

American Baptist Churches of New York State Lay Study Program

WORSHIP

A Brief Course Description

This course is designed to serve as an introduction to corporate Christian worship. In it the student will be exposed to a variety of worship styles both within and outside the American Baptist Tradition. The student will also become acquainted with a variety of theological approaches to worship and worship design.

Expected Outcomes

Students will have their experience of worship enriched.

Students will be aware of the variety of worship styles in the Christian tradition. This will include a range from Free Church to liturgical church, house church to mega church, and hopefully touch on a variety of the experiences present in our ABC churches.

Students will have examined the biblical and theological basis of worship and will have developed their own biblical/theological perspective on it.

Students will be familiar with the various elements of worship and approaches to worship design.

Students will have become acquainted with the various resources that are available for designing and leading worship experiences, including the various internet resources and licensing companies.

Those students who are gifted and called to lead in worship, will have become more confident and capable in designing, and/or leading in the worship style that is in keeping with their personal biblical/theological perspective and current worship context.

Class Expectations

Students will read the assigned readings and participate in class discussions.

Students taking the course for credit will attend at least eight out of ten classes.

Students who are taking the course for credit will create and hand in the written assignments and/or complete projects, designed by the teacher, which may include paper/s on particular subjects, worship outlines, leading the class in a worship experience, and etc.

Students will participate in several different worship experiences outside of their usual worship experience.

Students will use television and the internet to observe a variety of worship experiences with which they have not been familiar.

Classes

The course is expected to have ten classes which are two hours long. A short break may be included in the middle of the class time. Classes may be designed to include a variety of learning

experiences, including but not limited to: interactive lectures, small and large group discussions, audio and/or video demonstrations, and live worship experiences.

Suggested Resources

Texts

The Worship Architect A Blueprint for Designing Culturally Relevant and Biblically Faithful Services by Constance M. Cherry. (Baker Academic, 2010) This text can be helpful in discussing the biblical and theological basis for worship and in discussing the elements and design of worship.

Perspectives On Christian Worship 5 Views edited by J. Matthew Pinson (B&H Academic, 2009) This text can be helpful in broadening perspectives on the variety of worship styles and in stimulating theological discussion about them.

Other Resources (a starting place)

For Scripture: Bible Hub, Bible Gateway,

For Music Videos: You Tube, God Tube

For Music: Amazon, CBD, iTunes, iWorship, lifeway worship

For PowerPoint images: Bing Images

PowerPoint for Dummies (in an edition compatible with the student's computer's operating system)

(For more worship resources google "worship resources.")