

## **MN 515 Theology and Practice of Music in Worship**

Instructor: Susan Forshey, PhD [sforshey@dbq.edu](mailto:sforshey@dbq.edu) - 206-963-0472

No Prerequisites - 3 credit, grade only

### **Course Description**

This course will explore the theological role of music in gatherings of worship; immerse students in planning worship and music selection, with attention to the powerful role music has in communicating God's narrative of salvation, forming worshippers as disciples, and building habits and memory; and give students practical helps in basic music theory, prayerful music leadership, and music worship resources. During the course, students will explore a variety of song styles including chant, Taize, Spirit-led, Gospel, contemporary praise, and alternative worship.

### **Student Learning Objectives**

By participating fully in this class, students will:

- Identify and build on biblical, theological, and practical foundations for music in worship.
- Structure the musical worship of Christian communities in ways that call and shape disciples from spiritual infancy to maturity in Christian community and public witness.
- Develop strategies for worship music selection and leadership, becoming familiar with a variety of musical styles used in worship.
- Learn basic musical theory and practice.

### **M.Div. Curricular Goals Fulfilled by This Course**

- Be formed by, live in, and minister out of Scripture and the historical and theological tradition of the Church.
- Educate and equip individuals and congregations to live and minister joyfully and faithfully as part of their own denomination and the ecumenical church.
- Lead and nurture congregations to promote peace and justice in the public arena and encourage the witness and service of the church in mission to the world.
- Integrate theology and practice in all areas of life and ministry.

### **MAMD Curricular Goals Fulfilled by This Course**

- Develop, implement, and assess strategies for missional living in a specific cultural context.
- Adopt spiritual practices that nurture their personal lives as faithful disciples and witnesses.
- Develop skills and capacities for faithful and competent Christian witness.

### **MACL Student Learning Outcomes**

- Identify and interpret key themes from the Christian scriptures.
- Articulate key theological affirmations of the church's theological tradition.
- Develop a missional strategy with attention to a particular cultural context.
- Apply a coherent philosophy of Christian leadership to a particular context.

### **Requirements**

*Create a worship music portfolio:*

1. Write a musical leadership self-assessment. (10%)
2. Demonstrate reflective understanding of the assigned reading by writing summaries of each course text (20%).
3. Write a worship context description (10%).
4. Choose 4 months of gatherings in your context and 1) collect the orders of worship, 2) list the songs, 3) analyze the songs for predominant theological themes, and 4) offer a critical analysis of the use of music in your context with an eye toward transformation (25%).
5. Choose 1-2 liturgical season(s) and create 6 orders of worship with musical selections, drawing upon the needs of your context in conversation with the themes and strategies explored in this course (30%).
6. Contribute to a class compendium of songs, selected based on the criteria considered in the course. (5%)

### **Required Texts**

Don Saliers, *Worship Come to Its Senses*

Eugene Peterson, *Answering God*

James K. A. Smith, *You are What You Love*

Constance Cherry, *The Music Architect*

Robert Webber, *Planning Blended Worship*

