



**Nipawin Bible College**  
**TH2103 Theology of Worship**  
**Winter 2022**  
**3 Credits**  
**Instructor: Dr. Paul Smith**  
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### ***COURSE DESCRIPTION***

In many North American churches, “worship” has become synonymous with singing. This is a departure both from the early Christian understanding of worship as well as the historic Protestant understanding of worship. This course will help equip students to regain a more comprehensive understanding of worship by examining the biblical and theological underpinnings of worship from a historically Protestant point of view, inviting us into a deeper worship of the Triune God.

Note: This is a 3-hour course which meets for only 2 hours/week. Extra out-of-class work has been added to make up for the 1-hour/week difference.

### ***COURSE TEXTBOOKS***

Block, Daniel, *For the Glory of God: Recovering a Biblical Theology of Worship*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2014.

### ***COURSE OBJECTIVES***

By the end of the course students will be able to...

1. Desire to joyfully worship the Triune God
2. Defend either the normative principle or regulative principle of worship
3. Reproduce some of the key biblical, theological, and historical evidence for worship.
4. Apply biblical, theological, and historical evidence to decisions about worship.

### ***COURSE ASSIGNMENTS***

#### **A. Block Quizzes (20%)**

Quizzes will normally consist of 10 multiple choice questions covering the Block reading. They are NOT open book. *Quizzes measure how well the student meets Course Objective 3.*

**DUE: See the course schedule**

**B. Worship Reading (15%)**

Students will read five select passages on worship. For each passage read, students will 1) Summarize the passage in 4-6 sentences; 2) Give a question the student has based on the reading; 3) Give a concrete, personal application to the student's own life, which is clearly linked to the reading. *Worship Readings measure how well the student meets Course Objective 1-4.*

**C. DUE: See the course schedule**

**D. Normative or Regulative Principle Paper (20%)**

The student will write a minimum of a four (full) page persuasive paper arguing for either the normative or regulative principle of worship. The paper must contain at least six sources, of which at least one must be an article and at least one from a source predating 1900 CE. *This paper measures how well the students meet Course Objectives 2.*

**DUE: February 4**

**E. Case Study Paper (20%)**

The student will choose to write a minimum of four (full) page paper selected from three given options. The paper will examine the given scenario and argue for a proposed course of action. The paper must contain at least six sources. The paper will be assessed based on properly identifying the main issue(s) involved and the quality of arguments made to support the proposed course of action.

The following are the paper options:

- 1) You are an adult volunteer chaperoning a church youth trip to the Rocky Mountains. One hike leads you to a scenic overlook. While you are stopping to rest and take pictures, someone comments on the scene bringing them closer to God. One student suggests that they respond in worship by taking the Eucharist/Communion. Someone brings out pretzels and a sports drink and asks you (as the only adult present) to use them to celebrate the Eucharist with them. Due February 18<sup>th</sup>
- 2) You are in Israel with a group from your church. While at the Jordan River, one of the group says "I am scheduled to be baptized in our church when we get back, but why wait? Why don't you baptize me here in the Jordan River." Before you have a chance to say anything, another group member says, "I know that I was baptized when I was ten, but it would just be really meaningful to me if you would baptize me in the Jordan River just like Jesus was." Due March 11<sup>th</sup>

- 3) You are part of a group that is consulting with Inuit believers. After reading “Towards an Indigenous Theology of Worship in Alaska: A Study of Recent Efforts to Contextualize the Art of Yupik Eskimo Dancing” (also found in your course packet) the Inuit believers asked you whether they should incorporate Yup’ik dance into their regular Sunday service worship service as part of contextualizing their worship to God in a culturally appropriate way and if so, how (You may want to watch some Yup’ik dancing videos found online). Due March 25<sup>th</sup>

*This paper measure how well the students meet Course Objectives 3 and 4.*

**DUE: See Course Schedule**

**F. Exam (25%)**

The exam will cover in-class material. The student may use a non-study Bible during the exam but have no other help. *The Exam measure how well the student meets Course Objectives 3.*

**Exam: Exam Week**

All written assignments are to be typed in accordance to the guidelines in Kate L. Turabian’s *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, 9th ed. (Chicago, IL: The University of Chicago Press, 2018) for papers. Assignments will be graded on the basis of content, clarity, grammar, and spelling.

**ATTENDANCE POLICY:**

- Refer to the NBC Handbook 2021-2022

**LATE ASSIGNMENT POLICY:**

- Refer to the NBC Handbook 2021-2022

**Reading: 444 pages**

**Writing: 8 pages**

**COURSE LECTURES AND ASSIGNMENT SCHEDULE:**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Session Topic</b>	<b>Assignment Due</b>
Jan. 17	Introduction: What? Why? How?	
Jan. 24	Baptism	Worship Reading #1: “You are What you Love: To Worship is Human” Block Quiz 1-2
Jan. 31	Baptism	Required Paper Block Quiz 3-4
Feb. 7	Eucharist	Worship Reading #2: “Mystagogical Catechesis 4-5” Block Quiz 5
Feb. 14	Eucharist	Case Study Option #1 Block Quiz 6
Feb. 28	Prayer	Worship Reading #3: “The Sole Priesthood of Christ, the Mediator of Worship” Block Quiz 7-8
Mar. 7	Preaching	Case Study Option #2
Mar. 14	Singing	Worship Reading #4: “Towards an Indigenous Theology of Worship in Alaska: A Study of Recent Efforts to Contextualize the Art of Yupik Eskimo Dancing” Block Quiz 9-10
Mar. 21	Cross-Cultural Worship	Case Study Option #3 Block Quiz 11-12
Mar. 28	Space and Time	Worship Reading #5: “Sermon on Lent I” Block Quiz 13
	Exam	

### ***SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY***

Boersma, Hans. *Eucharistic Participation: The Reconfiguration of Time and Space*. Vancouver: Regent College Publishing, 2021.

Bradshaw, Paul and John Melloh, ed. *Foundations in Ritual Studies: A Reader for Students of Christian Worship*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2007.

Johnson, Maxwell. *The Rites of Christian Initiation: Their Evolution and Interpretation*. Revised ed. Collegeville, MN: Liturgical Press, 2007.

*The 1662 Book of Common Prayer: International Edition*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2021.

White, James. *A Brief History of Christian Worship*. Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press, 1993.