written Work is to be submitted in Times New Roman, 12 Point, Double-Spaced, One Inch Margins, Single Sided.**
* **As this is an Academic Course, each student will FOOTNOTE all their work with any references they use from any other written text, audio, or internet source.**
* **Assignments:**

* Class Participation: 10% of total grade Weekly
* Written Prayers: 10% of total grade Weekly Feb. 10 – Mar. 10
* Liturgies 20% of total grade Weekly Mar. 24 – May 5
* Reading Reports: 20% of total grade As noted on Schedule
* Short Essays 20% of total grade April 28
* Term Paper 20% of total grade May 12
* **Grading scale**: The standard RTS grading scale will be used:

**A (97-100) 4.00 C (80-82) 2.00**

**A - (94-96) 3.66 C - (78-79) 1.66**

**B + (91-93) 3.33 D + (75-77) 1.33**

**B (88-90) 3.00 D (72-74) 1.00**

**B - (86-87) 2.66 D - (70-71) 0.66**

**C + (83-85) 2.33 F (below 70) 0.00**

1. **Written Pastoral Prayers (5 papers, 1 full page each**, no more, no less**):**

* 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. Prayers should be based on a text of Scripture.

**Due Dates:**

1) Prayer related to the pandemic and our relationships. February 10

2) Prayer of gratefulness (justification and adoption) February 17

3) Prayer for growth in grace (sanctification) February 24

4) Prayer for unbelieving friends and neighbors March 3

5) Prayer for wisdom for future decisions (yet unknown) March 10

* *How should I go about writing these prayers?* (Counsel 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 21st 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 have not required these texts, I do recommend that you purchase some or all of the following books to assist you in public prayer. They will prove to be invaluable to most of you.
* **Anderson, Maxwell, ed.,** *Prayers of the People*, New York, NY:Redeemer Presbyterian Church, 2016.
* **Bennett, Arthur**, *A Valley of Vision: A Collection of Puritan Prayers & Devotions*. Edinburgh: The Banner of Truth, 1975.
* **Boa, Kenneth**, *Face to Face: Praying the Scriptures for Intimate Worship*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1997.
* **Edwards-Hoff, Joseph**, *Praying the Psalms*. Las Vegas, NV: self-published, 2020.
* **Elmer, Robert (Ed.),** *Piercing Heaven: Prayers of the Puritans*. Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2019.
* **Henry, Matthew**, *A Method for Prayer*. Ross-shire: Christian Focus Publications, 1993.
* **Old, Hughes Oliphant**, *Leading in Prayer: A Workbook for Worship*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1995.
* **Philliber, Michael W.,** *To You I Lift Up My Soul: Confessions and Prayers*. White Blackbird Books, 2020.
* **Plantinga, Cornelius,** *Morning and Evening Prayers*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1995.

1. **Liturgies (6 bulletins, 2-4 pages each):**

Perhaps the best way to move from the theoretical to the practical for this topic is to fully plan a church service. The student will create six complete liturgies (worship bulletins/orders of service. One bulletin for each of the following service types are to be submitted:

**Due Dates:**

1.) Regular Lord’s Day service. March 24

2.) Regular Lord’s Day service with Profession of Faith. March 31

3.) Regular Lord’s Day service with Baptism. April 7

4.) Regular Lord’s Day service with Lord’s Supper. April 14

5.) Wedding Service. April 28

6.) Funeral & Committal Service. May 5

**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, forms, circumstances, and rubric, etc. Students would do well to reference books used in this course.

Be sure to integrate your worship order, structure, hymn selections, readings, and prayers with the chosen sermon texts. Also consider the following questions: In what way is the gospel present in this service? How are you forming the congregation through this? What consideration are you giving to the unbeliever/outsider? What about children? Are you seeking to engage only the intellect, or are you more focused on the "affections?"

Students should rely heavily on their churches’ books of church order and directories for worship if applicable. These liturgies should reflect the liturgical traditions of each student’s current church. Each liturgy will vary in length and content from student to student, depending upon each student’s ecclesial tradition. Each liturgy should be drafted in such a way that it could be used in each student’s respective church and in their ministry.

* Although I have not required these texts, I do recommend that you purchase some or all of the following books to assist you in preparing liturgies for the above services. They will prove to be invaluable to most of you.
* **Gibson, Jonathan & Earngey, Mark**, *Reformation Worship: Liturgies from the Past for the Present*. New Growth Press, 2018. ($$$)
* **Curles, Patrick**, *Book of Common Worship*. CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform; 2nd edition, 2015. (available on Amazon).

1. **Reading Reports (5 papers, 4 pages each):**

Each student will turn in a Reading Report on the required reading textbooks by **Ryken, Cruse, Old, Johnson, and Chester**. Students will write a brief report (approximately four pages) following the form provided below. Students are to answer those questions and turn them in on **the date that the book is covered in class**.

**Worship Reading Report [[1]](#footnote-1)**

**Standard Header** (per example below):

Name of Student Here Worship 06PT5300

June 17, 2021 Johnson Reading Report

**Title of Book**

1. **Overview** – Give an overview of the book, explaining its argument (not your reaction to its argument), including its theme, perspective, and approach. (approximately 1 page)
2. **Critique** – Offer a brief critique of the book, including elements of strength and weakness. (approximately 1 page)
3. **Application** – Offer some specific application to your own ministry demonstrating the value and relevance of the material in this book. (approximately 1 page)
4. **Best Quotes** – Write significant quotes (single spaced; note page number in book where quote is found) as you come across them and then write a paragraph about each quote (double-spaced) explaining why you found this to be significant (**minimum of 3 needed**). (approximately 1 page).
5. **Short Essays (2 papers, 5 pages each) Due April 28**

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 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. 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.

1. **Term Paper (10+2 pages) Due May 12**

Describe in sufficient detail your own Theology of Public Worship. While this is somewhat subjective to each individual, you will need to fully defend your stance especially where it may differ from Reformed Theology of Worship.

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. The paper should interact with and cite no fewer than ten sources.

As part of the assignment, each student must have a pastor read the paper and then discuss it together. The pastor should be from the church where the student worships. The final submission should include a written summary of that discussion and the pastor’s feedback.

**Class schedule**

**February 3**  **Assignments**

1. Introduction to the Course
2. Why Study Worship?

**February 10**  **Assignments**

1. What is Worship? Pastoral Prayer # 1

**February 17**  **Assignments**

1. Why do we Worship? Pastoral Prayer # 2
2. Ryken Book Review Ryken Book Report

**February 24**  **Assignments**

1. How do we Worship? Reading the BiblePastoral Prayer # 3
2. How do we Worship? Preaching the Bible
3. How do we Worship? Praying the Bible

**March 3**  **Assignments**

1. How do we Worship? Singing the BiblePastoral Prayer # 4
2. How do we Worship? Seeing the Bible
3. Cruse Book ReviewCruse Book Report

**March 10**  **Assignments**

1. Worship in the Old Testament Pastoral Prayer # 5

**March 17**  **Reading Week**

**March 24**  **Assignments**

1. Worship in the New Testament Liturgy # 1
2. Old Book ReviewOld Book Report

**March 31**  **Assignments**

1. History of Christian Worship Liturgy # 2
2. Qualities of Biblical Worship

**April 7**  **Assignments**

1. The Regulative Principle of Worship Liturgy # 3
2. Elements, Forms, and Circumstances
3. Johnson Book Review Johnson Book Report

**April 14**  **Assignments**

1. What Worship Looks Like Liturgy # 4

(The Parts of the Worship Service)

**April 21**  **No Class**

**April 28**  **Assignments**

1. Psalms, Hymns, & Spiritual Songs Liturgy # 5

***(possible guest speaker)***

1. Lord’s Day Worship Short Essay Papers

**May 5**  **Assignments**

1. Sacraments: Baptism Liturgy # 6
2. Sacraments: Lord’s Supper
3. Chester Book ReviewChester Book Report

**May 12**  **Assignments**

1. Weddings
2. Funerals
3. Class Evaluations Term Paper

1. This form is an adaptation from the Communications course taught by Professor Larry Kirk of Reformed Theological Seminary in Orlando. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)