

**CHRISTIAN WORSHIP THROUGH THE CENTURIES**  
**GH231AA**  
**DIVISION OF GENERAL STUDIES**  
**EMMANUEL BIBLE COLLEGE**

**WINTER SEMESTER 2010**

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**EBC MISSION STATEMENT**

Emmanuel Bible College provides post secondary Christian Education equipping women and men to think, live and serve and lead as mature Christians in the Church and in the world.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course is an overview of the history of Christian worship, from the early Church to modern times, comprising significant theological developments about the person, nature, and work of the triune God, as well as the Lord's Table, baptism, the Christian calendar, the use of psalms, hymns, and other music, as expressed in diverse worship traditions.

**COURSE TEXT BOOKS**

1. Webber, Robert. *Worship Old and New*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1994.
2. White, James F. *A Brief History of Christian Worship*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1993.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

Through lectures, reading assignments, classroom participation, and class projects the goal of this course is:

1. To gain an appreciation for the rich and diverse historical traditions of the Orthodox, Roman Catholic, and Protestant traditions;
2. To become familiar and comfortable with articulating worship history and church traditions;
3. To understand the need for sound theology to govern worship praxis;
4. To practice various expressions of worship, drawing from church worship history.

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

### **Reading Abstract**

Read *Worship Old and New* by Webber. Then choose 2 or 3 key themes/ideas set forth by Webber and interact with them. The abstract is not to be a book report (summarizing the book) but it is to be a personal reflection on how the author's ideas have shaped your worship philosophy.

Draw from your own experiences and biblical reflection. Don't be concerned with having a tight, neatly packaged position. Try to explore alternative ideas and even challenge your own previously held assumptions.

The abstract is to be 8 pages in length and is due on March 5<sup>th</sup>.

### **Class Trip Reflections**

On two occasions, we will be embarking on class trips. The first will be a journey to Christ the Saviour Antiochian Orthodox Church and the second will be a trip to a community of Studite Fathers in Woodstock, ON.

After reflecting on your experiences, write a report that demonstrates thoughtful engagement with the two traditions. What did you learn from both contexts? Did your experiences have any influence on your current worship praxis? How were these communities similar? How were they different? Respond to these questions and others as they arise.

**The reflection is to be 8 pages. It is due on March 26<sup>th</sup>.**

### **Worship History Presentation**

Choose an aspect of Christian worship that interests you and trace its development throughout the history of the church. Prepare a 40-minute class presentation that demonstrates your knowledge of the subject matter.

Consider the theological roots of the item being discussed, the function it served in worship, and whether it is understood and practiced in the same way today. You are welcome to focus on one stream of Christianity or examine the practice throughout a variety of Christian denominations.

For example, you may choose to research one of the visual arts, such as painting or architecture, and investigate how that art was used throughout the history of the Eastern Orthodox Church or the Roman Catholic Church.

Presentation dates will be assigned during the first class. A 3-4 page summary should accompany the presentation and be submitted to the instructor at the same time.

## **Research Paper**

Begin with your current worship tradition. Write a research paper that explores the current state and history of that tradition as it relates to the sacraments, music, and other worship elements.

Begin with the historical context and trace the development of worship practices right up to the present day.

In terms of sources, use hymnals, histories, and other information that pertain to your worship tradition.

Since this is a research paper, please refer to the EBC manual for writing term papers (Cite It Right) and use Chicago Manual of Style (CMS) when formatting footnotes and bibliography.

**The total paper length is to be 12 pages. The due date is April 10<sup>th</sup>.**

## **Class Attendance**

Students are expected to attend all classes in which they are registered. They may miss one class per course without academic penalty. Beyond this, an academic penalty of 6% per class missed will be applied. Students missing more than three classes in a course (regardless of reason) will automatically fail the course. Students wishing to be exempted from this policy due to extenuating circumstances must meet with the Academic Dean to document and verify those circumstances. For the purposes of guidelines established by the Ministry of Training Colleges and Universities, students absent for five consecutive days of their scheduled classes, without valid and documented reason, are considered to have withdrawn from their academic programs.

## **COURSE GRADING**

Reading Abstract – 20%  
Reflection on Class Trips – 20%  
Oral Presentation – 25%  
Research Paper – 35%

Note: All assignments *must* be completed to receive a passing grade. Late assignments will receive a grade deduction of 2% per calendar day.

## **COURSE OUTLINE**

**January 15<sup>th</sup>**

Course Introduction & Worship in the New Testament

**January 22<sup>nd</sup>**

*Read White, chapter I*

Worship in dangerous times: the first three centuries

**January 29<sup>th</sup>**

*Read White, chapter II*

Worship in the Empire: 300 to 600 AD

**February 5<sup>th</sup>**

Exploring the Eastern Orthodox Tradition: On location at Christ the Saviour  
Antiochian Orthodox Church

**February 12<sup>th</sup>**

*Read White, chapter III*

Worship in the Middle Ages: the 5<sup>th</sup> through the 16<sup>th</sup> centuries

**February 19<sup>th</sup>**

*Read White, chapter IV*

Worship in the Reformation churches

**February 26<sup>th</sup> - Reading Week – No Class**

**March 5<sup>th</sup>**

*Webber Abstract Due*

A modern monastic community: a visit with the Studite Fathers in Woodstock,  
ON.

**March 12<sup>th</sup>**

*Read White, chapter V*

*Reflection Due*

Post-Reformation developments in worship: 1600's to 1900's

**March 19<sup>th</sup>**

Class Presentations

**March 26<sup>th</sup>**

Class Presentations

**April 2<sup>nd</sup> – Good Friday – No Class**

**April 10<sup>th</sup>**

*Read White, chapter VI*

*Research Paper Due*

The future of worship: ancient-future worship and the emerging church

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