

**NOTATION OF MEDIEVAL AND RENAISSANCE MUSIC, MUH 7411**

**Dr. Jennifer Thomas**

University of Florida

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MUB 232

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**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

An introductory survey to the thought and practice surrounding the notation of early music. Topics include plainchant notation and its scholarship, modal notation, and mensural notation. Class activities include reading, writing, discussion, and transcription of facsimiles.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

Students will gain

Experience and proficiency in transcribing, reading, and understanding the notation of the music of the Middle ages and Renaissance

An understanding of the theoretical and performance implications of notational practices

An understanding of the relationship among theory, notational practices, musical style, and musical thought.

**REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS**

Willi Apel. *The Notation of Polyphonic Music*, 5<sup>th</sup> ed. Cambridge: Medieval Academy of America, 1961.

Rastall, Richard. *The Notation of Western Music*. Leeds University Press, 1998.

**Recommended resources:**

Hiley, David. *Western Plainchant: A Handbook*. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1993.

Strunk's *Source Readings in Music History*. Leo Treitler, General editor. New York: Norton, 1998.

*New Grove*: "Notation," "Editing," "Sources."

Colette, Marie-Noëlle, Marielle Popin, and Philippe Vendrix. *Histoire de la Notation du Moyen Âge à la Renaissance*. Tours, France: Centre d'Études Supérieures de la Renaissance, Minerve, 2003.

**Online resources (just a few samples):**

<http://www.archive.org/details/palographiemus1891gaja>

<http://plainsong.org.uk/downloads.php>

<http://www.diamm.ac.uk/index.html> and <http://www.facebook.com/groups/172817981125/>

<http://www.facebook.com/groups/255369796543/> -- many, many links to mss on this page,

largely thanks to Rob Wegman, but others also contribute

**Additional materials:** Other materials may be placed on reserve in the music library or in dropbox.

**ASSIGNMENTS AND EVALUATION:** Expect weekly assignments; these will be the basis for class discussion about problems and techniques for representing the music. It is essential that they be completed on time.

There are several important components to evaluation for the class:

1. Attendance and participation
2. Turning in assignments promptly. There is no good way to catch up, therefore, timely completion of all assignments is essential. Be prepared with your questions about each assignment.
3. Accuracy in completion of transcription homework
4. Portfolio -- includes an annotated bibliography of the assigned readings and all assignments, which will be corrected and saved in a portfolio.

The portfolio will be submitted at the end of each unit. You should correct errors and learn from them. Put the original graded assignment and your corrected version in the portfolio together.

5. Demonstrated understanding and application of theoretical readings through class participation and assignments.

\*6. Final project, such as a fully edited scholarly or performing edition, a theoretical paper that includes analysis and transcription, or other project agreed upon by the student and the professor.

\*7. Final comprehensive assignment: Facsimiles representing each unit to transcribe and explain. Due in the last week of class.

\*Possible work: these will be discussed and determined collectively during the semester.

**Grading Scale:**

94-100% = A; 91-93% = A- ; 87-90% = B+ ; 84-86% = B ; 81-83% = B- ; 77-80% = C+; 74-76% = C ; 71-73% = C- ; 67-70% = D+ ; 64-66% = D ; 61-63% = D- ; 60 and below = E.

**Units of study:**

Weeks 1-3

I. Plainchant notation: the beginning of notated sound in western musical culture

Weeks 4-6

II. Modal notation: the beginning of notated polyphony with rhythm in western musical culture

Weeks 7-16

III. White mensural notation: early modern notation: the beginning of meter in western musical culture

ACADEMIC HONESTY: No academic dishonesty will be tolerated. Plagiarism is presenting the work of another as your own. Offenders will be subject to procedures and penalties as stated in the university bulletin and student handbook. **Strictly enforced!**

**Students with disabilities** are strongly encouraged to use the resources offered by the University of Florida Dean of Students Office to assist anyone who qualifies. To learn more, see <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drp/as.htm> or visit the office: Disability Resources Program, P202 Peabody Hall, Email: [accessuf@dso.ufl.edu](mailto:accessuf@dso.ufl.edu), :352-392-1261, Fax:352-392-5566, TDD:352-392-3008

Students who need extra help with writing should make use of the campus writing center. Students who use the writing center must submit all drafts of the paper, including the suggestions and revisions from the center. Information about the center is available at <http://www.at.ufl.edu/r&w/>. If you are asked to use the writing center, you will be expected to do so and to submit all drafts of the paper.

ATTENDANCE: Attendance is required and essential for your success in the class. See evaluation criteria.

CLASSROOM POLICIES: Class begins promptly; come prepared, come on time, stay the whole time.