

Sacred Music in the Post-Modern Context

REVISED SYLLABUS

MUSM 5286/ MUAG 4740

Dr. Michael Conrady, instructor of record

Dr. Joshua Taylor

Communication

- Office Hours: Please email me to request a meeting- In-person, Zoom, or phone.
- Email: REDACTED
- Cell: REDACTED

Course Description

An exploration of worship and the role of sacred music in the 21st Century Church. Various styles and contexts of worship and arts ministry will be explored through reading, lecture, and projects.

Course Goals

At the conclusion of the course, students will:

- be able to discuss the role of sacred music in worship in the post-modern church.
- identify the structures of worship across different traditions.
- learn how to select hymns and other appropriate music for congregational worship using the Revised Common Lectionary and other resources.
- learn basic practices for contemporary and supplemental ensembles in the church music ministry.

Course Texts

- Baker, Jonny (2010). *Curating Worship*. Seabury Books. New York. ISBN 978-1-59627-137-1 (PAPERBACK)

- Bauer, Michael (2013). *Arts Ministry: Nurturing the Creative Life of God's People*. Wb. Eerdmans. Grand Rapids, MI. ISBN 978-0-802-86928-9 (PAPERBACK)

- Eicher, David, ed. (2013). *Glory to God: The Presbyterian Hymnal*. Westminster John Knox Press. Louisville, KY. ISBN 978-0-664-5034-8 (HARDBACK)

- Scheer, Greg (2006). *The Art of Worship: A Musician's Guide to Leading Modern Worship*. Baker Books. Grand Rapids, MI. ISBN 978-0-801-06709-9 (PAPERBACK)

- Duck, Ruth (2013). *Worship for the Whole People of God: Vital Worship for the 21st Century*. Westminster John Knox:Louisville, KY. ISBN:978-0-664-23427-0 (PAPERBACK) (An excerpt will be provided for study but students are encouraged to buy the book.)

- Taylor, Joshua (2023). *From Plague to Purpose: Sacred Wandering and the Postmodern Church*. Wipf and Stock. Eugene, OR. ISBN 978-1-666-757569 (PAPERBACK) (An excerpt will be provided for study but students are encouraged to buy the book.)

Course Activities & Assessments (100 points total)

Weekly Canvas Discussion Forums (20 points)

Book Abstracts (3 @ 5 points = 15 points)

Mid-Term Presentations: Comprehensive Plan for Worship (Due October 6 - 20 points)

Report on Chapter from Arts Ministry (Due November 10- 10 points)

Final: Worship Chart for Academic Year (Due December 8- 25 points)

Attendance and Participation in Class (10 points)

Grading

- A: 90-100% (Outstanding, excellent work. The student performs well above the minimum criteria.)
- B: 80-89% (Good, impressive work. The student performs above the minimum criteria.)
- C: 70-79% (Solid, college-level work. The student meets the criteria of the assignment.)
- D: 60-69% (Below average work. The student fails to meet the minimum criteria.)
- F: 59 and below (Sub-par work. The student fails to complete the assignment.)

Late Work

I will not accept late work in this course. All work turned in after the deadline will receive a grade of zero unless the student has a [university-excused absence \(Links to an external site.\)](#) and provides documentation with 48 hours of the missed deadline.

Attendance Policy

Because this class only meets once a week, every class meeting is essential to your success. After one unexcused absence, each additional unexcused absence will lower your grade by one letter grade.

Grade Disputes

Please wait 24 hours before contacting me to dispute a grade. Within that time, I expect that you will review the assignment details and reflect on the quality of the work you turned in. If you would still like to meet, email me to set up a meeting (I cannot discuss grades over email). You should come to our scheduled meeting with specific examples that demonstrate that you earned a higher grade than you received. If you miss your scheduled meeting, you forfeit your right to a grade dispute. If you do not contact me to schedule a meeting within seven days of receiving your grade, you also forfeit your right to a grade dispute.

Course Schedule

Aug 25

1. Welcome and Course Introduction
Reading: White Ch. 1

Sep 1

2. Life Together: Our Common Worship- Where We've Been, Where We Are, Where We're Going (Part 1)
Reading: Scheer Ch.1 & Ch. 4

Sep 8

3. Life Together: Our Common Worship- Where We've Been, Where We Are, Where We're Going (Part 2)
Reading: Scheer Ch. 2 and Ch. 3
Abstract Due: Scheer Chapters 1-4

Sep 15

4. Understanding Worship Structures
Reading White Ch. 2 and Duck Ch. 4 & 5 (provided by instructor)

Sep 22

5. Models of Participation in Postmodern Worship
Reading: Duck Ch. 2 and 9

Sep 29

6. Beyond the Choir: Ensembles and the Arts
Reading: Scheer Ch. 5 and Ch. 7 (Leading Modern Worship)
- or - Duck Ch. 9 (Understanding the Sacraments)
- or - White Ch. 4 (A Brief History of Sacred Music)
Abstract Due: Your chosen reading selection

Oct 6

7. **Midterm Presentations- Comprehensive Plan for Worship**

Oct 13

8. Curating Worship

Reading: Baker pg. xiii - 18 (Intro- Ch. 1)

Course Schedule, continued**Oct 20**

9. Art, Architecture, and Christian Worship (Part 1)

Reading: White Ch. 3

Oct 27

10. Art, Architecture, and Christian Worship (Part 2)

Reading: Bauer Introduction and Ch. 5

Nov 3

11. Caring for the Community: Music as Pastoral Care

Abstract Due: Bauer Ch. 5

Nov 10

12. Vital Worship for the 21st Century

Assignment Due: Report on Chapter from Arts Ministry

Nov 17

13. Accommodating Worship of Tomorrow

Assignment Due: Worship Planning Chart Draft

Dec 1

14. Offsite class (First Methodist Church, Denton - time TBD)

Dec 8***Final Due: Worship Planning Chart for the Academic Year***

(Presentations will be given in class)

University Policies**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY STANDARDS AND CONSEQUENCES**

According to UNT Policy 06.003, Student Academic Integrity, academic dishonesty occurs when students engage in behaviors including, but not limited to cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, forgery, plagiarism, and sabotage. A finding of academic dishonesty may result in a range of academic penalties or sanctions ranging from admonition to expulsion from the University.

LINK: [https://policy.unt.edu/sites/default/files/06.049 Course Syllabi Requirements - Supplement.pdf](https://policy.unt.edu/sites/default/files/06.049%20Course%20Syllabi%20Requirements%20-%20Supplement.pdf)

ADA ACCOMMODATION STATEMENT

UNT makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide a student with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding one's specific course needs. Students may request accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. For additional information see the ODA website at disability.unt.edu.

EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION AND PROCEDURES

UNT uses a system called Eagle Alert to quickly notify students with critical information in the event of an emergency (i.e., severe weather, campus closing, and health and public safety emergencies like chemical spills, fires, or violence). In the event of a university closure, please refer to the UNT Learning Management System (LMS) for contingency plans for covering course materials.