



15800 Calvary Road  
Kansas City, MO 64147-1341

# SYLLABUS

COURSE: MU215 D ND Worship Leading  
CREDIT: 2 Semester Hours  
SEMESTER: Spring 2026  
DAY/TIME/ROOM: Tues and Thurs 9:30-10:50AM E Ed Room 109  
INSTRUCTOR: Heather Wilson  
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## I. DESCRIPTION

A practical course providing information and training in worship leading for traditional and contemporary music, praise band, audio/visual, and service planning – all geared for church and youth settings.

\* This is a blended class, meaning that both campus and online students take this class together. Campus students attend the classes in person; online students attend the classes via the online classroom. All interaction and assignments for campus and online students are done in the online classroom.

## II. OBJECTIVES

A. General competencies to be achieved. The student will:

1. Establish a sound, biblical philosophy and foundation for the use of music in worship for the church, youth group, Christian school and other settings.
  - a. PLO: 1, 2, 3
  - b. Assignment: IIIA, IIIC
2. Develop knowledge and skills to be an effective worship leader.
  - a. PLO: 3
  - b. Assignment: IIIA, IIIB, IIIC
3. Acquire the knowledge and principles to participate in and lead a modern praise band/team.
  - a. PLO: 3
  - b. Assignment: IIIA, IIIB, IIIC
4. Gain the understanding and skills to help other musicians to be effective participants and/or leaders of a worship service.
  - a. PLO: 3
  - b. Assignment: IIIA, IIIB, IIIC

*Our Mission: "...to prepare Christians to live and serve in the church and in the world according to the Biblical worldview*

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B. Specific competencies to be achieved. The student will:

1. Learn how to formulate, articulate and put into practice a biblical approach for the use of music and worship.
  - a. PLO: 1, 2
  - b. Assignment: IIIA, IIIB, IIIC
2. Learn how to set up and administrate a modern praise band/team.
  - a. PLO: 2, 3
  - b. Assignment: IIIA, IIIB, IIIC
3. Learn how to effectively rehearse and lead a modern praise band/team.
  - a. PLO: 3
  - b. Assignment: IIIA, IIIB, IIIC
4. Learn how to effectively work with a variety of worship and music resources found in the local church.
  - a. PLO: 2, 3
  - b. Assignment: IIIA, IIIB, IIIC
5. Learn how to select, arrange and program all of the elements of multiple styles of worship services.
  - a. PLO: 3
  - b. Assignment: IIIA, IIIB, IIIC
6. Learn how to work with audio and visual equipment related to church services and praise bands.
  - a. PLO: 3
  - b. Assignment: IIIA, IIIB, IIIC

### III. REQUIREMENTS

A. Reading:

1. Read the assigned textbooks for this course.
2. Journal. Read 1 edition of Worship Leader magazine. Complete journal reading form and put in course notebook.
3. Online/website. Locate 1 valuable worship leading website, survey the site and write a review summarizing what areas of help this site provides. Give a copy of your review to all class members and put a copy in your course notebook.
4. Online/website. Locate 1 valuable worship planning website, survey the site and write a review summarizing what benefits and potential drawbacks this site could have for a worship team. Give a copy of your review to all class members and put a copy in your course notebook.
5. Music Notation software. Prepare 4 lead sheets with the use of either Finale or Sibelius. Place them in your course notebook and give copies to all class members.

B. Orders of service:

The student is to create 2 orders of service based on criteria from the instructor for a traditional, blended and contemporary service. Include these groups/sets, along

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with the music, in the course notebook. Prepare a copy of your orders of service for all class members.

C. Observation/interview/instruction:

1. Visit and observe at least 1 well-established, church praise band/team rehearsal. Take notes and complete observation form. Put in course notebook. Share observations with class. The student will attend a rehearsal approved by the instructor.
2. Visit and observe at least 1 well-established, church praise band/team in a worship service. Take notes and complete the observation form. Put in course notebook. Share observations with class.
3. Interview a worship arts pastor at a medium to large church that has an active, well-established worship arts ministry. Complete the interview form and questions and place in course notebook. Share results with the class.

D. Course notebook:

1. Create a notebook for this course that will include dividers or sections on all key categories/topics included in this course.

#### IV. METHODS

A. In-class methods

1. Lecture, demonstration, participation, discussion.
2. Guest lecturers/clinicians.
3. DVD instructional presentations.

B. Out-of-class methods

1. Reading.
2. Interview a worship leader/praise band leader.
3. Observe a praise band rehearsal and contemporary worship service.
4. Select service elements for praise band and worship services
5. Complete all assignments and forms and
6. put in course notebook.

C. Grading

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|---|------------|
| 1. Assignments /Course notebook   | 30%        |
| 2. Attendance/Participation   | 20%        |
| 3. Praise band rehearsal observation, form and oral report (1)                    | 10%        |
| 4. Praise band/contemporary worship service observation, form and oral report (1) | 10%        |
| 5. Interview worship arts pastor and oral report (1)                              | 10%        |
| 6. Two Quizzes  | <u>20%</u> |
|   | 100%       |

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## V. MATERIALS

- The Holy Bible
  - A. Scheer, Greg. *The Art of Worship: A musician's guide to leading modern worship*. \$16.99 Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2006. **ISBN-13:** 978-0801067099
  - B. Whaley, Vernon. *Called to Worship: Biblical Foundations of Our Response to God's Call*, \$15.99, Thomas Nelson, Publishers, 2013. **ISBN-13:** 978-1401680084
  - C. Class notes or handouts provided by the instructor.

## VI. TENTATIVE CLASS SCHEDULE Class/Lab Schedule

Week 1-2	Whaley: Chpt 1-3		
Week 3-4	Whaley: Chpt 4-7		
Week 5-6	Whaley: Chpt 8-11	Scheer: Intro and Chpt 1	
Week 7-8	Whaley: Chpt 12-15	Scheer: Chpt 2	
Week 9-10	Whaley: Chpt 16-17	Scheer: Chpt 3	Oral report 1
Week 11-12	Whaley: Chpt 18-20	Scheer: Chpt 4	Oral report 2
Week 13-14		Scheer: Chpt 5	Oral report 3
Week 15-16		Scheer: Chpt 6-8	Course notebook due*

Oral report 1: Observation of praise rehearsal

Oral report 2: Observation of a worship service

Oral report 3: Worship pastor interview

\*Turn notebook in to teacher & handout select materials to other class members

## VII. OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

The Bible is a required textbook in every course at Calvary University. To facilitate academic level study, students are required to use for assignments and research an English translation or version of the Bible based on formal equivalence (*meaning that the translation is generally word-for-word from the original languages*), including any of the following: New American Standard (NASB, English Standard Version (ESV), New King James (NKJV), or King James (KJV). Other translations and versions based on dynamic equivalence (*paraphrases, and thought-for-thought translations like NLT and NIV*) may be used as supplemental sources. Please ask the professor if you have questions about a particular translation or version.

Students with disabilities have the responsibility of informing the Accommodations Support Coordinator ([aso@calvary.edu](mailto:aso@calvary.edu)) of any disabling condition that may require support.

Plagiarism is defined as copying any content without identifying the source. This also includes taking another person's or AI entity's ideas or constructs and presenting

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them as your own. Plagiarism of any kind will not be tolerated. Most assignments at Calvary require the student to produce original work. Therefore, unless specifically permitted by the instructor, the use of AI-generated content is prohibited (even if cited) as it does not represent original work created by the student and is an unreliable aggregate of ideas from other sources. AI, however, may be utilized in cases where the instructor has explicitly permitted its use to accomplish specific tasks. It is only in these cases that AI-generated (or modified) content may be submitted by the student. If there are any questions as to the permissibility of AI use for an assignment, please ask your instructor for clarification.

The Clark Academic Center ([learning@calvary.edu](mailto:learning@calvary.edu)) is dedicated to providing free academic assistance for Calvary University students. Student tutors aid with all facets of the writing process, tutor in various subject areas, prepare students for exams and facilitate tests. Please take advantage of this service.

In-class attendance and discussion is mandatory and is part of the student’s overall final grade.

All class papers must follow the Turabian style according to *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, 8th edition and the Calvary Style Guide, 2019 update.

Grading Scale: See grading scale in the university catalog.

Assignments	Hours	Assigned
“Seat Time” in class	21	21
Reading	30	500 pages
Observations	7	
Projects	6	
Orders of Service	6	
Worship Leading Notebook/assignments	18	
Quizzes	2	
Total	90	