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

WRSP 635
BUILDING A THEOLOGY OF WORSHIP

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is a comprehensive study of the purpose and practice of a theology of worship in the local church. The study is divided into two parts: Cognitive theology that includes the understanding and discovery of a biblical theology of worship and music; and, practical application of theology which includes developing a strategy for teaching theology as a worship leader. The class is guided by a series of projects whereby students build a personal theology for private and public worship.

RATIONALE

Worship is at the heart of everything we are and do as Christians. Our obedience to Christ as believers is in direct proportion to our concept of God and theology of worship. Our ministry endeavors are vain or done with half-hearted intent without worship; preaching without worship, music without worship, education without worship, evangelism without worship, missions without worship. Old and New Testament principles give apt attention to the practice of worship. The spiritual health of a believer is directly related to his/her concept and practice of private and public worship.

Evangelical congregations often experience conflict related to their worship that may be traced to issues surrounding the theology of worship. Worship leaders carry their theology on the lyric of their songs. They teach theology. Misunderstanding or abuses of worship theology often lead to conflict. This course is both preventative as well as prescriptive in nature. The course offers systematic, historical, Old Testament, New Testament, and practical application for building a theology of worship.

I. PREREQUISITE

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.   Apply principles of systematic theology to worship practices for the evangelical tradition.

B.   Articulate the need, significance, and value for developing a biblically-based worship theology as part of a local church ministry.

C.   Articulate the need for a practical application of worship theology to the traditions most commonly associated with worship in the evangelical tradition.

D.   Design a strategy for teaching biblically-based worship theology in a local church worship ministry.

E.   Articulate a theology of change as applied to worship in the local church.

F.   Evaluate practices of worship theology as related to preaching, missions, and teaching.

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 found in Module/Week 1.

C.   Discussion Board Forums (6)

There will be 6 Discussion Board Forums throughout this course. The student is required to provide a thread in response to the provided topic for each forum. Each thread must be at least 350 words and demonstrate course-related knowledge. In addition to the thread, the student is required to reply to at least 3 other classmates' threads. Each reply must be at least 250 words.

D.   Summary/Analysis Reports (2)

The student will write 2 Summary/Analysis Reports; 1 on the Ross text and 1 on the Peterson text. For each chapter in the text, the student must write a summary, an analysis, and a 1-sentence statement of what he/she learned in the chapter. The student must use the Summary/Analysis Reports template provided when writing each report.

E.   Bibliography

In preparation for the research-oriented Position Paper, the student will research scholarly sources, and submit a bibliography. The Bibliography must include at least 20 references in addition to the course textbooks and the Bible. The Bibliography must be formatted in current Turabian style.

F.   Book Outline

The student will write an outline for each chapter in the Man text. The outline

must use Roman numerals. Main points and sub-points must be included for each chapter. The outline must be roughly 1 page per chapter.

G.   Worship Service Evaluation

The student will describe a typical worship service at his/her church. The student will analyze and critique the theological strengths of the worship service. In addition, the student will identify weaknesses, and make recommendations for improvement.

H.   Position Paper

The student will write an 18–20-page research-oriented Position Paper in current Turabian format. The Position Paper must describe the theology and philosophy behind the student's own personal and public worship. The paper must include at least 20 references in addition to the course textbooks and the Bible.

VI.   COURSE GRADING AND POLICIES

A.   Points

Course Requirements Checklist	10
Discussion Board Forums (6 at 50 pts ea)	300
Summary/Analysis Report 1	150
Summary/Analysis Report 2	50
Bibliography	100
Book Outline	100
Worship Service Evaluation	100
Position Paper	200
Total	1010

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 = 679 and below

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 to make arrangements for academic accommodations. Further information can be found at www.liberty.edu/disabilitysupport.

COURSE SCHEDULE

WRSP 635

Textbooks: Davis, *Worship and the Reality of God* (2010).
Due, *Created for Worship* (2005).
Man, *Proclamation and Praise* (2007).
Peterson, *Engaging with God* (1992).
Roberts, *God's Big Picture* (2002).
Ross, *Recalling the Hope of Glory* (2006).

MODULE/ WEEK	READING & STUDY	ASSIGNMENTS	POINTS
1	Davis: ch. 1 Due: ch. 1 Peterson: ch. 1 Roberts: chs. 1–3 Ross: Parts 1–4 7 presentations	Course Requirements Checklist Class Introductions DB Forum 1	10 0 50
2	Davis: ch. 3 Due: ch. 2 Peterson: ch. 2 Ross: Parts 5 and 6 6 presentations	DB Forum 2	50
3	Davis: ch. 4 Man: chs. 1–5 Peterson: ch. 8 Ross: Parts 7 and 8 4 presentations	DB Forum 3 Summary/Analysis Report 1	50 150
4	Davis: ch. 2 Due: ch. 3 Peterson: chs. 3–4 3 presentations	DB Forum 4 Bibliography	50 100
5	Due: ch. 4 Peterson: ch. 6 4 presentations	DB Forum 5 Book Outline	50 100
6	Davis: ch. 5 Due: chs. 5–6 Peterson: ch. 7 3 presentations	Summary/Analysis Report 2	50

MODULE/ WEEK	READING & STUDY	ASSIGNMENTS	POINTS
7	Due: ch. 7 Peterson: ch. 5 Roberts: chs. 4–5 4 presentations	DB Forum 6 Worship Service Evaluation	50 100
8	Due: ch. 8 Peterson: ch. 10 Roberts: chs. 6–8 4 presentations	Position Paper	200
		TOTAL	1010

DB = Discussion Board

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