Theology 203 - Course Syllabus

Course Title: Theology of Worship *(1 Credit)*

Course Description: This course traces the biblical theology of worship from Genesis to Revelation, exploring what worship was originally intended to be and how sin disrupted it. We will then follow the unfolding pattern of worship through key biblical eras, grasping how Jesus reorients and fulfills true worship. The course will conclude with an anticipation what perfect worship will look like in the new creation. Throughout, we will apply learned biblical principles of worship to our personal and corporate lives. Student learning will be evaluated based on weekly reading responses, in-class quizzes, and a final worship service planned and led collaboratively by the class.

Prerequisites: None

Instructors:

- Professor: Dan Taylor
    - Email: dan.taylor@anchorbiblecollege.org
    - Phone: 231-4999212

Course Materials:

- Bible (unless otherwise specified, you may use the translation of your choice)
    - Lecture notes and quiz blanks will use the ESV translation.
- Recalling the Hope of Glory: Biblical Worship from the Garden to the New Creation, Allen P. Ross, ISBN: 9780825435782

Class Time: Class will meet once weekly on Thursdays from 5pm-7pm from 10/29/2026 – 12/17/2026. Class will take place in Room 105 at Hope Community Church, located at 2100 Ellsworth Rd. Ypsilanti, MI, 48197. Class time will be broken down into the following general schedule:

- Quiz (5:00 - 5:10)
- Review of Homework (5:10 - 5:15)
- Lecture (5:15 - 6:25)
- Discussion (6:30 - 7:00)

Assignments:

- ***Quizzes*** - There will be 6 quizzes over the course of the semester. These quizzes will generally take place at the beginning of class time each week and will cover the previous

week's study materials. The quiz format will include multiple-choice, fill-in-the-blank, and short-answer-style questions. The purpose of these quizzes is to provide the students with regular graded feedback on their understanding of the course material and to prepare them for the exams. The quizzes also ensure a student's regular and on-time attendance for the weekly class time. The lowest quiz score for each student will be dropped.

- ***Worship Journal*** – In place of separate weekly homework assignments, students will keep a worship journal across the semester. Each week, having studied a period of biblical history in class, students will practice a corresponding form of worship and then write a short entry recording what they did, the passage behind it, and what they observed. Six entries are due according to the course schedule. Entries run about half a page handwritten or 250 words typed; the two church visit entries run to one page. The purpose of the journal is to move students from analyzing worship to practicing it, and to require a biblical reason for each form practiced.
- ***Cross-Tradition Visits*** – Two of the six journal entries require students to attend a worship service outside their own tradition. The first visit (due 12/10) is to a congregation in a historic liturgical tradition, Orthodox or Episcopalian/Anglican. The second visit (due 12/17) is to a charismatic or Pentecostal congregation in which spiritual gifts are exercised during the gathering itself. A list of recommended congregations will be provided, though students may attend any congregation approved by the instructor within the assigned category. All visits must be approved before attending. Students whose home tradition falls within an assigned category will be given an alternative assignment.
- ***Final Project: Class Worship Service*** – The class will plan and lead a worship service together on 12/17/26. The service will follow the order of worship Justin Martyr described around AD 150. Each student will be assigned one element of the service together with one biblical period studied in the course, and will be responsible both for preparing that element and for writing a theological defense of it. Elements and periods are chosen during the first week of class. The project is built in three steps:
    - Step 1 (11/5): Read your assigned period's anchor text. Submit a paragraph explaining what the text shows about how God is worshiped and why.
    - Step 2 (12/3): Submit a draft of your element as it would actually be used in the service, with a paragraph of rationale. Drafts will be peer reviewed in class on 12/3.
    - Step 3 (12/10): Submit your revised element in final form so the order of service can be assembled.
- ***Final Exam*** - The final exam will take place on 12/17/26. The exam will be cumulative. The purpose of the exam is to encourage each student to review the entire course material and to ensure that each student retains the information learned throughout the course of the semester. The exam will be structured in the same format as the quizzes.

Populi: Populi is an online course management system for college courses. It will be used in this course for online submission of assignments and for posting grades, announcements, and access to relevant course documents. Further details on how to set up a Populi account and access this course can be found in the appendix to this document.

Assessment: Assignments will have the following grade weights:

Assignment	Grade Weight	Notes
Quizzes	20%	Weekly, according to the course schedule. Lowest quiz score dropped
Worship Journal/ Homework	20%	Weekly journal entries according to the course schedule. Two short homework assignments
Final Exam	30%	On 12/17/26
Final Worship Service	30%	Steps due each week. Worship Service will be happen on 12/17/26

We will use the following thresholds to convert raw scores in the course into letter grades:

- A+: >= 98%
- A: >= 92%
- A-: >= 90%
- B+: >= 88%
- B: >= 82%
- B-: >= 80%
- C+: >= 78%
- C: >= 72%
- C-: >= 70%
- D+: >= 68%
- D: >= 62%
- D-: >= 60%
- F: < 60%

Depending on the distribution of raw scores at the end of the semester, these thresholds may change; however the final thresholds will be no stricter than the current thresholds. For example, if you receive a raw score of 85% in the course, you will be guaranteed a letter grade of at least B; however, it may happen that you receive a higher letter grade depending on the overall distribution of raw scores.

Class Schedule:

Date	Topic	Study Material	Assignments Due
10/29/26	*Why this Course?* *Worship in the Garden* *Worship in the Patriarchs*	Ross Ch 4 pp.104 - 108; Ross Ch 5 pp. 109 - 116; Ross Ch 7 pp. 138 - 142	Nothing Due First Day of Class
11/5/26	*Worship in the Law*	Ross Ch 9 pp.173 - 186	Quiz 1 Select final project element Reflection: What is worship? *Or* What do you need to surrender? Worship Journal 1
11/12/26	*Worship in the Monarchy* *Guest Lecture: Organizing a Praise Set* *Worship in the Prophets*	Ross Ch 15 pp. 253 - 261; Ross Ch 18 pp. 297 - 307	Quiz 2 Final Project Step 1 Worship Journal 2
11/19/26	*Worship in the Second Temple* *Worship in the Gospels*	Ross Ch 21 pp. 347 - 355; Ross Ch 23 pp. 373 - 390	Quiz 3 Write a worship song *or* Organize a praise set list Worship Journal 3
11/26/26	*No Class, Thanksgiving Break*		
12/3/26	*Worship in the Letters*	Ross Ch 26 pp. 418 - 430	Quiz 4 Final Project Step 2 Worship Journal 4
12/10/26	*Worship in Heaven*	Ross Ch 27 pp. 477 - 488	Quiz 5 Final Project Step 3 Worship Journal 5
12/17/26			Final Exam Final Worship Service Worship Journal 6

Late Policy:

Assignments are expected to be submitted prior to the due date. If there are extraordinary circumstances outside of the student's control, they may request an extension from the teaching staff.

Additionally, it is often the case that due to any number of other circumstances, a student finds that they are unable to adequately complete a given assignment. In such cases, the student is welcome to submit the assignment after the due date, up to the end of the semester; however, a late penalty will be given for such a late assignment. The standard late

penalty is a 20% flat reduction in grade for the given assignment. This late penalty is meant to penalize late submissions and encourage timeliness, while still allowing the student to still finish the given assignment to the best of their ability even if they are unable to complete the assignment for some time due to any extended circumstances.

This late policy is subject to instructor discretion. The 20% late penalty policy is intended to allow for unique or difficult but not extraordinary circumstances. Any student who abuses this policy, per the instructor's discretion, is liable to have this policy revoked and the grade revert to either a zero or that based on any submission prior to the due date.

Appendix: How to Log in to Populi for the First Time

This course uses Populi, Anchor Bible College's student information and learning management system. Your Populi account is created for you when you matriculate at Anchor, so there is nothing additional for you to sign up for; however, you do need to perform the following steps to activate your account:

- Check your email for a welcome message from notifications@populi.co with the subject line "Welcome to Populi." It is sent to the personal email address you registered with.
- The email contains your username, which the college has already set for you. Usernames follow the format firstname.lastname (for example, jayden.spring).
- Click the link in the email to set your password. This link expires thirty days after the email is sent. If your link is expired, check with an Anchor staff member and they should be able to help generate a new link.
- Populi will first ask for a mobile phone number so the college can send you text notifications. You may skip this step. If you enter a number, Populi will text you a verification code to confirm it.
- Set your password. It must be at least ten characters long and contain at least one capital letter and one number. Populi will not accept a password that has appeared in a known data breach.
- Check the box to accept the Acceptable Use Policy, then click "Save Password and Log In."

Your account should be all set. To log in to Populi in the future, go to the following URL: https://anchor.populiweb.com
Use your username and password to log in. Then click on your course.

Populi publishes its own help articles for students, including the following:

- Logging in for the first time: https://support.populiweb.com/hc/en-us/articles/223791887-Your-Populi-account-login-everything-you-need-to-know
- Assignments, lessons, discussions, and tests: https://support.populiweb.com/hc/en-us/sections/360006197054-Your-courses

If you have trouble logging in or reaching your course, contact Jayden Spring, Administrative Specialist. Call or text 517-320-2659, or email jayden.spring@anchorbiblecollege.org.

Appendix: How to submit assignments in Populi

From your Populi Home page, click on your course and navigate to the Assignments tab. Select the specific assignment from the list of assignments. Follow the instructions for the different cases of typed and handwritten submissions.

For typed documents:

- Click the name of the assignment to open its page
- Click the upload area in the main part of the screen
- Navigate to the proper file and select it
- You may add any number of files by uploading them the same way
- You may also attach a file, along with any comments or questions for your instructor, in the feedback section on the right side of the page

For handwritten documents:

- You may use a scanner, scanner app, or simply take photos of your work and submit the files by following the same steps outlined for typed documents.

Please note, you may replace your submission as often as you like before the assignment deadline, provided your instructor has not yet viewed or graded it. To replace a submission, delete the uploaded file and upload the corrected version. Once your instructor has viewed or graded your submission, the original file can no longer be deleted. You may still be able to upload a revised version, but you should clearly identify it and notify your instructor.

Appendix: Academic Integrity

Students are expected to hold themselves to a Christian standard of ethics in all matters. This includes, but is not limited to, refraining from any forms of plagiarism, cheating, sharing or acquiring any materials that would give a student an unfair advantage, or any dishonest representation of one's work. Below are outlined the consequences for an infringement of academic integrity for a given assignment:

- First offense – A grade of zero is given for the assignment; the professor must notify the Registrar and Dean of Students. A statement goes into the student's file.
- Second offense – A grade of F is assigned for the course; the professor must notify the Registrar and Dean of Students. A statement goes into the student's file. The Dean of Students and/or Registrar will notify faculty of students who incur a second offense in this area.
- Third offense – The professor must notify the Registrar and Dean of Students. A statement goes into the student's file and the student may be suspended or dismissed from this institution.

Appendix: Policy on Use of Generative Language Models For Written Assignments

The use of generative language models, such as ChatGPT, is not strictly prohibited and in some cases is very much encouraged as a research and brainstorming tool. However, all written assignments submitted as your own work should reflect your own personal writing. This prohibits copy and paste use of such tools, however, you may feel free to quote such tools provided that you make clear it is a quotation.

In general, you should treat generative language models as equivalent to speaking to another person. You may gain insight from them and be able to improve your value and

productivity, but you should not misrepresent someone else’s work as your own. These tools may also be treated somewhat like calculators in a math class. You may use them when appropriate and assignments may even assume their use in some ways, but all submitted work must be your own unless specified otherwise.