

Syllabus for  
**MUS 309–Biblical Foundations of Worship**  
3 Credit Hours  
Spring 2024  
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I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Provides a Biblical, theological, and practical examination of worship and prophetic leadership in the ministry of the Church. Through practical, contemporary demonstration of this Biblical concept, which was demonstrated in Old Testament Hebrew worship, the life of Christ and the New Testament Church, students will learn the practices and concepts of worship throughout 2,000 years of Church history.

II. STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES FOR THIS COURSE

As a result of successfully completing this course, the student will be able to do the following:

- A. Establish scriptural validity for the ministry of praise and worship.
- B. Participate in the planning and execution of a worship service, valuing the biblical foundation for practice, and integrating values adopted or altered while in the course.
- C. Value the practice of thanksgiving, both individually and corporately.
- D. Trace the continuation of the purposes and practices of praise and worship ministries in church history.
- E. Evaluate the effectiveness of organization, and the impact on participants, of a worship service.
- F. Become acquainted with the practices of and the differences between praise and worship in the church throughout its history.
- G. Develop a greater walk of faith in ministry and a more powerful discipline of prayer for the ministry of praise and worship.
- H. Synthesize biblical teaching with practice.
- I. Conduct original work in exegeting passages that deal with a common sub-topic within worship, assessing the appropriateness of biblical passages not mentioned in class.

III. Associated Program

This course meets degree completion requirements for the following program: Worship Arts

- A. Student will demonstrate the ability to competently lead worship by playing and/or singing.
- B. Student will design a worship service which includes music relevant to the pastoral theme and message.
- C. Student will design a year-long plan for worship based on the traditional Church Calendar and incorporating various worship artforms.

IV. University Outcomes

This course aligns with the following University Outcomes indicated on the last page

- A. Spiritual Integrity
- B. Personal Resilience
- C. Intellectual Pursuit

- D. Global Engagement
- E. Bold Vision

V. TEXTBOOKS AND OTHER LEARNING RESOURCES

Required Materials:

Heflin, Ruth. *Glory: Experiencing the Atmosphere of Heaven*. Hagerstown, MD: McDougal Publishing, 10<sup>th</sup> printing, 2000. ISBN: I-884369-00-6

Whaley, Vernon. *Called to Worship: The Biblical Foundations of our Response to God's Call*. Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 2009. ISBN: 97814016800084

V. POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

A. University Policies and Procedures

1. Attendance at each class or laboratory is mandatory at Oral Roberts University. Excessive absences can reduce a student's grade or deny credit for the course.
2. Students and faculty at Oral Roberts University must adhere to all laws addressing the ethical use of others' materials, whether it is in the form of print, electronic, video, multimedia, or computer software. Plagiarism and other forms of cheating involve both lying and stealing and are violations of ORU's Honor Code: "I will not cheat or plagiarize; I will do my own academic work and will not inappropriately collaborate with other students on assignments." Plagiarism is usually defined as copying someone else's ideas, words, or sentence structure and submitting them as one's own. Other forms of academic dishonesty include (but are not limited to) the following:
  - a. Submitting another's work as one's own or colluding with someone else and submitting that work as though it were his or hers;
  - b. Failing to meet group assignment or project requirements while claiming to have done so;
  - c. Failing to cite sources used in a paper;
  - d. Creating results for experiments, observations, interviews, or projects that were not done;
  - e. Receiving or giving unauthorized help on assignments.By submitting an assignment in any form, the student gives permission for the assignment to be checked for plagiarism, either by submitting the work for electronic verification or by other means. Penalties for any of the above infractions may result in disciplinary action including failing the assignment or failing the course or expulsion from the University, as determined by department and University guidelines.
3. Students are to be in compliance with university, school, and departmental policies regarding Whole Person Assessment requirements. Students should consult the WPA handbooks for requirements regarding general education and the students' majors.
  - a. The penalty for not submitting electronically or for incorrectly submitting an artifact is a zero for that assignment.

- b. By submitting an assignment, the student gives permission for the assignment to be assessed electronically.
- B. Department Policies and Procedures – See Music Student Handbook.
- C. Course Policies and Procedures:

**Evaluation Procedures = 100%**

1. At the beginning of each class session, a **One Minute Quiz** is given over the reading assignment (**2 pts. each = max 10%**)
2. **Active Class Participation (30%)**. This includes in-class discussion and engagement with Professor and fellow students (**10%**). It also includes your assignment to design and lead worship at the beginning of class (**10%**). (Schedule TBD) Finally, students will participate in several ‘field trips’ to local Tulsa churches to engage in worship practices unique to the denomination visited (**10%**).
3. **Midterm Project: Building a Worship Service (15%)**
4. **Final Project: Create a Year-Long Worship Plan (20%)**
5. **Final Term paper (25%)**  
The student writes a 10-page paper tracing God’s plan for worship from Genesis through Revelation. The paper, titled “The Story of Worship,” employs class notes, materials suggested or recommended in class, recordings or any other materials on Internet websites, and church or denominational publications and resource materials. It is composed in MLA format and must include references and a bibliography with 10-12 sources. The Music Department MLA manual is on reserve in the Music Library for reference.

## VI. COURSE CALENDAR & READING ASSIGNMENTS

### Subject to Change:

- Week 1: Introduction to Course
- Week 2: Read Heflin, *Praise* chapter
- Week 3: Read Heflin, *Worship* chapter
- Week 4: Read Heflin, *Glory* chapter
- Old Testament Principles of Worship:
- Week 5: Read Whaley, Introduction + Chpts 1-5
- Week 6: Read Whaley, Chpts 6-10
- Week 7: Read Whaley, Chpts 11-15
- New Testament Principles of Worship:
- Week 8: Read Whaley, *New Testament Principles of Worship*, p. 225 – and Chpt 16
- Week 9: Read Whaley, Chpts 17-18
- Week 10: Read Whaley, Chpts 19-21
- Weeks 11-12: Worship Throughout Church History. Reading TBD
- Weeks 13-15: Worship: In Search of the Real Thing. Reading TBD

## Program Outcome Alignment: WORSHIP LEADERSHIP

This program contributes to the University outcomes as indicated below:

**Significant Contribution** – Addresses the outcome directly and includes targeted assessment.

**Moderate Contribution** – Addresses the outcome directly or indirectly and includes some assessment.

**Minimal Contribution** – Addresses the outcome indirectly and includes little or no assessment.

**No Contribution** – Does not address the outcome.

Program Outcome alignment with University Outcomes		Significant	Moderate	Minimal	None
Outcome 1	Students will apply a Biblical and Christian Worldview when creating, performing, teaching, worshiping, and analyzing a variety of styles of music.	X			
<b>Personal Resilience</b>					
Outcome 2	Students will demonstrate active engagement and self-motivation in the preparation for recitals, classroom teaching, worship sets, research, audio projects, and presentations in music.	X			
<b>Intellectual Pursuit</b>					
Outcome 3 NASM 8.B.2.a-b	Students will develop the technical performance skills for artistic expression in at least one major performance area at a level appropriate for the major or concentration.	X			
Outcome 4 NASM 8.B.1.c	Students will develop ability to read at sight with fluency in their major performance area relevant to professional standards for the particular music concentration.			X	
Outcome 5 NASM 8.B.2.a	Students will develop <b>aural skills</b> to identify intervals, melodic structures, chord qualities, and harmonic progressions.			X	
Outcome 6 NASM 8.B.2.a	Students will demonstrate an understanding of the theory, harmonic progressions, and forms of a variety of styles of music when studying, listening, performing, and teaching music.			X	
Outcome 7 NASM 8.B.4	Students will acquire and develop the basic knowledge of music history and repertoire through the present time for a variety of Western music cultures and styles.		X		
Outcome 10 Worship Leadership	Students will demonstrate how earlier practices impact modern worship in the 21st Century Church through the study of historical worship elements beginning with the Old Testament.	X			
<b>Global Engagement</b>					
Outcome 8	Students will engage and analyze music from a wide variety of musical periods including Western and non-Western musical traditions (and worship).		X		
Outcome 11 Worship Leadership	Students will demonstrate their understanding of ethnodoxology and the creation of hymnology in a non-Western vernacular.			X	
<b>Bold Vision</b>					
Outcome 9 NASM 8.B.1.f	Students will demonstrate vision, leadership, and artistry in performance through expression in phrasing, dynamics, articulations, and accepted practice for musical works in a variety of settings including the stage, classroom, therapeutic settings, and worship services.	X			
Outcome 12 Worship Leadership	Students will demonstrate leadership skills and vision through planning worship sets for services.	X			