



**Billy Graham School of Missions, Evangelism and Ministry**  
**Department of Biblical Worship**  
**The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary**  
**-in partnership with-**  
**Sing! Conference**

40220 CT Christian Worship in Contemporary Culture

Summer, 2017

**PROFESSOR: Dr. Joseph R. Crider**

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**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

A study of Christian worship and associated arts in relation to contemporary culture.

**LEARNING OUTCOMES: By the end of this course, the student will be able to:**

1. Articulate the core theological and biblical foundations of corporate worship.
2. The students will be able to identify the significant cultural, theological, philosophical, methodological and historical influences on worship practice through the ages.
3. The students will be able to analyze current worship practices from a cultural, theological and historical perspective.

**COURSE EXPECTATIONS**

1. Students will engage in and report on all plenary sessions and breakout sessions of the Sing! Conference. The students will write a summary report related to cultural influences on worship and ministry, synthesizing materials from plenary sessions and breakout seminars.
2. The students will write **two** seven to ten page book reviews on three of the following books: Nancy Pearcy's book, *Saving Leonardo*; James K.A. Smith's book *Desiring the Kingdom*; Andy Crouch's book *Culture Making: Recovering Our Creative Calling*

3. The students will write a 10-15 page research paper on **one** of the following topics:
  - a. *Historical implications on modern worship practices:*  
Choose a time period of church history and discuss cultural influences on worship practices in that time period.
  - b. *Cultural influences on worship practice:*  
How have popular music and popular culture influenced modern evangelical worship?
  - c. *Aesthetic considerations:*  
What role should the arts beyond music play in contemporary worship practices?
4. The students will indicate that they completed all of the reading assignments by the date indicated: (TBA)

### REQUIRED TEXTS

Cosper, Mike. *The Stories We Tell*. MI: Crossway, 2014.

Crouch, Andy. *Culture Making*. Downers Grove, IL. IVP Press. 2008.

Dawn, Marva J. *A Royal "Waste" of Time*. MI: Eerdmans, 1999.

Pearcy, Nancy. *Saving Leonardo*. Nashville, B&H, 2010.

Ryken, Philip Graham. *My Father's World – Meditations on Christianity and Culture*. NJ: P&R Publishing.

Smith, James K.A. *Desiring the Kingdom*. MI: Baker, 2009.

GRADING	Points	Due Dates
○ Book Reviews (3):	30 points	TBA
○ Paper:	40 points	
○ Reading:	15 points	
○ <u>Conference Review</u>	15 points	
○ Total	100 points	

### GRADING SCALE

<b>A</b>	4.0	96-100	<b>B</b>	3.0	86-88	<b>C</b>	2.0	76-78	<b>D</b>	1.0	66-68
<b>A-</b>	3.7	93-95	<b>B-</b>	2.7	83-85	<b>C-</b>	1.7	73-75	<b>D-</b>	0.7	63-65
<b>B+</b>	3.3	89-92	<b>C+</b>	2.3	79-82	<b>D+</b>	1.3	69-72	<b>F</b>	0.0	0-62

- WP** Withdrew Passing, (Granted only if all assignments due prior to withdrawal have been satisfactorily completed on time.)
- WF** Withdrew Failing
- I** Incomplete (No grades of incomplete will be issued for this course except in an extreme circumstances as determined by the professor.)

## **RESPECT FOR DIVERGENT VIEWPOINTS**

Students and faculty are to show appropriate respect for each other even when divergent viewpoints are expressed in the classroom. Such respect does not require agreement with or acceptance of divergent viewpoints.

## **STYLE**

All papers should be submitted using the guidelines found in the Southern Seminary Style Manual which is available at <http://sbts.libguides.com/style>.

## **Disability Services**

In order to ensure full class participation, any student with a disabling condition requiring special accommodations (listening devices, special adaptive equipment, special note-taking or test-taking needs) is strongly encouraged to contact the professor at the beginning of the course.

## **PLAGIARISM**

Plagiarism is using the words or ideas of someone else without giving them appropriate credit. Students are expected to always credit sources appropriately. Failure to do so will potentially result in the student's failure of this course and referral to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action as is deemed appropriate.