

Worship And Special Services
Institute of Theological Study-Winebrenner Seminary
Professor: Pastor Holly Parks, MATS

Session: Spring 2025

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COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course will provide an opportunity to study and evaluate the theological, practical and philosophical background of worship in the church. After taking an in depth look at Scripture and church history, we will develop our individual philosophy for our corporate gatherings. We will learn to curate services that are thoughtful, creative, excellent and worshipful. We will study all of this with unity as our ultimate goal in our lives, philosophies and corporate worship.

COURSE PURPOSE:

The purpose of this course is to give a greater understanding to the reason that we gather corporately. In doing so, we will be able to curate services that point people to Jesus. We will also understand that there are countless ways to do this and each gathering is unique. So, we will grow in grace and unity while we learn to listen and understand various thoughts.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND EVALUATION:

-Reading and Participation: There will be two assigned books during this class period. You will be asked to estimate what percentage of the reading you completed. These readings partnered with in-class discussions will make up 20% of your score.

-Journal Entries: Each class session will begin with a journal entry. At the end of the class sessions, you will submit your journal entries. This will make up 10% of your final score.

-Service Order: This document (explained below) will be worth 20% of your final score.

-Creative Elements Service Order: This document (explained below) will be worth 30% of your final score.

-Special Services Script/Order: Choosing funeral or wedding, create a script of the service based on external resources, experiences, preferred Scripture, etc. This will be worth 20% of your final score.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

How To Worship Jesus Christ, by Joseph Carroll. Moody Publishers, August 1, 2013.

Holy Roar, by Chris Tomlin and Darren Whitehead. Thomas Nelson, October 23, 2018

	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4
DUE	Complete the entire Sherrill text prior to class.	Service Order Due at the beginning of class	-Complete "Holy Roar" -Creative Order of Service" due at the beginning of class	Turn in your "special services" script prior to class.
7:00p-10:00p	-Introductions -Syllabus Review -Journal Entry, -Lecture: "First Things First"	-Discuss and share service orders completed -Journal Entry -Lecture: "Philosophy of Worship" -Discuss next week's assignment	-Journal Entry; -Lecture: "Service Planning, Creating a Flow" -Discuss and Share creative elements order of service	-Journal Entry -Lecture: Special Services

ASSIGNMENT DETAILS:

- A. **Reading and Participation:** Participation will be a large part of this class. There will be discussions, questions to be asked and answered, thoughts to be processed and assignments to be shared. Your participation will be expected and encouraged as part of your final grade.

There are two textbooks required for this class. The first book, "How To Worship Jesus Christ" is a small book that should be completed prior to our first class together. The second book, "Holy Roar", will be due prior to our third class session. However, you will be using this book to inform your assignment due on that same date. So, start reading it early! At the end of the class, you will be asked what percentage of the two books you completed. This will be your best guess/honor system. So, just try to estimate the percentage of both books that you completed. That percentage will be paired with your participation score to make up 20% of your final score.

- B. **Journal Entries:** Every class will begin with a writing prompt/question. Each student will take 5-7 minutes to journal their thoughts on the question posed. At

the end of the class, students will submit their journal entries. This will make up 10% of your final score. It is recommended that you journal in a Word or Google doc so that you can easily submit to the professor on the last day of class. You can compile all journal entries within the same document.

C. Service Order: Each student will submit a document outlining the order of service based on the church attended the weekend prior to class. Whether you attend in person or online, simply list each service element in the order they occurred during the service. Make sure to include the name of the church and date attended. Following the service order, write a 3-5 paragraph summary of your thoughts regarding the flow. (i.e. was the flow beneficial to your worship, were there distractions that hindered your worship, what did you appreciate, etc.) It is not usually helpful to enter a worship service with a critical eye. However, for the sake of this assignment, I am hoping that in the long run it will be beneficial for us in the future! This assignment will make up 20% of your final score.

D. Creative Elements Service Order: This assignment will ask you to create a service flow using the text, "Holy Roar", as your *inspiration*. You can use similar structures to the service orders that you submitted previously. However, these are things that need to be included beyond a traditional Sunday morning service:

1. Each service should be about 60-75 minutes in length
2. Each service should contain *at least* one creative element (communion, baptism, call and response, public reading of Scripture, prayer, story telling, dramatic elements, etc.)
3. There needs to be a constant, well thought out theme for your service that runs from the beginning to the end.
4. There does not need to be a sermon, although you can include a short devotional (10-20 minutes) if that helps solidify your theme.

This assignment will make up 30% of your final score.

E. Special Services/Script Service Order: You will use various resources to craft a wedding or funeral service. Based on church tradition, there are many resources available that lay out service orders and scripts that pastors use to walk through these services. However, many times these scripts are better if we tweak portions of them so they are specific to our needs. Each student will develop a scenario (blended family marriage, elderly saint passing away, death of a child, first marriage, wedding of a non-believer, etc.) You will then craft a service order script based on this scenario. Your document submitted will have a description of the scenario followed by the script you created. This will make up 20% of your final score.

CHEATING:

Any act of deceit, falsehood or stealing by unethically copying or using someone else's work in an academic situation is strictly prohibited. A student found guilty of plagiarism or cheating will receive an "F" (zero) for that particular paper, assignment or exam. Absolutely no use of AI will be tolerated.

GRADING SCALE

100-95 A	75-70 C
94-90 A-	69-65 C-
89-87.5 B+	64-60 D+
87-83.5 B	59-54 D
83-80 B-	53-49 D-
79-76 C+	Below 49 F