Theo 7350 Scripture and Worship
San Diego, Covenant Midwinter Conference
Draft Syllabus

Instructors: John E. (Jay) Phelan, North Park Theological Seminary; Geoff Twigg, North Park Theological Seminary and Oak Lawn Covenant Church; Jen MacDonald, Resurrection Covenant Church.

This course will be offered as an intensive during the Covenant Midwinter Conference in San Diego. Students taking the course for credit will be joined for two sessions by participants in a workshop focused on the Bible and the arts in worship. One Monday and Friday the class will meet from 9:00-4:30. Students will be expected come to the sessions having prepared ahead of time by reading and responding to assigned secondary texts and having studied particular Biblical texts. The course is designed to address a number of enduring questions:

1. What is the ongoing connection between the worship of God in the Hebrew Scriptures, ancient Israel and Judaism at the time of Christ and the development of Christian worship past and present?
2. What does the New Testament tell us about the worship of the early Christians? How is the worship of the early Christians connected with Christian worship today?
3. What does the Bible suggest are the dangers and opportunities in enculturation of worship? Can worship be transcultural? Should worship be multi-cultural?
4. How did ancient Israel, Judaism and early Christianity use the artifacts of culture in the development of their worship? What does the Bible tell us about the use of music, poetry, the plastic arts, and other creational means for worshipping God? What does this suggest are the dangers and opportunities of using such cultural artifacts today?

As a result of this course students:

1. Will be introduced to the historical, theological, and cultural characteristics of early Israelite, early Jewish, and early Christian worship.
2. Will explore the descriptions of and assumptions about worship in the Biblical text.
3. Will encounter contemporary issues of art and culture and worship.
4. Will develop their own vision of worship that is rooted in both the Bible and their own cultural settings.

Requirements:

1. Before class students will read the following books and prepare a 2000 word report on each volume:
   a. *Worship Across the Racial Divide,* Gerardo Marti, Oxford, 2012.
   b. *Touching the Altar: The Old Testament for Christian Worship,* Carol Bechtel, Eerdmans, 2008.
   c. *At the Origins of Christian Worship,* Larry Hurtado, Eerdmans, 1999.

2. Attend all class sessions during the Midwinter Week.
3. Participate fully in discussions.
4. Prepare for class by reading, studying, and reflecting on Biblical texts. Students should come prepared having read commentaries, dictionaries, etc. and be prepared to enter into an exegetical discussion of the following:

    a. Genesis 1-4, 15; Exodus 3, 12, 19, 20, 25-31, 40; Deuteronomy 4-6, 16, 28.
    b. Isaiah 1-5, Jeremiah 7, Hosea 6, Malachi 1.
    c. Psalms 8, 15, 22, 27, 32, 42, 84, 90, 91, 122, 137, 148, 150.
    d. John 4, Acts 1-5, 15, 20; Romans 8, 14; 1 Corinthians 10-14; Galatians 2, 3, Colossians 3.
    e. Revelation 4, 5, 13, 19, 21.

5. Final Project: A 6000 word project focused on enhancing the use of the Bible in a local congregation. This will be due into the instructor one month after the completion of the class. It is to be developed for one of the following areas:

    a. Multi-cultural worship.
    b. Worship and the Arts.
    c. Worship and Society
    d. Worship and Liturgy.

Monday/Class One/Worship in the Old Testament

1. Worship Sustaining Creation: Sabbath
2. Worship Creating Community: the Exodus
3. Worship Inculcating Obedience: Justice
4. Worship Enlivening Relationships: Songs and Prayers of Israel

Tuesday/Class Two/Workshop

1, The Bible as the source of multi-cultural worship
2. Gerardo Marti and *Worship Across the Racial Divide*
3. Exploring multi-cultural worship: a panel discussion and interaction.

Thursday/Class Three/Workshop

1. The Bible and the arts in worship
2. The artwork of Sanne Beavin
3. Art at ResCov
4. Colossians 3—psalms, hymns and spiritual songs
5. Singing the Psalms: exploring new approaches

Friday/Class Four/Worship in the New Testament

1. Worship forming a new community.
2. Worship and the Spirit.
3. Worship of Jesus as Lord: the church and nationalism
4. Worship at the Table.
5. Worship in the midst of cultural difference.

Grading

1. Reading and reports: 40% of grade.
2. Class participation : 20% of grade.
3. Final project: 40% of grade.