

**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 840**

#### **TRANSITIONS IN WORSHIP**

#### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

A study of the current trends and issues related to contemporary worship. Consideration is given to various worship models, worship evangelism, the place of worship in missions, multi-cultural issues, worship transitions, worship trends, and application of theological and biblical principles to worship practices. The course includes research of emerging church worship, a series of interview projects, and comparative study of popular music genres and contemporary praise and worship practices.

#### **RATIONALE**

Today's evangelical church is witnessing numerous shifts in philosophy, methodology, and theology related to worship. The resulting trends establish what appears to be positive adjustments for the worshipping community. However, not every change is thoughtfully vetted and carefully developed. Additionally, new positions of influence in the church have been recognized: the worship artist and songwriter. The responsibility of these positions should not be underestimated as congregants often learn their theology from the lyrics of songs more than from the points of the pastor's sermon. With the recognition of gifted musicians, artists, and songwriters, the church leadership must also recognize and emphasize the imperative of theological grounding of these servants of Christ and, further, encourage the stability of the body of Christ through theologically grounded songs for worship. The transitions that permeate the Evangelical Church culture in the twenty-first century should be studied and evaluated to determine the value, necessity, and wisdom of such changes.

#### **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 Office

#### IV. MEASURABLE LEARNING OUTCOMES

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

- A. Compare various worship models.
- B. Evaluate current trends in worship.
- C. Assess the application of theological and biblical principles to worship practices.
- D. Appraise the issues affecting contemporary worship.
- E. Design a sophomore college-age level curriculum based on the course materials in this course.

#### V. COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND ASSIGNMENTS

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

After reading the Course Syllabus and [Student Expectations](#), the student will complete the related checklist found in Module/Week 1.

- C. Discussion Board Forums (8)

Discussion boards are collaborative learning experiences. Therefore, the student is required to create a thread in response to the provided prompt for each forum. Each thread must be at least 600 words, reference at least 1 Reading & Study presentation, and include at least 2 citations. In addition to the thread, the student is required to reply to at least 2 classmates' threads. Each reply must be at least 300 words and include at least 1 citation. Each thread and reply must also contain at least 1 biblical reference and follow current Turabian format.

- D. Research Paper

The student will write a 15–18-page research-based paper in current Turabian format that focuses on one of the topics provided in the course. The paper must include 20–25 references, not including the course textbooks and the Bible.

- E. Pedagogy Project

The student will develop an 8-week residential course (8 modules) on the topic of “Transitions in Worship” that is designed to be taught in a college setting. For this project, the student will develop the syllabus, module overviews and outcomes, lectures, and a PowerPoint presentation to accompany each lecture. All required resources for this course must be utilized for this project.

##### Annotated Bibliography

In preparation for the Final submission of the Pedagogy Project, the student will provide an annotated bibliography with 40–50 scholarly sources. The bibliography must include a brief description of at least 50 words for each resource and follow current Turabian format.

Final

The student will submit the materials for his or her 8-week course. The syllabus must include a basic course description, 4–7 course objectives, bibliographic information for 6–8 relevant textbooks, and general assignment instructions. Each module must include an overview of at least 50 words, at least 2 outcomes, a lecture, and a PowerPoint presentation supporting the lecture. Each lecture must be 5–7 pages, reference at least 3 scholarly sources, and follow current Turabian format. Each PowerPoint presentation must contain at least 5 slides.

F. 4-MAT Book Review

The student will write a 1,300–1,800-word review of the assigned textbook in current Turabian format. In addition to the textbook, the assignment must contain at least 1 other scholarly reference and 1 biblical reference.

**VI. COURSE GRADING AND POLICIES**

A. Points

Course Requirements Checklist	10
Discussion Board Forums (8 at 50 pts ea)	400
Research Paper	150
Pedagogy Project	
Annotated Bibliography	100
Final	250
4-MAT Book Review	100
<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. 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 840**

Textbooks: Allen, *The SBC and the 21st Century: Reflection, Renewal, & Recommitment* (2016).  
 Block, *For the Glory of God: Recovering a Biblical Theology of Worship* (2014).  
 Hunt, *Surviving Technopolis* (2013).  
 Kauflin, *Worship Matters: Leading Others to Encounter the Greatness of God* (2008).  
 MacArthur, *Worship: The Ultimate Priority* (2012).  
 Miller, *Worship Leaders, We Are Not Rock Stars* (2013).  
 Page & Gray, *Hungry for Worship: Challenges and Solutions for Today's Church* (2014).  
 White, *The Church in an Age of Crisis: 25 New Realities Facing Christianity* (2012).  
 Wiggins & McTighe, *The Understanding by Design Guide to Creating High-Quality Units* (2011).

<b>MODULE/ WEEK</b>	<b>READING &amp; STUDY</b>	<b>ASSIGNMENTS</b>	<b>POINTS</b>
<b>1</b>	Block: ch. 1 Kauflin: ch. 1 MacArthur: chs. 1–3 Page & Gray: chs. 1, 5–6 White: ch. 1 5 presentations	Course Requirements Checklist Class Introductions DB Forum 1	10 0 50
<b>2</b>	Allen: ch. 7 Block: ch. 13 Kauflin: chs. 18, 22, 28 Page & Gray: ch. 2 5 presentations	DB Forum 2	50
<b>3</b>	Hunt: chs. 1–4 Page & Gray: ch. 9 White: chs. 9, 16–17, 19 3 presentations	DB Forum 3 Research Paper	50 150
<b>4</b>	Kauflin: chs. 6–7 Miller: chs. 1–2, 8 Page & Gray: ch. 3 White: ch. 20 2 presentations	DB Forum 4	50
<b>5</b>	Allen: ch. 6 Block: chs. 2–3, 7, 9 Kauflin: chs. 3, 11 MacArthur: chs. 12, 14–15 Page & Gray: ch. 7 5 presentations	DB Forum 5 Pedagogy Project: Annotated Bibliography	50 100

<b>MODULE/ WEEK</b>	<b>READING &amp; STUDY</b>	<b>ASSIGNMENTS</b>	<b>POINTS</b>
<b>6</b>	Kauflin: chs. 8–10, 12–14, 17 Miller: chs. 3–7, 9 Page & Gray: ch. 8 White: ch. 5 3 presentations	DB Forum 6 4-MAT Book Review	50 100
<b>7</b>	Block: ch. 13 Kauflin: chs. 2, 4–5 MacArthur: chs. 4–5 Page & Gray: ch. 4 3 presentations	DB Forum 7	50
<b>8</b>	Allen: ch. 15 Kauflin: chs. 19–21, 23–27 Wiggins & McTighe: Modules A–G 3 presentations	DB Forum 8 Pedagogy Project: Final	50 250
<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**.