Note:

Course content may be changed, term to term, without notice. The information below is provided as a guide for course selection and is not binding in any form, and should not be used to purchase course materials.
COURSE SYLLABUS
WRSP 440
STRATEGIES FOR WORSHIP LEADING

COURSE DESCRIPTION
This is a methods course that deals with strategic planning for worship ministry. Attention is given to principles for developing traditional, blended, and contemporary models for worship. Students will be required to organize and develop worship strategy for small, medium and large worship ministry.

RATIONALE
With the emergence of a diverse and ever-changing worship culture, worship leaders must be equipped to sculpt creative and engaging worship services. This task has been complicated by the emergence of a consumer-driven mentality that has resulted in congregations being categorized by worship style (i.e., traditional, blended and contemporary). This modern worship culture has resulted in a necessity for modern worship leaders to develop a broad skill set in order to effectively function as worship leaders in the local church. This course will explore strategies for planning worship based on different style models and targeted at churches of various sizes. In addition, students will develop practical organizational methods applicable to ministries of all sizes and identities.

I. PREREQUISITE
For information regarding prerequisites for this course, please refer to the Academic Course Catalog.

II. REQUIRED RESOURCE PURCHASES
Click on the following link to view the required resource(s) for the term in which you are registered: http://bookstore.mbsdirect.net/liberty.htm

III. ADDITIONAL MATERIALS FOR LEARNING
A. Computer with basic audio/video output equipment
B. Internet access (broadband recommended)
C. Microsoft Word
   (Microsoft Office is available at a special discount to Liberty University students.)

IV. MEASURABLE LEARNING OUTCOMES
Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:
A. Articulate the need for strategic planning in the worship setting.
B. Articulate and define the differences between traditional, blended, and contemporary models for worship.
C. Create worship strategies for small, medium, and large ministries.
D. Articulate the method of organization necessary for developing a worship strategy.
E. Define the role of leading worship as it is related to various musical styles and ministry contexts.

V. COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND ASSIGNMENTS
A. Textbook readings and lecture presentations/notes
B. Course Requirements Checklist
   After reading the Syllabus and Student Expectations, the student will complete the related checklist found in Module/Week 1.
C. Discussion Board Forums (4)
   The student will participate in 4 Discussion Board Forums. The student will post his/her initial thread of 250 words or more. Then, he/she must reply to at least 3 peers’ threads in 150 words or more. The initial thread is due by 11:59 p.m. (ET) on Thursday, and the replies are due by Monday of Modules/Weeks 1, 3, 5, and 7.
D. Reflection Essay
   The student will read and react to a provided article in Module/Week 1. This Reflection Essay is 1 page in length and should briefly summarize the main thesis of the article, followed by 2–3 paragraphs outlining the student’s position and response. This assignment is due by 11:59 p.m. (ET) on Monday of Module/Week 1.
E. Defining the Terms Essay
   The student will write a 3-page essay defining the 3 major worship models: traditional, contemporary and blended (1 page for each model), as well as identifying specific characteristics of each. Content for this essay should be based on the reading and lectures. This assignment is due by 11:59 p.m. (ET) on Monday of Module/Week 2.
F. Interview Project
   Interview Proposal: Each student will choose a worship pastor to interview who is respected for his or her leadership ability. A template for this portion of the assignment will be provided in the assignment instructions folder. This assignment is due by 11:59 p.m. (ET) on Monday of Module/Week 2.

   Interview Questions: Each student will construct a set of 15–20 questions that the student will use in his/her individual interview. The purpose of the project is to discover how successful worship pastors organize their ministries and manage the worship planning process. The questions should focus on the following areas: worship style(s) used in the church; organizational structure of the church’s worship ministry; the process for worship planning; instrumental forces used in the church’s worship services; rehearsal planning; and approach used for
developing relationships with the church’s ministry. This assignment is due by 11:59 p.m. (ET) on Monday of Module/Week 3.

Interview Paper: The interview should be conducted in Module/Week 4. After the interview, the student will write a 3–5 page summary and synthesis paper integrating the information from the interview with the course material. This assignment is due by 11:59 p.m. (ET) on Monday of Module/Week 4.

G. Newsletter Project

The student will create a 1-page newsletter promoting their worship ministry using information from Chapter 6 of the Bradley text. Content should include: a creative title, a brief article from the worship leader, calendar of events, and promotion of an upcoming event. Other information from the chapter can be used to complete the newsletter. This assignment is due by 11:59 p.m. (ET) on Monday of Module/Week 3.

H. Worship Plan

Using the “Worship Planning Grid” posted within Blackboard, the student will develop a 6-month plan for weekly musical elements including those used in a worship service. Things to include are preludes, offertories, choir anthems, soloists, drama, video and worship team features. This project should include specific titles and should reflect a wide range of vocal and instrumental forces (choir, ensembles, soloists, orchestra, band, instrumental soloists, drama, video features, etc.). This assignment is due by 11:59 p.m. (ET) on Monday of Module/Week 6.

I. Worship Planning Project

The student will develop 3 orders of worship based on the following worship models: traditional, contemporary and blended. Each order must be constructed using the template provided in the Assignment Instructions folder within the course and must exhibit some of the elements appropriate for each service type as articulated on the “Service Style Chart” also posted in the course. This assignment is due by 11:59 p.m. (ET) on Monday of Module/Week 7.

J. Final Paper

The student will submit a 12–15-page paper summarizing and discussing course content. This paper will cover the following major topics: the Centrality of a Call to Ministry, Summaries and Characteristics of the Traditional, Contemporary, and Blended Worship Models, Building Your Worship Ministry Team, High Impact Organization, Specific Strategies for Worship Planning, and the Art of Relationships. The Final Paper is due by 11:59 p.m. (ET) on Friday of Module/Week 8.

VI. COURSE GRADING AND POLICIES

A. Points

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Requirements Checklist</th>
<th>10</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Discussion Board Forums (4 at 50 pts ea)</td>
<td>200</td>
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Reflection Essay 50
Defining the Terms Essay 50
Interview Project 25
Interview Proposal 25
Interview Questions 100
Interview Paper 100
Newsletter Project 100
Worship Plan 150
Worship Planning Project 100
Final Paper 200

Total 1010

B. Scale
A = 900–1010   B = 800–899   C = 700–799   D = 600–699   F = 0–599

C. Late Assignment Policy
If the student is unable to complete an assignment on time, then he or she must contact the instructor immediately by email.
Assignments that are submitted after the due date without prior approval from the instructor will receive the following deductions:

1. Late assignments submitted within one week of the due date will receive a 10% deduction.

2. Assignments submitted more than one week late will receive a 20% deduction.

3. Assignments submitted two weeks late or after the final date of the class will not be accepted.

4. Late Discussion Board threads or replies will not be accepted.

Special circumstances (e.g. death in the family, personal health issues) will be reviewed by the instructor on a case-by-case basis.

D. Style Guidelines
All assignments for this course are to be formatted in accordance with the latest edition of the Turabian style manual (A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations). Discussion assignments and essay examinations may use the parenthetical citation style. All other written assignments should use the footnote citation style. Writing aids are available via the Online Writing Center.

E. Extra Credit
No additional “for credit” assignments will be permitted beyond those given in the course requirements stated above.

F. Disability Assistance
Students with a documented disability may contact Liberty University Online’s Office of Disability Academic Support (ODAS) at LUOODAS@liberty.edu to make arrangements for academic accommodations. Further information can be found at www.liberty.edu/disabilitysupport.
**COURSE SCHEDULE**

**WRSP 440**


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MODULE/ WEEK</th>
<th>READING &amp; STUDY</th>
<th>ASSIGNMENTS</th>
<th>POINTS</th>
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</table>
| 1            | Best: introduction, ch. 1  
Bradley: ch. 1  
Scheer: introduction  
2 presentations  
1 article | Course Requirements Checklist  
Discussion Board Forum 1  
Reflection Essay | 10  
50  
50 |
| 2            | Best: ch. 2  
Bradley: ch. 2  
Scheer: ch. 1  
1 presentation | Interview Proposal  
Defining the Terms Essay | 25  
50 |
| 3            | Best: ch. 4  
Bradley: chs. 5–6  
Scheer: ch. 2  
1 presentation | Discussion Board Forum 2  
Interview Questions  
Newsletter Project | 50  
25  
100 |
| 4            | Best: ch. 8  
Bradley: ch. 7  
Scheer: ch. 3  
1 presentation | Interview Paper | 100 |
| 5            | Best: ch. 9  
Scheer: chs. 4–5  
1 presentation | Discussion Board Forum 3 | 50 |
| 6            | Best: ch. 11  
Bradley: ch. 8  
Scheer: ch. 6  
1 presentation | Worship Plan | 150 |
| 7            | Best: ch. 14  
Bradley: ch. 10  
Scheer: ch. 7  
1 presentation | Discussion Board Forum 4  
Worship Planning Project | 50  
100 |
| 8            | Bradley: ch. 11  
Scheer: ch. 8  
1 presentation | Final Paper | 200 |
| **TOTAL**    |                 |             | **1010** |
NOTE: Each course week (except for Module/Week 1) begins on Tuesday morning at 12:00 a.m. (ET) and ends on Monday night at 11:59 p.m. (ET). The final module/week ends at 11:59 p.m. (ET) on Friday.