



The goal of this academy is to Educate, Build, and Strengthen Ministers of Music, Worship Leaders, Minstrels, and Musicians for maintaining a lifestyle of worship through a “3T” method and approach:

1. Transparency- Matthew 5:16 (Letting your light shine)
2. Transformation- Romans 12:1-2 (Transformed by being renewed)
3. Transition- Psalm 24:1-6 (Moving upward as a “Generation of Seekers”)

“Gatekeepers: Rebuilding Access, Authority, and Alignment”
How Worshipers Guard What God Has Rebuilt
 Total Worship Center Virtual Academy
 Spring 2026
ONLINE COURSE SYLLABUS

Class Meeting Time:	Wednesdays, 4:30 pm PST - 6:00 pm PST/7:30 pm EST - 9:00 pm EST
Zoom Information:	Meeting ID: Password:
Zoom Link:	
Instructor:	Dr. Shaneka Bullins
Email:	dr.shaneka.bullins@gmail.com
Phone:	(310) 663-5181

Required Material/Textbooks:

- Please see each week’s assigned readings on the course portal.

This syllabus is provided as an aid to you in completing this course. Its specific purpose is to acquaint you with the policies by which this class will be conducted, what you can expect of it, and, in turn, what is expected of you. Please keep it in a convenient place so you may refer to it whenever the occasion requires.

COURSE DESCRIPTION, LEARNING OUTCOMES, METHODS OF INSTRUCTION, & COURSE MAP

Course Description

This course invites worshippers, leaders, and intercessors into a deeper call beyond initial restoration—into the sacred responsibility of **rebuilding and guarding access, authority, and alignment** in the life of a believer. Rooted in the gate systems of the Book of Nehemiah and the governing principles of Scripture, this journey explores how spiritual authority is preserved, access is regulated, and alignment is sustained over time.

Rather than moving sequentially through stages of restoration, this course takes a depth-focused approach—examining the gates as active points of vulnerability, discernment, and responsibility. Each week will excavate specific gates, uncovering how worship, witness, repentance, deliverance, the Word, the Spirit, warfare, and watchfulness must be understood, reinforced, and continually guarded. Students will confront areas of access leakage, misalignment, and spiritual fatigue while developing the wisdom and discipline required to maintain what God has rebuilt.

This is not a foundational rebuilding class—it is a **gatekeeping and reinforcement class**. It calls worshippers to mature into watchmen: those who discern what enters, steward what remains, and stand alert over the gates of their lives, families, and assignments. By the end of this course, students will have

developed a personal Gate Reinforcement Blueprint—equipping them to guard their worship, protect their authority, and sustain alignment with the presence of God through intentionality, vigilance, and spiritual maturity.

Course Learning Outcomes

Students who successfully complete this course will be able to:

1. **Analyze the theological function of spiritual gates in Scripture** (with emphasis on the Book of Nehemiah) and explain how access, authority, and alignment are established, compromised, and restored in the life of a believer.
2. **Evaluate how key gates regulate spiritual access and authority**, assessing how worship, witness, repentance, deliverance, the Word, the Spirit, warfare, and watchfulness must be intentionally rebuilt, reinforced, and guarded.
3. **Diagnose areas of access vulnerability (“gate leakage”) and misalignment** within their personal lives, relationships, and ministries, and determine how these breaches impact spiritual authority and sustainability.
4. **Differentiate between initial restoration and ongoing reinforcement**, articulating how rebuilding access, authority, and alignment requires continuous vigilance, discipline, and intentional boundary-setting.
5. **Examine the role of discernment, watchfulness, and spiritual accountability** in maintaining alignment, particularly in seasons of fatigue, familiarity, or spiritual opposition.
6. **Construct a theology of gatekeeping** that integrates worship, authority, stewardship, and spiritual warfare, positioning the believer as both worshipper and watchman responsible for guarding what God has restored.
7. **Design and present a Gate Reinforcement Blueprint** that identifies vulnerable gates, establishes scriptural anchors, and outlines practical strategies for rebuilding access, protecting authority, and sustaining alignment over time.

Methods of Instruction

This course incorporates didactic instruction (e.g., lectures via written, audio, & video), group learning (e.g., small group discussions, group projects), and experiential learning (end-of-semester project).

Class Expectations

- Come prepared, having reviewed the assigned scriptures.
- Engage fully in discussion and prayer.
- Honor each other’s vulnerability and journeys.
- Practice punctuality and professionalism during class.

Electronics in Class

Students are expected to access this course online. While participating in synchronous activities (e.g., small group discussions, lectures, etc.), students are expected to be fully engaged. Students should not access anything online during class time that is not related to class.

Notice of Syllabus Change

This syllabus is a guide and every attempt is made to provide an accurate overview of the course. However, circumstances and events may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester and may depend, in part, on the progress, needs, and experiences of the students. Changes to the syllabus will be made with advance notice.

Online Etiquette

To maintain a respectful and engaging virtual learning environment:

- Keep your camera on when possible and minimize distractions.
- Mute your microphone when not speaking.
- Stay on topic and use respectful, encouraging language.
- Honor others' contributions with kindness and avoid sarcasm or criticism.
- Summarize responses if referencing earlier posts and check for clarity before submitting written content.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Assignment Descriptions

<p>Attendance, Participation, and Professionalism</p>	<p>Students are expected to come to each class meeting. Missing a class means you will miss important content and experiences. If there is an emergency or you will be late, please contact the instructor as soon as possible. During each class, we will engage in some activity that will be required to submit before leaving class. These assignments will be challenging to make up outside of class, so if the absence is excused, the student can make up the assignment in office hours.</p>
<p>Types of Assignments</p>	<p>Weekly Reflections – “Gate Reports”</p> <p>Students will submit 300–500 word reflections analyzing the condition of specific “gates” in their personal life, leadership, or spiritual walk. These reflections function as gatekeeper reports—identifying points of access, areas of vulnerability, and strategies for reinforcement. Students are expected to move beyond awareness into diagnosis and responsibility, noting where access has been compromised and how alignment must be restored.</p> <p>Gatekeeper Journals – “Access & Alignment Logs”</p> <p>Guided journal entries with strategic prompts that help students examine how access, authority, and alignment are functioning in real time. Prompts may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access audits (What currently has permission?) • Authority checks (Where has influence been weakened?) • Alignment reflections (Where am I out of order with God’s Word?) • Boundary-setting plans • Discernment exercises and prayer strategies <p>These journals emphasize ongoing vigilance, not one-time reflection.</p> <p>Gatekeeper Strategy Sessions (Collaborative Breakouts)</p> <p>Students will participate in small-group “gatekeeping huddles,” designed to mirror the communal responsibility of guarding the city. These sessions will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Case studies on compromised gates (personal, relational, or ministry-based) • Discernment exercises (What entered? How? Why?) • Strategic planning for reinforcing access and restoring alignment

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaborative problem-solving around sustaining spiritual authority <p>These sessions reinforce that gatekeeping is both personal and communal responsibility.</p> <p>Final Project – “Gate Reinforcement Blueprint”</p> <p>Students will design a creative or strategic project that reflects their personal or ministry-specific gatekeeping assignment. This project must demonstrate depth of understanding around access, authority, and alignment, and include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identification of one or more vulnerable or compromised gates 2. Analysis of how access was gained or authority was weakened 3. A scripturally grounded reinforcement strategy 4. Practical systems for maintaining alignment over time 5. A clear articulation of their role as a gatekeeper/watchman <p>Projects may take the form of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic gatekeeping plan • Teaching or training session • Prayer and warfare guide • Visual or written blueprint • Creative expression (spoken word, declaration, etc.)
<p>End-of-Semester Project Planner</p>	<p>Beginning Week 01, at the end of each class, we will spend time reflecting on how we can use what we have learned to construct our final project. We will use our Project Planner to support this effort.</p>

Final Project: My Gate Reinforcement Blueprint

Students will create a 5–7 minute creative presentation or reflective project that captures their personal response to the call to **guard, reinforce, and steward what God has rebuilt**. This project should demonstrate how key themes from the course have shaped their understanding of **access, authority, and alignment** within their current season and spiritual assignment.

Your presentation must include:

- **The gate(s) that are most vulnerable or significant in your current season**
Identify and explain which spiritual gate(s) require intentional guarding, reinforcement, or realignment in your life, leadership, or ministry.
- **A personal story, testimony, or moment of discernment**
Share an experience that revealed where access was compromised, authority was weakened, or alignment was disrupted.
- **A Gate Reinforcement Strategy**
Describe what you are now committed to guard and how you will do so. This should include:
 - Boundaries you will establish

- Disciplines you will maintain
- Practices that reinforce alignment
- Systems that prevent future access breaches
- **A Scripture that anchors your gatekeeping assignment**
Provide a biblical foundation that governs how you will guard this gate and sustain alignment.
- **A clear articulation of your role as a gatekeeper/watchman**
Define what you are responsible for protecting and how your obedience impacts your life, family, or assignment.
- **Optional Creative Element**
(e.g., visual blueprint, strategic plan, spoken word, prayer guide, declaration, illustrated model, journal collage, etc.)

COURSE OUTLINE

Week	Topic/Course Learning Outcome	Themes & Focus	Suggested Readings and/or Videos (to complete BEFORE class)	Assignment & Due Date
01	Gatekeeping Theology: Understanding Access, Authority & Alignment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gates vs. walls (authority vs. protection) Access as a spiritual responsibility Alignment as sustainability Introduction to “gate leakage” Why rebuilt lives still collapse without guarding 	Nehemiah 3 Psalm 24 1 Chronicles 9	Title: Gate Report #1 – Access Audit Type: Reflection (300–500 words) Focus: What currently has access to your life that should not?
02	The Sheep Gate: Worship, Identity & Consecration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Worship as the first gate of access Identity rooted in sacrifice, not performance Hidden idolatry in modern worship What happens when the worship gate is compromised 	Nehemiah 3:1 John 10 Romans 12:1	Title: Gate Report #2 – Consecration Audit Type: Reflection + Journal Focus: What does your worship currently cost you?
03	The Fish Gate: Voice, Witness & Influence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Witness vs. oversharing Speaking from encounter vs. exposure Influence as a form of access Guarding what you release, not just what you receive 	Nehemiah 3:3 John 4:28–30 Matthew 4:19	Title: Gate Report #3 – Witness Inventory Type: Reflection (300–500 words) Focus: What messages are you releasing—and are they aligned?
04	The Old Gate & Valley Gate: Repentance, Humility & Alignment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Repentance as return (not regret) Pride as a gate vulnerability Valleys as formation environments Ancient paths vs. modern compromise 	Nehemiah 3:6, 13 Jeremiah 6:16 Psalm 23	Title: Gate Report #4 – Alignment Check Type: Journal Entry Focus: Where are you out of alignment—and why?
05	The Dung Gate: Deliverance, Boundaries & Contamination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deliverance vs. maintenance Emotional attachment to dysfunction Why “trash” returns Boundaries as spiritual protection 	Nehemiah 3:14 2 Corinthians 7:1 Matthew 12:43–45	Title: Gate Report #5 – Contamination Plan Type: Reflection + Strategy Plan Focus: What must be removed—and how will you keep it out?

COURSE OUTLINE

Week	Topic/Course Learning Outcome	Themes & Focus	Suggested Readings and/or Videos (to complete BEFORE class)	Assignment & Due Date
06	The Fountain & Water Gates: Flow, Word & Discernment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spirit flow vs. emotional expression • The Word as the unbroken gate • Discernment failures • Dryness as a diagnostic 	Nehemiah 3:15, 26 John 7:38 Hebrews 4:12	<p>Title: Gate Report #6 – Flow Calibration</p> <p>Type: Journal + Practice Plan</p> <p>Focus: How will you ensure Word governs your flow?</p>
07	The Horse Gate & East Gate: Warfare, Watchfulness & Endurance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fatigue and lowered defenses • Watchman posture • Expectation as a weapon • Guarding in seasons of pressure 	Nehemiah 3:28–29 Ephesians 6:10–18 Matthew 26:41	<p>Title: Gate Report #7 – Watchman Plan</p> <p>Type: Reflection + Strategy</p> <p>Focus: How will you remain alert and consistent?</p>
08	Final Presentations: Gate Reinforcement Blueprint	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accountability and inspection • Gate reinforcement over time • Stewardship of spiritual authority • Deployment as a gatekeeper 	<p>Final Project – My Gate Reinforcement Blueprint</p> <p>Students present their personal gatekeeping strategy, demonstrating:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identified vulnerable gate(s) • Reinforcement systems • Scriptural alignment • Gatekeeping responsibility 	Presentations take place during the final class