

## **MUR 6705 (#27206) Sacred Music Literature**

Class Meets: TBA, MUB 326

Fall 2025

Instructor: Dr. Laura Ellis, MUB 326 Phone: 352-273-3181

E-mail: [lrellis@ufl.edu](mailto:lrellis@ufl.edu)

Office Hours: TBA (office hours will be announced following the scheduling of applied lessons)

### **RECOMMENDED TEXTS**

Beck, Guy L. Sacred Sound: Experiencing Music in World Religions. Waterloo, Ontario:

Wilfrid Laurier University Press, 2006.

Call number: ML3921 .S123 2006

Audio files for this book are available here: <https://www.wlupress.wlu.ca/Books/S/Sacred-Sound>

Dowley, Tim. Christian Music: A Global History. Minneapolis, MN: Augsburg Fortress, 2018 (rev. ed.).

2011 edition: ML3001 .D685 2011

Edelman, Marsha Bryan. Discovering Jewish Music. Philadelphia: The Jewish Publication Society, 2003.

Call Number: ML3776 .E44 2003

(Library West/Judaica)

Westermeyer, Paul. Te Deum: The Church and Music. Minneapolis, MN: Augsburg Fortress, 1998.

Call Number: BV290 .W47 1998

### **ADDITIONAL TEXTS**

Beck, Guy L. Sonic Theology: Hinduism and Sacred Sound. Columbia, SC: University of South Carolina

Press, 1993.

Call number: BL1215.S67 B43 1993

Heskes, Irene. Passport to Jewish Music. New York: Tara Publications, 1997.

Call Number: ML3776 .H47 1994

(Library West/Judaica)

Idelsohn, Abraham Z. Jewish Music: Its Historical Development. New York: Dover Publications,

Inc., 1992 (republishation).

Call number for 1967 edition: ML3776 .I3 1967

(Library West/Judaica)

Sullivan, Lawrence Eugene. Enchanting Powers: Music in the World's Religions. Cambridge, Mass:

Harvard University Press, 1997.

Call number: ML2900 .E56 1997

Werner, Eric. The Sacred Bridge: The Interdependence of Liturgy and Music in Synagogue and Church in the First Millennium. New York: Columbia University Press, 1959.

Call number: ML166 .W43 1970

(Library West/Judaica)

### **PURPOSES AND GOALS**

Next to the Word of God, music deserves the highest praise. She is the mistress and governess of those human emotions . . . which control men or more often overwhelm them . . . Whether you wish to comfort the sad, to subdue frivolity, to encourage the despairing, to humble the proud, to calm the passionate, or to appease those full of hate . . . what more effective means than music could you find?

*Martin Luther (1483-1546)*

This course will survey the development of congregational and choral song from the early church to the present. A variety of religious traditions and both liturgical and non-liturgical services will be explored. Included will be a discussion of the use of instruments and instrumental forms in worship.

#### GRADE DISTRIBUTION

Attendance & Class Preparation	--	40%
Research Project	--	40%
Bibliography	--	10%
Final Exam Reaction Paper	--	10%
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		100%

#### ATTENDANCE

Prompt and regular class attendance is required. Students are required to attend each class session and will be responsible for all information presented or assigned. Attendance will be taken and participation during class is encouraged. Predicted absenteeism should be discussed with the instructor no less than one week prior to the event. Tardiness and/or leaving early will affect attendance record. In the event that a student is absent, the student is solely responsible for getting notes and handouts from a fellow student, not the instructor. If you must be absent, please contact me prior to class meetings:

Phone: 352-273-3181

E-mail: [lrellis@ufl.edu](mailto:lrellis@ufl.edu)

In consideration of the instructor and your fellow students, please silence cellphones during class sessions.

#### RESEARCH PROJECT

Each student will be required to do additional research in an area of interest. A presentation related to the discoveries of your research will be shared during the final exam period. If possible, a presentation for organ studio members would be welcomed!

#### BIBLIOGRAPHY

The required textbooks listed above have a wealth of resources listed in the bibliography. Each student should prepare annotated bibliographies of at least 15 sources found in these texts. Beck: see *Bibliography*, pp 25-27 and at the end of each chapter (pp 56-59, 87-88, 109-111, 138-139, 166-167, 188-189), Dowley: see *Further Reading*, pp 313-323, Edelman: see *Selected Bibliography*, pp 359-372; Westermeyer: see *Bibliography*, pp 333-363. \*Please dig into areas you don't know!! **Bibliography is due at 5PM on Friday, November 21.** Please have these annotated bibs in a digital format so that you may share your findings with your colleagues.

#### FINAL EXAM

The final exam will consist of two elements: 1) a reaction paper due at the beginning of the posted final exam time; and 2) a short presentation on your research topic during the final exam period or for members of the organ studio.

#### ACADEMIC POLICIES AND RESOURCES

To ensure consistent and accessible communication of university-wide student resources, please visit [Academic Policies & Resources](#). There you can find information regarding attendance and makeups, DRC accommodations, UF grading policies, student evaluations, the UF Honesty Policy, and in-class recording. You can also access information and contact information for a wide variety of academic resources.

Week of August 25 (Week 1)	<p>Introduction, Syllabus</p> <p>Why Study Sacred Music?</p> <p>Dowley: p vii</p> <p>Edelman: pp ix-xii</p> <p>Westermeyer pp ix-6</p>
Week of September 2 (Week 2)	<p>Jewish Heritage</p> <p>Beck, Sacred Sound: intro (pp 1+), chap 2 (pp 61+)</p> <p>Dowley: pp 1-10</p> <p>(Deep Dive = Heskes: pp ix-45)</p> <p>Edelman: pp 1-37</p> <p>Werner: intro (pp xv+), chap 1 &amp; 2 (pp 1+)</p>
Week of September 8 (Week 3)	<p>Jewish Heritage &amp; the Birth of Christian Music</p> <p>Beck, Sacred Sound: chap 1 (pp 29+)</p> <p>Dowley: pp 18-67</p> <p>Edelman: pp 11-37</p> <p>(Deep Dive = Heskes: pp 46-68)</p> <p>Werner: chap 3 &amp; 4 (pp 50+)</p> <p>Westermeyer: pp 9-89</p> <p>For more information regarding the research of Suzanne Haik-Vantoura: <a href="https://ancientlyre.com/the-original-3000-year-old-music-of-the-bible-revealed">https://ancientlyre.com/the-original-3000-year-old-music-of-the-bible-revealed</a></p>
Week of September 15 (Week 4)	<p>Jewish Heritage</p> <p>(Deep Dive = Heskes pp 68-125)</p> <p>Werner: chap 5 &amp; 6 (pp 128+)</p> <p>The Beginnings of Notation and Polyphony</p> <p>Dowley: pp 68-77</p> <p>Westermeyer: pp 93-110</p>
Week of September 22 (Week 5)	<p>Renaissance &amp; Reformation</p> <p>Dowley: pp 78-118</p> <p>Edelman: pp 39-52</p> <p>Westermeyer: pp 111-198</p>
Week of September 29 (Week 6)	<p>The Flowering of Christian Music</p> <p>Dowley: pp 119-162</p> <p>Westermeyer: pp 201-241</p>
Week of October 6 (Week 7)	<p>The Viennese Tradition, into the 19<sup>th</sup> Century</p> <p>Dowley: pp 163-204</p> <p>Edelman: pp 53-93</p> <p>(Deep Dive = Heskes: pp 259-272)</p>
Week of October 13 (Week 8)	<p>The Yiddish World of Eastern Europe</p> <p>Edelman: pp 95-123</p> <p>(Deep Dive = Heskes: pp 129-173)</p> <p>US Gospel Tradition / Synagogue Music in America</p> <p>Dowley: pp 180-189</p> <p>Edelman: pp 125-147</p>
Week of October 20	<p>Islam and Music</p>

(Week 9)	Beck, Sacred Sound: chapter 3 (pp 89+)
Week of October 27 (Week 10)	Hinduism and Music Beck, Sacred Sound: chapter 4 (pp 113+) Beck, Sonic Theology: read as much as you like!
Week of November 3 (Week 11)	Sikhism and Music Beck, Sacred Sound: chapter 5 (pp 141+)
Week of November 10 (Week 12)	Buddhism and Music Beck, Sacred Sound: chapter 6 (pp 169+)
Week of November 17 (Week 13)	Music in the Concert Hall Dowley: pp 236-273 Edelman: pp 149-220 Westermeyer: pp 245-308  <b>*BIBLIOGRAPHY DUE on 5PM November 21*</b>
Week of November 24	Thanksgiving Break
December 1 (Week 14)	Contemporary Christian / Popular Music of the New State Dowley: pp 274-292 Edelman: pp 221-247  Jewish Music in America/Musical Heritage Edelman: pp 249-278 (Deep Dive = Heskes pp 177-226, 229-258, 273-322, & 325-334)  The Future of Sacred Music (Deep Dive = Heskes: pp 335-337) Westermeyer: pp 311-320

The **FINAL EXAM** will be held during the posted examination time for this course during the week of December 8<sup>th</sup>.

**Additional Course Fees:** \$1.00