

**THEOLOGY OF WORSHIP  
MS 3XW3/6XW6**

Wendy J. Porter, Ph.D.  
[porterw@mcmaster.ca](mailto:porterw@mcmaster.ca)

**Fall Semester 2016  
Wednesdays 1:30–3:20 p.m.**

Class commences: Wednesday, September 14, 2016

No Class (Reading Week): October 12, 2016

Last class: Wednesday, December 7, 2016

**Specializations:**

CT (Christian Thought and History)

CW (Christian Worldview)

PS (Pastoral Studies)

**Description of this Course**

Each Christian worshiper operates from a particular theological perspective in their worship, whether they realize it or are able to articulate what that theological perspective is or not. Many Christian worshipers still have not actively observed and researched and thought deeply about worship and the God we worship in order to develop their own understanding of the theology of worship. This Theology of Worship course attempts to bring us face to face with the issues of worship in such a way that each student will begin to understand both the broad and more specific historical and theological backgrounds to Christian worship, to their own traditions of worship, and to the worship of believers around them. It also should challenge the student to become intentional about developing the best possible understanding and articulation of a theology of Christian worship, both for themselves as worshipers, and for those that they encounter and influence or teach, whether formally or informally. This course is designed for all Christians who are interested in studying the nature of Christian worship in relation to the God who invites, facilitates, and receives our worship; in relation to his Son, Jesus, who makes our worship possible; in relation to the Spirit who longs to fill our worship; and in relation to one another, as we attempt to fulfill this calling together. In the process, we will explore some of those things that have jeopardized Christian worship in history, and may challenge it in the present and future.

**Knowing**

- Biblical foundations of worship
- Historical rootedness and trajectory of worship
- Practical manifestations of worship

**Being**

- Shaped by Scripture
- Taught through history

- Formed by real encounter with the Holy

### **Doing**

- Reading and research
- Listening to teachers from history, to cultural voices, to one another, to the Spirit
- Applying learning and insights in creative and productive projects or papers

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### **Specializations for this Course**

Specializations are made up of a minimum of six approved one-term core courses (18 units) for the MDiv or MTS, and do not have to fall within a single division. Students are encouraged to tailor their specializations to their own needs, in consultation with their advisors. There is a default specialization for the MDiv and for the MTS, as well as the opportunity (in consultation with the Academic Dean) to create one's own specialization suited to unique ministry needs.

**CT = Christian Thought and History.** This specialization includes courses in theology, Christian history, historical theology, Christian worldview, and related approved courses. This specialization is designed for all forms of ministry emphasizing Christian theology and history, including preaching and teaching pastors. At the end of their program, students in this specialization will be able to:

- Develop a comprehensive knowledge of key figures and movements in Christian history.
- Develop a comprehensive knowledge of key figures and movements in Christian theology.
- Demonstrate sensitivity to issues in evangelical thought, history, and practice.
- Apply the lessons of Christian history to contemporary life and ministry.
- Apply an evangelical theological perspective to vital matters of Christian life, thought, and ministry.

**CW = Christian Worldview** (default specialization for the MTS). This specialization includes an unspecified mix of courses in any area or areas of the curriculum that the student believes are required for ministry. This specialization is designed for para-church ministries, lay ministry leadership, and general theological studies for anyone interested in developing advanced theological competence. At the end of their program, students in this specialization will be able to:

- Develop a cognitive framework for reflectively engaging with all aspects of creation and culture.
- Engage and dialogue with other worldviews (hermeneutical, global, religious, creedal, ethnic).
- Have an increased sensitivity to the globalized character of life and ministry in North America and strategies for dialogue.
- Have an increased awareness of how church history and tradition are formative in the development of one's worldview.

**PS = Pastoral Studies** (default specialization for the MDiv). This specialization includes an unspecified mix of courses in any area or areas of the curriculum that the student believes are

required for ministry, including at least one course in preaching (beyond pastoral languages). This specialization is designed for senior/associate pastors, lead pastors, and other full-time vocational ministers with primarily leadership responsibilities. This option allows the greatest flexibility in terms of required focus courses, development of personalized studies that suit the vocational aims of the student, and an optimized use of available courses in regular format, weekend format, hybrid courses, and summer module courses. At the end of their program, students in this specialization will be able to:

- Formulate and implement appropriate leadership strategies for pastoral ministry.
- Make practical and ethical decisions on the basis of a coherent Christian worldview.
- Foster spiritual skills and competencies on the part of others.
- Identify and nurture a range of spiritual temperaments.
- Communicate Christian principles, values, and worldview.

**Doctor of Practical Theology** students who wish to apply for this course as an Advanced Elective for their degree program must consult with the Program Director of the DPT and the course instructor in order to develop an Advanced Elective approach to the course that fulfills the specific elements required by the DPT program. Once the elements of the Advanced Elective have been agreed upon by the student, the Program Director, and the instructor, a formal application can be made for an Advanced Elective in connection with this course. Once the application is accepted, DPT students can proceed with the course as part of their degree program.

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## ASSIGNMENTS\*

**\*Note that this course is designated as a 3/6 course, which means that students may take it as a 3-level course to fulfill requirements for the M.Div. or M.T.S., or as a 6-level course to fulfill requirements for the M.A. or Ph.D. There are different assignments that reflect these two levels.**

### Reading

It is expected that each student will read the first two textbooks that are required, will use the third textbook as a resource for supplementary reading and/or for topics for papers or projects, and will also select, read, and be able to show familiarity with at least one other substantive book that connects the theology of worship with the student's area of specialization (CT = Christian Thought and History, CW = Christian Worldview, PS = Pastoral Studies).

**For those taking this course as a 3-level course:**

#### 1. Weekly Brief Theological Reflection on the Topic of the Class.

##### Length:

Written theological reflection on the topic: 100 words per week  
(or)

Artistic response to the topic, plus a brief description/caption

**Due:** At the beginning of each class.

**Mark: 15%**

For the following three parallel assignments, choose one of the three choices as your extended paper or project connected to your Specialization. See below for details of this extended paper or project.

**2. “Knowing”—Paper or Project**

Research a topic or plan and complete a project related to the theology of worship that challenges and guides you in some aspect of “knowing.”

**Length:**

Paper: 1000 words

(or)

Project: To be chosen in consultation with the professor, with 250-word accompanying descriptive paper.

**Due:**

**(a.) Class 4, Wednesday, October 5 (or)**

**(b.) Class 8, Wednesday, November 9 (or)**

**(c.) Specialization Presentation during Class 12, Wednesday, December 7 and Final Specialization Paper or Project due three days after the final class.**

**Mark: 20% (or 45% for the Specialization option, see below)**

**3. “Being”—Paper or Project**

Research a topic or plan and complete a project related to the theology of worship that challenges and guides you in some aspect of “being.”

**Length:**

Paper: 1000 words

(or)

Project: To be chosen in consultation with the professor, with 250-word accompanying descriptive paper.

**Due:**

**(a.) Class 4, Wednesday, October 5 or**

**(b.) Class 8, Wednesday, November 9 or**

**(c.) Specialization Presentation during Class 12, Wednesday, December 7 and Final Specialization Paper or Project due three days after the final class.**

**Mark: 20% (or 45% for the Specialization option, see below)**

**4. “Doing”—Paper or Project**

Research a topic or plan and complete a project related to the theology of worship that challenges and guides you in some aspect of “doing.”

**Length:**

Paper: 1000 words

(or)

Project: To be chosen in consultation with the professor, with 250-word accompanying descriptive paper.

**Due:**

- (a.) Class 4, Wednesday, October 5 or**
- (b.) Class 8, Wednesday, November 9 or**
- (c.) Specialization Presentation during Class 12, Wednesday, December 7 and Final Specialization Paper or Project due three days after the final class.**

**Mark: 20% (or 45% for the Specialization option, see below)**

**Specialization Paper or Project, plus Summary Presentation**

Select one of the above assignments (no. 2, 3, or 4) to correspond with your specialization (CT = Christian Thought and History, CW = Christian Worldview, PS = Pastoral Studies), and develop your research on that topic so that your paper is 3000 words (not 1000), or develop the project so that it is proportionately extended.

Length:

Paper: 3,000 words  
(or)

Project: To be chosen in consultation with the professor, with 750-word accompanying descriptive paper.

**Summary Presentation:** During the final day of class.

**Final Paper or Project Submission Due:** Three days after the final class.

**For those taking this course as a 6-level course (M.A. or Ph.D. students):**

**1. Paper and Presentation #1.** Research an area of the theology of worship that interests and challenges you, and that fits with and can make a contribution to the rest of the class. Present some aspect of your findings in a 20-30 minute in-class presentation or by actually teaching a class (to be determined in consultation with the professor).

**Paper Due:** Class 5, Wednesday, October 19

**Length of Paper:** 6000 words.

**Presentation Due:** Date and kind of presentation to be determined in consultation with the professor.

**Length of Presentation:** 20-30 minutes, or actual teaching of one class, depending on class size and the number of 6-level students enrolled in the course.

**Total Mark: 40%**

**(Written Paper: 25%; Presentation: 15%)**

**2. Paper and Presentation #2.** Research an area of the theology of worship that interests and challenges you, and that can make a contribution to the class. Present some aspect of your findings in a 20-30 minute in-class presentation or by actually teaching a class (to be determined in consultation with the professor).

**Paper Due:** Class 12, Wednesday, December 7

**Length of Paper:** 9000 words.

**Presentation Due:** Date and kind of presentation to be determined in consultation with the professor.

**Length of Presentation:** 20-30 minutes, or actual teaching of one class, depending on class size and the number of 6-level students enrolled in the course.

**Total Mark: 60%**

**(Written Paper: 40%; Presentation: 20%) — OR: 45% + 15%**

### Style

All stylistic considerations (including but not limited to questions of formatting, footnotes, and bibliographic references) must conform to the McMaster Divinity College Style Guidelines for Essays and Theses

<http://www.mcmasterdivinity.ca/sites/default/files/documents/mdcstyleguide.pdf>

Failure to observe appropriate form will result in grade reductions.

### **Textbooks**

1. Geoffrey Wainwright. *Doxology: The Praise of God in Worship, Doctrine and Life: A Systematic Theology*. London, UK: Epworth, 1980.
2. Wendy J. Porter, ed. *Rediscovering Worship: Past, Present, and Future*. Eugene, OR: Pickwick, 2015. With chapters by Daniel I. Block, Paul S. Evans, Mark J. Boda, Stanley E. Porter, Cynthia Long Westfall, Grant R. Osborne, and Wendy J. Porter.
3. Geoffrey Wainwright and Karen B. Westerfield Tucker, eds. *The Oxford History of Christian Worship*. Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press, 2006.
4. **PLUS:** One theology of worship book that represents your area of specialization – to be chosen in consultation with the professor.

### General Resource Books

Bradshaw, Paul, ed. *The New Westminster Dictionary of Liturgy and Worship*. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox, 2002.

Bradshaw, Paul F., ed. *The New SCM Dictionary of Liturgy and Worship*. London, UK: SCM, 2002.

Jones, Cheslyn, Edward Yarnold, SJ, Geoffrey Wainwright, and Paul Bradshaw. *The Study of Liturgy*. Rev. edn. London: SPCK; New York: Oxford University Press, 1992.

### Textbook Purchase

All required textbooks for this class are available from the College's book service, READ On Bookstore, Room 145, McMaster Divinity College. Texts may be purchased on the first day of class. For advance purchase, you may contact READ On Bookstore, 5 International Blvd, Etobicoke, Ontario M9W 6H3 : phone 416.620.2934; fax 416.622.2308; email [books@readon.ca](mailto:books@readon.ca). Other book services may also carry the texts.

## **Class Schedule**

### **Class 1, Wednesday, September 14**

Syllabus, Sign-Ups

Introduction (Wainwright, *Doxology*, 1–12)

### **Class 2, Wednesday, September 21**

Image of God (Wainwright, *Doxology*, 15–44; Porter, ed., *Rediscovering Worship*, 1–88)

### **Class 3, Wednesday, September 28**

Christ (Wainwright, *Doxology*, 45–86; Porter, ed., *Rediscovering Worship*, 89–178)

### **Class 4, Wednesday, October 5**

Spirit (Wainwright, *Doxology*, 87–117)

### **NO CLASS: Wednesday, October 5 (MDC Fall Reading Week)**

### **Class 5, Wednesday, October 19**

Note: 6-Level Students: Paper #1 Due.

Church (Wainwright, *Doxology*, 118–46; Porter, ed., *Rediscovering Worship*, 177–231)

### **Class 6, Wednesday, October 26**

Scripture (Wainwright, *Doxology*, 149–81)

### **Class 7, Wednesday, November 2**

Creeds and Hymns (Wainwright, *Doxology*, 182–217)

### **Class 8, Wednesday, November 9**

Liturgy and the Arts (Wainwright, *Doxology*, 218–83)

### **Class 9, Wednesday, November 16**

Ecumenism (Wainwright, *Doxology*, 287–323)

### **Class 10, Wednesday, November 23**

Revision and Culture (Wainwright, *Doxology*, 324–98)

### **Class 11, Wednesday, November 30**

Ethics and Rewards (Wainwright, *Doxology*, 399–462)

### **Class 12, Wednesday, December 7**

Student In-Class Summaries of Specialization Papers / Projects

Note: 6-Level Students: Paper #2 Due.

### **\*\* Statement on Academic Honesty**

Academic dishonesty is a serious offence that may take any number of forms, including plagiarism, the submission of work that is not one's own or for which previous credit has been obtained, and/or unauthorized collaboration with other students. Academic dishonesty can result

in severe consequences, e.g., failure of the assignment, failure of the course, a notation on one's academic transcript, and/or suspension or expulsion from the College.

Students are responsible for understanding what constitutes academic dishonesty. Please refer to the Divinity College Statement on Academic Honesty ~

<http://www.mcmasterdivinity.ca/programs/rules-regulations>

### **Gender Inclusive Language**

McMaster Divinity College uses inclusive language for human beings in worship services, student written materials, and all of its publications. In reference to biblical texts, the integrity of the original expressions and the names of God should be respected. The NRSV and TNIV are examples of the use of inclusive language for human beings. It is expected that inclusive language will be used in chapel services and all MDC assignments.

**Disclaimer:** This syllabus is the property of the instructor and is prepared with currently available information. The instructor reserves the right to make changes and revisions up to and including the first day of class.