



# Course Syllabus Wycliffe College Toronto School of Theology

This description is intended to assist in the course approval process and to assist students in determining whether this course will help them achieve their educational objectives and the learning goals of their program. It is not a learning contract. The details of the description are subject to change before the course begins. The course syllabus will be available to the class at the beginning of the course.

## *Course Identification*

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Course Number : WYP211HS  
 Course Name: Christian Worship: Foundation, Framework & Freedom  
 Campus: St. George

## *Instructor Information*

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Instructor: Peter Robinson, Marilyn Draper, and Judy Paulsen  
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 Office Hours:

## *Course Prerequisites or Requisites*

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None.

## *Course Description*

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Building on theological, biblical and historical foundations, students will explore both the function and framework of Christian worship as it is lived out in a particular context. Students will be equipped to reflect theologically on the scope, shape and practices of worship and apply that as a foundation for shaping and being shaped by the ministry of word and sacrament in the context of the community gathered and the community sent.

## *Course Methodology*

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Lectures, readings, papers,

## *Course Outcomes*

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COURSE OUTCOMES	COURSE ELEMENT	PROGRAM OUTCOMES
By the end of this course, students	This outcome will be achieved through these course elements:	This course outcome corresponds to these aspects of Wycliffe's statements of outcomes (MTS, MDiv)
• will be able to articulate a theology of worship developed	Paper 1	MTS: 1.3, 2.1

from a biblical foundation and grounded in a Christian understanding of the Triune God;		<b>MDiv:</b> 1.3, 2.1, 2.2
• will be able to articulate something of the diversity within the Christian tradition and how worship within one or more streams has shaped them;	Reflection paper 1	<b>MTS:</b> 1.5, 2.1 <b>MDiv:</b> 1.5, 2.1, 2.3
• will explore the conflict which can arise in the context of worship, identify some of the reasons for that conflict, and suggest appropriate responses in a particular setting;	Case-study paper	<b>MTS:</b> 2.1, 2.3 <b>MDiv:</b> 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 3.3
• working as part of a group, will demonstrate the ability to plan a worship service that is theologically coherent and culturally contextual;	Integrative project	<b>MTS:</b> 2.3, 3.3 <b>MDiv:</b> 2.2, 2.3, 3.3
• will be able to explain and defend in writing a foundation and framework for shaping appropriate worship in their own ministry context;	Reflection paper 2	<b>MTS:</b> 2.1, 3.3 <b>MDiv:</b> 2.1, 2.3
• will be able to describe the relationship between worship and mission and how that should inform decisions within a local community.	Reflection paper 2	<b>MTS:</b> 2.1, 3.3 <b>MDiv:</b> 2.1, 2.3

## ***Course Resources***

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### **Required Course Texts**

- Dawn, Marva. *A Royal Waste of Time: The Splendor of Worshiping God and Being the Church for the World*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1999.
- Smith, James K. A. *Imagining the Kingdom: How Worship Works*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2013.
- Torrance, James B. *Worship, Community and the Triune God of Grace*. Downers Grove: IVP Academic, 1996.

### **Course Website(s)**

- Blackboard <https://weblogin.utoronto.ca/>

This course uses Blackboard for its course website. To access it, go to the UofT portal login page at <http://portal.utoronto.ca> and login using your UTORid and password. Once you have logged in to the portal using your UTORid and password, look for the **My Courses** module, where you'll find the link to the website for all your Blackboard-based courses. (Your course registration with ROSI gives you access to the

course website at Blackboard.) Note also the information at <http://www.portalinfo.utoronto.ca/content/information-students>. Students who have trouble accessing Blackboard should ask Thomas Power for further help.

## ***Class Schedule***

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***Course format: 2 hour classes for the first six weeks, with an additional 1 hour seminar for the final six weeks of the course***

***Week 1 (January 12)*** Worship in the light of the God who was, and is, and is to come.

***Week 2 (January 19)*** Christ and the Holy Spirit: the two hands of worship.

***Week 3 (January 26)*** Creatures of habit/ creatures of culture: the shaping of desire.

***Week 4 (February 2)*** God forming a people for worship: a transforming habitus of worship.

***Week 5 (February 9)*** Bread, wine and water: the community formed through the sacraments.

***Week 6 (February 16)*** Reading Week.

***Week 7 (February 23)*** The six streams of Christian tradition and their relationship to worship.

***Week 8 (March 1)*** The fourfold pattern of Christian worship: developing a framework.

***Week 9 (March 8)*** Rhythm & ritual: seasons of the year and the seasons of life.

***Week 10 (March 15)*** Sacred space: a theology of place and worship.

***Week 11 (March 22)*** An informed shaping of mechanics: music, materials, technology.

***Week 12 (March 29)*** Cultures and worship: a contextual offering.

***Week 13 (April 5)*** A lived doxology: Worship and the missional life.

## ***Evaluation***

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### **Requirements**

1. A short paper discussing the theological foundations of worship, 3 pages, due class three, worth 20%.
2. A reflection paper focusing on the various streams within Christianity and how strengths and weaknesses of the student's own formation have been shaped within one or more of those streams, 4 pages, due class 7, worth 20%.
3. A case-study paper discussing resolution of conflict arising due to some aspect of worship, 5 pages, due class 10, worth 20%.
4. An integrative project in which the students, working as part of a group, will plan a worship service that is both theologically coherent and contextually appropriate seminar, group presentation, worth 20%.
5. A reflection paper synthesizing various elements of the course by discussing how they will shape worship in their own ministry context, 5 pages, worth 20%.

### **Grading System**

Letter Grade	Numerical Equivalents	Grade Point	Grasp of Subject Matter
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A+	90–100%	4.0	Profound & Creative
A	85–89%	4.0	Outstanding
A-	80–84%	3.7	Excellent
B+	77–79%	3.3	Very Good
B	73–76%	3.0	Good
B-	70–72%	2.7	Satisfactory
FZ	0–69%	0	Failure

Grades without numerical equivalent:

CR	Designates credit; has no numerical equivalent or grade point value
NCR	Designates failure; has no numerical equivalent, but has a grade point value of 0 and is included in the GPA calculation
SDF	Standing deferred (a temporary extension)
INC	Permanent incomplete; has no numerical equivalent or grade point value
WDR	Withdrawal without academic penalty
AEG	May be given to a final year student who, because of illness, has completed at least 60% of the course, but not the whole course, and who would not otherwise be able to convocate; has no numerical equivalent and no grade point value

### ***Policy on Assignment Extensions***

Basic Degree students are expected to complete all course work by the end of the term in which they are registered. Under **exceptional circumstances**, with the written permission of the instructor, students may request an extension (SDF = “standing deferred”) beyond the term. An extension, when offered, will have a mutually agreed upon deadline that does not extend beyond the conclusion of the following term. An SDF must be requested no later than the last day of classes of the term in which the course is taken. The request form is available on the college website or from the Registrar’s office.

**One percentage point per day will be deducted on the course grade if an extension has not been requested by the stated deadline.**

**Course grades.** Consistently with the policy of the University of Toronto, course grades submitted by an instructor are reviewed by a committee of the instructor’s college before being posted. Course grades may be adjusted where they do not comply with University grading policy (<http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/Assets/Governing+Council+Digital+Assets/Policies/PDF/grading.pdf>) or college grading policy.

### ***Policies***

**Accessibility.** Students with a disability or health consideration are entitled to accommodation. Students must register at the University of Toronto’s Accessibility Services offices; information is available at <http://www.accessibility.utoronto.ca/>. The sooner a student seeks accommodation, the quicker we can assist.

**Plagiarism.** Students submitting written material in courses are expected to provide full documentation for sources of both words and ideas in footnotes or endnotes. Direct quotations should be placed within quotation marks. (If small changes are made in the quotation, they should be indicated by appropriate punctuation such as brackets and ellipses, but the quotation still counts as a direct quotation.) Failure to document borrowed material constitutes plagiarism, which is a serious breach of academic, professional, and Christian ethics. An instructor who discovers evidence of student plagiarism is not permitted to deal with the situation individually but is required to report it to his or her head of college or delegate according to the TST *Basic Degree Handbook* (linked from <http://www.tst.edu/academic/resources-forms/handbooks> and the University of Toronto *Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters* (<http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/behaveac.htm>), a student who plagiarizes in this course. Students will be assumed to have read the document “Avoidance of plagiarism in theological writing” published by the Graham Library of Trinity and Wycliffe Colleges ([http://www.trinity.utoronto.ca/Library\\_Archives/Theological\\_Resources/Tools/Guides/plag.htm](http://www.trinity.utoronto.ca/Library_Archives/Theological_Resources/Tools/Guides/plag.htm)).

**Other academic offences.** TST students come under the jurisdiction of the University of Toronto Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters (<http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/behaveac.htm>).

**Writing Style.** The writing standard for the Toronto School of Theology is Kate L. Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses and Dissertations*, 7<sup>th</sup> edition (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2007), which is available at Crux Books.

## ***Bibliography***

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