

Foundations of Sacred Music Syllabus (MUSM 5284 and MUAG 4740)

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

Due to COVID, this course takes place 100% online and will be a combination of asynchronous and synchronous learning. 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. Our synchronous Zoom sessions take place in lieu of a face-to-face class session. They are on Fridays from 1pm to 3pm and video. Other than that, your interaction with me and with your fellow students will take place in Canvas. There are 13 weeks of content that you will move through. I will open up a new module each week.

Aug 24-28

1. Music Making in the Hebrew Context

Aug 31- Sep 4

2. Psalmody and the Greeks

Sep 7-11

3. The Apostolic and Post-Apostolic Period

Sep 14- 18

4. Patristics and the Developing Church

Sep 21-25

5. Chant and The Carolingian Renaissance

Sep 28-Oct 2

6. Medieval Christianity and Organum

Oct 5-9

7. Polyphony!

MIDTERM EXAM (Time TBA)

Oct 12-16

8. Luther and the Reformation

Oct 19-23

9. Sacred Music in the Baroque Era

Oct 26-30

10. Classical and Romantic Eras

Nov 2-6

11. Quires and Organs: The Anglican Tradition

Nov 9-13

12. A Rich Tapestry: Our American Tradition

Nov 16-20

13. 20th Century Manifestations: Individual Presentations

Nov 23-27

Thanksgiving Break

Dec 4

Reading Day- Optional Online Study Review

Dec 11

FINAL EXAM (Time TBA)

Required Texts

Dowley, Tim (2018). Christian Music: A Global History. Augsburg Fortress.

Hickman, Hoyt and Don Saliers (2010). The New Handbook of the Christian Year: Based on the Christian Lectionary.

Eicher, David, ed. (2013). Glory to God: The Presbyterian Hymnal (Purple Pew Edition). Westminster John Knox Press.

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

Course Activities & Assessments (100 points total)

Activities

- Canvas discussion forums (15 points)
- Zoom discussions/participation (15 points)
- 20th Century Presentation (10 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.)