



**A MINISTRY OF AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES OF INDIANA AND KENTUCKY
IN COOPERATION WITH ABC-GI ALONG WITH SPONSORING
AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES & ASSOCIATIONS**

C203 Introduction to Christian Worship

July 15, July 29, August 12, September 9, 2017

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Description and Purpose

This class will provide students with an introduction to Christian worship. Class participants will explore the nature of Christian worship by examining the heritage of a variety of worship traditions and some of the contemporary issues around worship in the church today. The class will provide an opportunity for students to reflect upon and experiment with worship design and leadership in their own ministry context.

Tentative Daily Class Schedule

Arrive 8:45am

9:00am	–	10:15am	Session A
10:15am	–	10:30am	BREAK
10:30am	–	11:45am	Session B
11:45am	–	12:30pm	LUNCH
12:30pm	–	1:45pm	Session C
1:45pm	–	2:00pm	BREAK
2:00pm	–	3:15pm	Session D

Class Location

Switzerland County Technology
& Education Center
708 W Seminary St
Vevay, IN 47043

Required Texts

1—Frankland, Dinelle. *His Story, Our Response: What the Bible Says About Worship*, College Press Publishing Co., 2008.

2—Cherry, Constance M. *The Worship Architect: A Blueprint for Designing Culturally Relevant and Biblically Faithful Services*, Baker Academic, 2010.

Student Expectations

1. Attend all sessions whenever possible.
2. Contact the instructor in advance, if you will be absent.
3. Be prepared for each class session.
4. Participate in class discussions and exercises.
5. Support and encourage other students in the class.
6. Communicate with the instructor, if you have any questions or concerns.

Please bring the following to each class session:

- Textbooks
- Good English Translation of the Bible
- Notebook (for handouts, assignments and taking notes)
- 2 pens/pencils (electronic device to take notes, if preferred)
- Syllabus, handouts & assignments

Requirements to Earn Credit

1. Completion of reading and written assignments.
2. Participation in class discussions and exercises.
3. Read additional articles or blogs as may be assigned.
4. Bring textbooks and completed assignments to each class session.
5. Attend at least 15 of the 20 hours of classroom time.
6. If absent one class session, earn an excused absence by doing the following:
 - a. contact the instructor about your absence (preferably before the absence, but at least within 72 hours of the absence);
 - b. obtain notes from two students who did participate in any class session you missed;
 - c. request a copy of the PowerPoint presentation(s) for the class session you missed in note format (3 slides per page); of course, this only applies if the instructor uses PowerPoint in the class session you missed;
 - d. complete a special assignment given by your instructor in addition to regular assignments; this is usually an enriching experience that will most likely pertain to the class session the student missed in some way.

Class Sessions

July 15, 2017 (Session 1)

Write a brief definition of your understanding of Christian worship. Write this definition before you read the reading assignments. Do not consult a dictionary, textbooks, or any other resources. This definition is to be no longer than one paragraph.

(All written assignments are to be typed using a standard 12-point font, double-spaced, and printed to submit in class.)

(Class Session Information continued on the next page)

CONTINUED: Class Sessions-July 15, 2017 (Session 1)

Frankland: Read Chapters 1 & 2. Respond to the reflection questions at the end of the chapters as follows:

Chap. 1: Answer, in writing, any three of the five questions. Number your reflections. (1 pg., max.)

Chap. 2: Be prepared to discuss questions #2 and #3 in class.

Cherry: Read the introduction (OK to skim the intro.) and chapters 1-3. Respond to the following questions:

Chap. 1, p. 17: Reflect on the summarized list in the Conclusion. What among the foundational themes of worship captures your attention? Share a new insight that results from consideration of these themes. What do you find in this set of themes that serves as an encouragement for your congregation's worship? Write a brief account of your reflections. (1 pg., max.)

Chap. 2, p. 32-33: Review the ten practical suggestions for Practicing Christocentric Worship. Be prepared to discuss in class brief examples from your congregation's worship of ways some of these suggestions are or are not represented.

Chap. 3, p. 52: Read the Scripture texts on the list; think about the texts as directed. Be prepared to discuss the texts in class.

Consider your context: Your context is your church or other ministry in which you lead or participate in worship and the community in which it is situated. Prepare a concise summary of your context. Briefly describe the worship space, the makeup of the congregation and/or community, the worship leadership (both clergy and lay leadership), and other details that help sketch a picture of your corporate worship context. Share your observations aloud in class. Submit a written summary in either paragraph or bullet point format. (1 pg., max.) [Choose the most significant elements to include in the written summary, if you are pressed for space.]

July 29, 2017 (Session 2)

Frankland: Read Chapters 3-4.

Chap. 3: Be prepared to discuss the concept of *covenant* in class. Notice in the reading the components of covenant structure. Read the Scriptures and note the indications of covenant relationship in each of them. You may want to take some notes to track your observations and insights in preparation for our group work with this elemental and vital aspect of worship.

See p. 101, question #1. Think about this question as part of your reflection on God's provision of covenant.

Chap. 4: Refer to Chapter 3 – What connections can you make between God's provision of covenant and the incarnation? What connections do you observe between the worship practices of the tabernacle, the temple, the synagogue, and the early church? Write your observations. (1-2 pgs.)

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CONTINUED: Class Sessions-July 29, 2017 (Session 2)

Cherry: Read Chapters 4-8.

Notice the purpose of the fourfold order of worship. Note the many possibilities for shaping the components of the fourfold order. We will discuss and demonstrate aspects of these components in class. [**Note:** The fourfold order is Not a worship style.]

Evaluate a bulletin, an order of service, or a worship plan (depending on what variable applies to your congregation) from your church's Sunday morning or other major corporate worship. Consider the order of worship in light of the fourfold order of worship, using the guidelines given to the class in Session 1.

Write your observations in paragraph or bullet point format. (1-2 pgs.) Attach a bulletin or copy of it to the writing you turn in to the instructor. Bring additional bulletins, etc., or copies thereof for each member of the class.

Scripture Presentation: Choose a brief Scripture text from the list of possibilities provided during the first class session. Prepare to present the Scripture in class, according to the guidelines given in Session 1.

August 12, 2017 (Session 3)

Frankland: Read chapters 5-6 and the Conclusion

Chap 5: Think about the concepts of confession and forgiveness and how they are offered in corporate worship. Use the Scripture texts printed or referenced in the reading for your devotional / prayer practice this week.

Chap. 6: Compare the material in this chapter to Chapter 8 in *The Worship Architect*. Keep in mind as you read this chapter that God's people are sent out from worship for service in the name of Christ.

Cherry: Read chapters 9-12.

Chap. 9: Compose or construct a prayer: Choose a type of prayer from the material on p. 139-144, or another prayer of your choosing. (Note: if you choose a prayer of confession, you also could refer to *His Story, Our Response*, chap. 5.) Write the prayer, or write an outline for an extemporaneous prayer. Keep in mind the recommendations on p. 146-147.

Chap. 10 -11: We will give considerable attention to the material on music in worship through class discussion and in-class activities.

Chap. 12: Whether or not your congregation overtly employs an emphasis on the Christian year, familiarize yourself with the shape of the Christian year and the main emphases in each component. We will explore in class ways the Christian year does and can shape Christian worship.

(Class Session Information continued on the next page)

September 9, 2017 (Session 4)

Cherry: Read chapters 13-15; Appendix material

Chap. 13: Use the descriptions of worship styles as well as the chart that begins on p. 240 to identify your congregation's worship style. If you named a style in your context description (Session 1), was it the same style that you have chosen upon reading this chapter? We may have a brief discussion in class.

Chap. 14: Read thoughtfully to gain an understanding of convergence worship. Use the chart on p. 252 for a helpful way to raise awareness of the term.

Chap. 15: Read for use in the exercises to follow.

Write a brief definition of your personal understanding of Christian worship. Maximum length is one paragraph. Be concise and precise. Consider your definition in light of awareness and learnings from the course.

On the rest of the page, summarize how your definition is the same or different from your first definition at the beginning of the course. (1 pg., max.)

Design a worship service using your expanded awareness, knowledge, and understanding from the reading and class sessions. Instructions and details will be given in Session 2. Instructions will include guidelines and considerations for the planning process and suggestions for presenting portions of the service in class. There will be a written component for this assignment.