

Foundations of Sacred Music

(MUSM 5284 and MUAG 4740)

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Course Description

This course is an introduction to the historical, theological, and biblical foundations of sacred music. The class will also explore the use of the lectionary and church year in planning along with suggested repertoire and resources. The goal of this class is to help students explore, analyze, and engage sacred music through the chronicling of historical developments and engagement with historical voices and narratives.

Course Structure and Calendar

This course is designed to be a combination of asynchronous and synchronous learning. In addition to our weekly class meetings, you will be able to access reading assignments, video lectures, and podcasts via Canvas at any time throughout the week. You will also be able to participate in Canvas group chat discussions regarding the material. There are 13 weeks of content that you will move through. I will open up a new module each week. Here are the lecture topics:

Sep 2

1. Music Making in the Hebrew Context

Sep 9

2. Psalmody

Sep 16

3. The Hellenistic Influence

Sep 23

4. The Apostolic and Post-Apostolic Period

Sep 30

5. Patristics and the Developing Church

Oct 7

6. Chant and The Carolingian Renaissance

Oct 14

7. Medieval Christianity and Organum

MIDTERM EXAM (Time and Date TBA)

Oct 21

8. Polyphony!

Oct 28

9. Luther and the Reformation
(Possible Field Trip Day)

Nov 4

10. Sacred Music in the Baroque Era
(Possible Field Trip Day)

Nov 11

11. Classical and Romantic Eras

Nov 18

12. Quires and Organs: The Anglican Tradition

Nov 25

(Thanksgiving Break)

Dec 2

13. A Rich Tapestry: Our American Tradition

Dec 9

Reading Day- Optional Online Study Review

Dec 12

FINAL EXAM (Online exam- due by 5pm)

Attendance

Because this course only meets once a week, your attendance at each session is critical. Each unexcused absence will lower your final grade by 5 percentage points. Please reference UNT Policy 06.039 for more information regarding attendance and absences.

Communication

- Instructors: Dr. Michael Conrady (professor of record) and Dr. Joshua Taylor
- Email: Michael.Conrady@unt.edu and Joshua.Taylor@unt.edu

If you have a private question, please contact me via email and I will respond within 24 hours (usually sooner). Weekends may take a little longer. Please use my phone number as a last resort - but, also, please use it if you need- emergencies happen!

Required Texts

Dowley, Tim (2018). Christian Music: A Global History. Augsburg Fortress. ISBN: 978-0800698416

Eicher, David, ed. (2013). Glory to God: The Presbyterian Hymnal (Purple Pew Edition). Westminster John Knox Press. ISBN: [978-0664503130](https://www.westminsterjohnknoxpress.com/products/glory-to-god-the-presbyterian-hymnal-purple-pew-edition)

Stookey, Laurence Hull (1996). Calendar: Christ's Time for the Church.

Other selected text excerpts will be made available to you as the course progresses.

Course Reading List

The reading list for this course is posted in a table below. The primary textbook is [Christian Music: A Global History](#) by Tim Dowley. We will read through the text in a mostly chronological fashion. There will be additional readings interspersed with our primary text that will allow us to dialogue in depth with three influential figures: Plato, Augustine, and Luther. These readings will be provided for you in the course of the semester. Optional readings are purely elective, but are available to students who wish to deepen their understanding of the topics at hand.

Due Date - Module Topic	Assigned Readings
Sep 2- Music Making in the Hebrew Context	
Sep 9- Psalmody	Dowley: Chapter 1
Sep 16- The Hellenistic Influence	"Music in Ancient Greece" by Quentin Faulkner Optional: "The Survival of Greek Music Theory" by Egon Wellesz, Pg. 46-52.
Sep 23- The Apostolic and Post-Apostolic Period	Dowley: Chapter 2 Optional: "Exaltation of the Rational: Treatment of Music by Plato and St. Augustine" by Ariana Phillips, Pg. 1-5
Sep 30- Patristics and the Developing Church	Dowley, Chapter 3 "Augustine and the Art of Music" by Carol Harrison, pg. 27-36
Oct 7- Chant and The Carolingian Renaissance	Dowley, Chapter 4 "Augustine and the Art of Music" by Carol Harrison, pg. 26-45
Oct 14- Medieval Christianity and Organum	Dowley, Chapter 5
Oct 21- Polyphony!	Dowley, Chapter 6
Oct 28- Luther and the Reformation	Dowley, Chapter 7 "Why Do Lutherans Sing? Lutherans, Music, and the Gospel in the First Century of the Reformation" by J. Andreas Loewe. Pg. 69-77 Optional: " <i>Musica est optimum!</i> : Martin Luther's Theory of Music" by J. Andreas Loewe, Pg. 575-578, 581-593
Nov 4- Sacred Music in the Baroque Era	Dowley Chapters 10 and 11
Nov 11- Classical and Romantic Eras	Dowley, Chapters 12-13
Nov 18- Quires and Organs: The Anglican Tradition	Dowley Chapters 8 and 14
Dec 2- A Rich Tapestry: Our American Tradition	Dowley, Chapter 15

Course Activities & Assessments (100 points total)

Activities

- Canvas discussion forums (10 points)
- Class discussions/attendance (10 points)
- Liturgical Planning Assignment (20 points)

Assessments

- Quizzes (4 @ 2.5 points, 10 points total)
- Midterm Exam (25 points)
- Final Exam (25 points)

Grading

- A: 90-100% (Outstanding, excellent work. The student performs well above the minimum criteria.)
- B: 80-89% (Good, impressive work. The student performs above the minimum criteria.)
- C: 70-79% (Solid, college-level work. The student meets the criteria of the assignment.)
- D: 60-69% (Below average work. The student fails to meet the minimum criteria.)
- F: 59 and below (Sub-par work. The student fails to complete the assignment.)

Grade-related Policies

Late Work

I will not accept late work in this course. All work turned in after the deadline will receive a grade of zero unless the student has an university-excused absence and provides documentation with 48 hours of the missed deadline.

Turnaround Time

I aim to return graded work to you within two weeks of the due date. When this is not possible, I will send an announcement to the class.

Grade Disputes

Please wait 24 hours before contacting me to dispute a grade. Within that time, I expect that you will review the assignment details and reflect on the quality of the work you turned in. If you would still like to meet, email me to set up a meeting (I cannot discuss grades over email). You should come to our scheduled meeting with specific examples that demonstrate that you earned a higher grade than you received. If you miss your scheduled meeting, you forfeit your right to a grade dispute. If you do not contact me to schedule a meeting within seven days of receiving your grade, you also forfeit your right to a grade dispute.

Disability Policy

The University of North Texas (UNT or University) does not discriminate on the basis of disability in admission, treatment, or access to its programs or activities, nor in employment in its programs or activities. The University is committed to providing equal educational access for qualified students with disabilities in accordance with state and federal laws, including the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 as Amended, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. In addition, the University is committed to making all programs and activities sponsored by UNT accessible, as required by the Texas Accessibility Standards and the Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines. To this end, all academic units are willing to make reasonable and appropriate adjustments to the classroom environment and the teaching, testing, or learning methodologies in order to facilitate equality of educational access for persons with disabilities. For more information, please reference UNT Policy 16.001.

Student Academic Integrity

The University of North Texas promotes the integrity of learning and embraces the core values of trust and honesty. Academic integrity is based on educational principles and procedures that protect the rights of all participants in the educational process and validate the legitimacy of degrees awarded by the University. In the investigation and resolution of allegations of student academic dishonesty, the University's actions are intended to be corrective, educationally sound, fundamentally fair, and based on reliable evidence. For more information, please reference UNT Policy 06.003.