

**Note:**

**Course content may be changed, term to term, without notice. The information below is provided as a guide for course selection and is not binding in any form, and should not be used to purchase course materials.**

## ***COURSE SYLLABUS***

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### **WRSP 502**

#### **HISTORY AND PHILOSOPHY OF WORSHIP**

#### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This is a study of the history of worship from the Old Testament, the early church, through the modern period. Emphasis is given to changes in worship practices resulting from the Reformation, the Great Awakenings, revival movements, large evangelistic crusades of the 1940s and 1950s, Jesus Movement, and the Praise and Worship movement.

#### **RATIONALE**

At the heart of successful worship leadership is the preparation and presentation of worship. The course seeks to help the worship leader accomplish these tasks on a regular basis by raising awareness of the historical development of worship and how it has and is influencing worshipers within the evangelical tradition.

#### **I. PREREQUISITES**

For information regarding prerequisites for this course, please refer to the [Academic Course Catalog](#)

#### **II. REQUIRED RESOURCE PURCHASE**

Click on the following link to view the required resource(s) for the term in which you are registered: <http://bookstore.mbsdirect.net/liberty.htm>

#### **III. ADDITIONAL MATERIALS FOR LEARNING**

- A. Computer with basic audio/video output equipment
- B. Internet access (broadband recommended)
- C. Microsoft Word  
(Microsoft Office is available at a special discount to Liberty University students.)

#### **IV. MEASURABLE LEARNING OUTCOMES**

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- A. Articulate a personal philosophy of Biblical worship citing key biblical passages that help formulate a personal view of worship.
- B. Identify the key cultural, historic, and political events, musical developments, revivals and personalities that shaped and influenced evangelical worship as we know it today.

- C. Describe how church history, music history, and the history of worship and music relate.
- D. Discuss the principles for worship leadership taught by Jesus and practiced by his disciples.
- E. Analyze how philosophical worldviews that influence evangelical worship practices.
- F. Articulate the “story of worship” from Genesis through present day.

## V. COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND ASSIGNMENTS

- A. Textbook readings and lecture presentations/notes
- B. Course Requirements Checklist
 

After reading the Syllabus and [Student Expectations](#), the student will complete the related checklist in Module/Week 1.
- C. Discussion Board Forums (6)
 

Discussion boards are collaborative learning experiences. Therefore, the student will complete 6 Discussion Board Forums during this course based on the Morgan, *Then Sing's My Soul*, book. The student is required to post 1 thread of at least 250 words. The student must then post 3 replies of at least 150 words. For each thread and reply, assertions must be supported with at least 2 citations in current Turabian format. Acceptable sources include course reading materials. (Outcomes: A–F).
- D. Things to Remember (4)
 

Throughout this course the student will read *Worship Through the Ages* and articulate the main points that should be remembered about worship within the selected passages. Each review must be no less than half a page (250 words) and no more than 2 pages. (Outcomes: C and E).
- E. Webber Book Critique
 

The student must complete a chapter-by-chapter book report of *Worship Old and New* by Robert Webber. The student must follow the template provided and write an analysis and a 1-sentence statement of what was learned for each chapter. Each chapter report must be no more than 1-page long. (Outcomes: A, C, and D).
- F. Philosophy of Worship Paper
 

The student will write an 8–10-page paper that provides biblical, theological, historical, and methodological criteria for his/her personal philosophy of worship. This is a formal paper and must conform to current Turabian writing style. The paper must include footnotes and a bibliography of at least 8–10 sources and must be submitted through SafeAssign. (Outcomes: A and D)
- G. The Story of Worship Capstone Paper: Bibliography
 

In order to prepare for writing the capstone paper, the student will gather and submit a bibliography comprised of at least 18–20 sources related to the topic of

the capstone paper. Only 10 sources are due for this particular assignment. The citations must be gathered from course materials, presentations, magazines, articles, and other scholarly sources. These sources must conform to current Turabian format. (Outcomes: B, C, D, and F)

H. The Story of Worship Capstone Paper

The student will complete a formal writing project, which is a narrative that articulates the timeline for worship from Genesis 1 through the present day. The research paper must be 18–20 pages and incorporate at least 18–20 sources. It must articulate historical, biblical, philosophical, and personality influences impacting the development of worship in the evangelical tradition. The student must use the Towns and Whaley text as a primary resource. The student must use the Timeline Chart from the *Appendix of the Worship Through the Ages* text as a guide for completing the paper. This is a formal paper and must conform to current Turabian writing style. Footnotes and bibliography are required. The paper must be submitted through SafeAssign. (Outcomes: B, C, D, and F)

I. Tests (3)

The student has 1 hour to complete Test 1 and Test 3, and 2 hours to complete Test 2. Each test is open-book/open-notes with questions derived from the Towns and Whaley textbook.

- Test 1 is comprised of 25 true/false questions from chapters 1–6.
- Test 2 is comprised of 50 multiple choice questions from chapters 1–10.
- Test 3 is comprised of 25 matching questions from chapters 1–16.  
(Outcomes B, C, D and F).

**VI. COURSE GRADING AND POLICIES**

A. Points

Course Requirements Checklist	10
Discussion Board Forums (6 at 50 pts ea)	300
Things to Remember (4 at 20 pts ea)	80
Webber Book Critique	120
Philosophy of Worship Paper	100
The Story of Worship Capstone Paper: Bibliography	25
The Story of Worship Capstone Paper	200
Tests (1 at 25 pts, 2 at 75 pts ea)	175
<b>Total</b>	<b>1010</b>

B. Scale

A = 940–1010    A- = 920–939    B+ = 900–919    B = 860–899    B- = 840–859  
 C+ = 820–839    C = 780–819    C- = 760–779    D+ = 740–759    D = 700–739  
 D- = 680–699    F = 0–679

C. Style Guidelines

All assignments for this course are to be formatted in accordance with the latest edition of the Turabian style manual (A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations). Discussion assignments and essay examinations may use the parenthetical citation style. All other written assignments should use the footnote citation style. Writing aids are available via the Online Writing Center.

D. Extra Credit

No additional “for credit” assignments will be permitted beyond those given in the course requirements stated above.

E. Course Changes

Course requirements are subject to change by the administration of the University at any time with appropriate notice.

F. Disability Assistance

Students with a documented disability may contact Liberty University Online’s Office of Disability Academic Support (ODAS) at [LUOODAS@liberty.edu](mailto:LUOODAS@liberty.edu) to make arrangements for academic accommodations. Further information can be found at [www.liberty.edu/disabilitysupport](http://www.liberty.edu/disabilitysupport).

## ***COURSE SCHEDULE***

### **WRSP 502**

Textbooks: Towns & Whaley, *Worship Through the Ages* (2012).  
 Morgan, *Then Sings my Soul, Volume 3* (2012).  
 Webber, *Worship Old and New* (1994).  
 Whaley, *History and Philosophy of Worship Workbook* (2013).

<b>MODULE/ WEEK</b>	<b>READING &amp; STUDY</b>	<b>ASSIGNMENTS</b>	<b>POINTS</b>
<b>1</b>	Towns & Whaley: Introduction chs. 1–3 Morgan: Biblical Hymns Webber: chs. 1–5 Whaley: chs. 1–2 5 presentations	Course Requirements Checklist Class Introductions DB Forum 1 Things to Remember 1	10 0 50 20
<b>2</b>	Towns & Whaley: chs. 4–6 Morgan: Ancient Hymns Webber: chs. 6–8 Whaley: chs. 3–7 5 presentations	DB Forum 2 Things to Remember 2 Test 1	50 20 25
<b>3</b>	Towns & Whaley: chs. 7–8 Morgan: Medieval Hymns Webber: chs. 9–11 Whaley: chs. 8–9 3 presentations	DB Forum 3 Things to Remember 3	50 20
<b>4</b>	Towns & Whaley: chs. 8–10 Webber: chs. 12–17 Whaley: chs. 10–12 4 presentations	Test 2	75
<b>5</b>	Towns & Whaley: chs. 11–12 Morgan: German Hymns Webber: chs. 18–23 Whaley: chs. 13–17 6 presentations	DB Forum 4 Webber Book Critique	50 120
<b>6</b>	Towns & Whaley: chs. 13–14 Morgan: English Hymns Whaley: chs. 18–20 5 presentations	DB Forum 5 Philosophy of Worship Paper The Story of Worship Capstone Paper: Bibliography	50 100 25
<b>7</b>	Towns & Whaley: chs. 15–16 Morgan: Contemporary Praise Whaley: chs. 21–22 3 presentations	DB Forum 6 Things to Remember 4 Test 3	50 20 75

<b>MODULE/ WEEK</b>	<b>READING &amp; STUDY</b>	<b>ASSIGNMENTS</b>	<b>POINTS</b>
<b>8</b>	Towns & Whaley: chs. 16–17 Morgan: Hymning in Public and Private Whaley: chs. 23–26 4 presentations	The Story of Worship Capstone Paper	200
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>1010</b>

DB = Discussion Board

**NOTE:** Each course module/week begins on Monday morning at 12:00 a.m. (ET) and ends on Sunday night at 11:59 p.m. (ET). The final module/week ends at 11:59 p.m. (ET) on **Friday**.