



WBUOnline
School of Christian Studies

2. UNIVERSITY MISSION STATEMENT

Wayland Baptist University exists to educate students in an academically challenging, learning-focused and distinctively Christian environment for professional success and service to God and humankind.

3. COURSE NUMBER & NAME:

MNST 4323 Christian Worship

4. TERM:

Fall 2 October 12 – December 12, 2026

5. INSTRUCTOR:

D Glenn Simmons, Ph.D., Th.D.

6. CONTACT INFORMATION:

WBU Email: simmons@wbu.edu

Cell phone: 602.740.7040 (please text and identify yourself first and I will return the call at my earliest convenience)

7. OFFICE HOURS, BUILDING & LOCATION:

Retired, working from home.

8. COURSE MEETING TIME & LOCATION:

WBUOnline

9. CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

Research in the theology and practice of Christian worship

10. PREREQUISITE: RLGN 1301 and 1302

11. REQUIRED TEXTBOOK AND RESOURCE MATERIAL: The Oxford History of Christian Worship.

Edited by Geoffrey Wainwright and Karen Westerfield Tucker. ISBN 978-0-19-513886-3,
Published by Oxford Press, 2006

Introduction to Christian Worship, Fourth Edition by James White, 2022, Abingdon
Press ISBN: 9781501884634

12. OPTIONAL MATERIALS: See the list at the end of the syllabus for additional, useful resources

13. COURSE OUTCOMES AND COMPETENCIES:

1. Discuss and clarify biblical and theological foundations of worship
2. Differentiate and delineate major historical developments of Hebrew and early Christian worship through the Reformation
3. Describe and discuss important characteristics of Christian worship since the Reformation, especially among Evangelicals, with an emphasis on worship renewal beginning in the mid-1970's
4. Define issues and develop strategies for teaching and leading local church worship in the 21st century

14. ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS:

As stated in the Wayland Catalog, students enrolled at one of the University's external campuses should make every effort to attend all class meetings. All absences must be explained to the instructor, who will then determine whether the omitted work may be made up. When a student reaches that number of absences considered by the instructor to be excessive, the instructor will so advise the student and file an unsatisfactory progress report with the campus executive director. Any student who misses 25 percent or more of the regularly scheduled class meetings may receive a grade of F in the course. Additional attendance policies for each course, as defined by the instructor in the course syllabus, are considered a part of the University's attendance policy.

15. STATEMENT ON PLAGIARISM & ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:

[Link to WBU's Statement on Academic Integrity](#)

No use of generative AI tools are permitted.

- i. Students are required to create and produce all work themselves or with assigned group members. Any work submitted that has used an AI generative tool like ChatGPT will be in immediate violation of the academic integrity policies for the course and WBU.
- ii. All assignments must be fully created, designed, and prepared by the student(s).
- iii. Any work that uses generative AI will be treated as plagiarism.

16. DISABILITY STATEMENT:

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), it is the policy of Wayland Baptist University that no otherwise qualified person with a disability be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subject to discrimination under any educational program or activity in the university. The Coordinator of Counseling Services serves as the coordinator of students with a disability and should be contacted concerning

accommodation requests at (806) 291-3765. Documentation of a disability must accompany any request for accommodations.

17. COURSE REQUIREMENTS and GRADING CRITERIA:

Assignment	Due date(s)	Explanation	Percent of grade
Discussions	Each Lesson	Students will write a 300 word (minimum) initial post with two different references. Then students will respond to at least two other students with 150 word minimum academic responses. Initial post should have at least one academic reference to give scholarly support. Response posts should be analytical, positive, yet using critical thinking. No academic support is necessary, but would be helpful. Initial Posts are due by midnight on Tuesday and response posts are due by midnight on Thursday.	25%
Worship Experience	Lessons 4	Students will visit a worship service that is culturally and theologically different from their worship tradition. They will then write a two-page report assessing their experience. Please look for cultural, theological and practical differences from your tradition's normal form of worship. Paper should have a Turabian title page and bibliography with at least three resources.	10%
Worship papers	Lessons 3 and 6	Students will write a 3-page paper on some aspect of Old Testament and then New Testament Worship. Using books, journal articles, and Scripture, this should be in Turabian format with a title page and a bibliography.	20%
Wiki Project	Lesson 5	Each class member will work on an individual wiki "Making modern worship effective and biblical". Students will be expected to interact with at least two other wiki pages	10%
Final Paper	Lesson 8	Students will write a 6-8 Page final paper on some aspect of Worship. Topic must be prior approved by Dean Simmons. Paper should in in Turabian format and use at least 4 academic resources.	25%
Community Points	Lesson 8	These community points come from helping create a learning community—map, intro, blog, discussions, etc.	10%

17.1 Include Grade Appeal Statement: “Students shall have protection through orderly procedures against prejudices or capricious academic evaluation. A student who believes that he or she has not been held to realistic academic standards, just evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course by using the student grade appeal process described in the Academic Catalog. Appeals may not be made for advanced placement examinations or course bypass examinations. Appeals are limited to the final course grade, which may be upheld, raised, or lowered at any stage of the appeal process. Any recommendation to lower a course grade must be submitted through the Vice President of Academic Affairs/Faculty Assembly Grade Appeals Committee for review and approval. The Faculty Assembly Grade Appeals Committee may instruct that the course grade be upheld, raised, or lowered to a more proper evaluation.”

18. TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Lesson	Due Date	Topic	Assignments	Readings
1	October 18	Introduction to Christian Worship	Lesson 1 tasks	Oxford 1-9*
2	October 25	Worship—What it means to believers	Discussion Board (DB) Journal Article	Oxford 20-27 * White chs 1-2
3	November 1	Student special interest	DB, Old Testament Worship Paper	Oxford 28-34*
4	November 8	Old Testament Worship	DB, Worship Visit	Students should research three academic sources that they choose
5	November 15	Contemporary Worship	DB	White chs 3-5
6	November 22	Special occasions in worship	DB, New Testament Worship Paper	White chs 6-8
7	December 6	Planning and Leading Worship	DB	White chs 9-10
8	December 9		Research Paper	

19. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION