



**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

April 13, May 4, May 18 & June 8, 2019

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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

Franklin College
Johnson Center for Fine Arts
(Branigin Blvd & Grizzly Dr)
Room 103
Campus Address: 101 Branigin Blvd
Franklin, IN 46131
(Location for May 18 – Second BC 400 W Madison St)

Required Text

Cherry, Constance M. *The Worship Architect: A Blueprint for Designing Culturally Relevant and Biblically Faithful Services*, Baker Academic, 2010. ISBN-10: 080103874X

This title is also available in the Spanish edition for students to use if they desire to do so:
Cherry, Constance M. *Arquitecto de la adoración: Una guía para planificar cultos bíblicamente fieles y culturalment relevantes* (Spanish Edition), CLIE: Gld edition, 2018. ISBN-10: 8417131000.

Both editions can be found through Amazon (www.amazon.com) and Christian Book Distributors (www.christianbooks.com).

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; additionally, a Spanish translation of the Bible may be brought, if desired.
- 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

April 13, 2019 (Session 1)

Write a brief definition of Christian worship as you understand it. 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.

(NOTE: All written assignments are to be typed, if possible, using a standard 12-point font, double-spaced, and printed to submit in class. If typed/printed submissions are not possible, neat, legible handwriting is acceptable.)

(Class Session Information continued on the next page)

CONTINUED: Class Session-April 13, 2019 (Session 1)

Cherry: Read the introduction (it is OK to skim the intro.) and chapters 1-3.

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. You may also summarize your answers in bullet point format. (1 pg., max.)

Chap. 2, pgs. 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, pgs. 42-45: To think about: which way or ways listed do you or your church leadership plan your worship? What other approaches do you use that may not be listed? We will share observations as part of the class discussion.

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.]

May 4, 2019 (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 other order of service 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 in Session 1. Prepare to present the Scripture in class, according to provided guidelines.

May 18, 2019 (Session 3)

Cherry: Read chapters 9-12. You are invited to read all of the material in these chapters. The main focus, however, is on the sections listed in the segments that follow:

Chap. 9: (You may omit or skim pgs. 130-138; please read the material that precedes and follows the optional section.)

CONTINUED: Class Session-May 18, 2019 (Session 3)

Compose or construct a prayer: Choose a type of prayer from the material on pgs. 139-144, or another prayer of your choosing. Write the prayer, or write an outline for an extemporaneous prayer. Keep in mind the recommendations on pgs. 146-147.

Chap. 10 -11:

Chap. 10 – Read pgs. 153-156.

Chap. 11 – Read pgs. 181-186. (See this information in chart form on pgs. 202-203).

Secondarily / optionally, read pgs. 186-199, if your study schedule permits.

We will consider some aspects of the material on music through class discussion and activities.

Chap. 12: Read pgs. 207-209; 211-217 (top).

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.

June 8, 2019 (Session 4)

Cherry: Read chapters 13-15; Appendix material.

Chap. 13: Read at least pgs. 223-230. Then skim pgs. 231-239 **or** see the material in chart form on pgs. 240-241.

Use the descriptions of worship styles and the chart 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 pgs. 243-246 and the paragraphs on pgs. 250 and 254 that contain the bullet points. 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 pgs. 266 (bottom) – 270.

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. (See separate Instructions and details distributed in Session 2.) Instructions will include guidelines and considerations for the planning process and suggestions for presenting portions of the service in class. This assignment will have a written component.