

**SURVEY OF HYMNODY
MUR 6206 (25343)**

Spring 2026

Class Meets TBA in MUB 332

Instructor: Dr. Laura Ellis, MUB 326
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Office Hours: TBA

(office hours will be posted following the scheduling of all applied lessons)

REQUIRED TEXTS

Denominational hymnal of your choice*

Lamport, Mark A., Benjamin K. Forrest, and Vernon M. Whaley. *Hymns and Hymnody: Historical and Theological Introductions, Volume 1: From Asia Minor to Western Europe*. Eugene, Oregon: Cascade Books, 2019.

Lamport, Mark A., Benjamin K. Forrest, and Vernon M. Whaley. *Hymns and Hymnody: Historical and Theological Introductions, Volume 2: From Catholic Europe to Protestant Europe*. Eugene, Oregon: Cascade Books, 2019.

Lamport, Mark A., Benjamin K. Forrest, and Vernon M. Whaley. *Hymns and Hymnody: Historical and Theological Introductions, Volume 3: From the English West to the Global South*. Eugene, Oregon: Cascade Books, 2019.

RECOMMENDED TEXTS

A Collection of Primary Resources

Music, David W. *Hymnology: A Collection of Source Readings*. Studies in Liturgical Musicology, no. 4. Lanham: Scarecrow Press, 1996.

Survey with representative hymns in the appendix

Music, David, Milburn Price and William J. Reynolds. *A Survey of Christian Hymnody*. Carol Stream, IL: Hope Publishing, revised/enlarged 5th edition, 2010.

Hymnody in "100 pages or less"

Schalk, Carl. *Singing the Faith: A Short Introduction to Christian Hymnody*. St. Louis, MO: MorningStar Music Publishing, 2020.

If available, it would be great to have a hymnal companion and/or concordance for choice hymnal

Some of the major hymnal publishing houses include (there are many more!):

www.augsburgfortress.org ELW (*Evangelical Worship*) utilized by the ELCA

www.abingdonpress.com UMH (*United Methodist Hymnal*) utilized by the United Methodist Church

www.americancatholicpress.org for information on the ACH (*American Catholic Hymnal*)

www.cph.org LSB (*Lutheran Service Book*) utilized by the LCMS

www.churchpublishing.org for information on *The Episcopal Hymnal 1982*

www.oregoncatholicpress.org *Glory & Praise*

www.ppcbooks.com *The Presbyterian Hymnal*

www.thepilgrempress.com NCH (*New Century Hymnal*) utilized by the United Church of Christ

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Braley, Bernard. *The Hymns and Ballads of Fred Pratt Green*. Carol Stream, IL: Hope Publishing, 1982.

Church, F. Forrester and Terrence J. Mulry. *The MacMillan Book of Earliest Christian Hymns*. New York, NY: MacMillan Publishing, 1988.

Church Music Institute: www.churchmusicinstitute.org

Eskew, Harry, and Hugh T. McElrath. *Sing with Understanding*. Nashville, TN: Broadman Press, 1980.

Gray, Scotty. *Hermeneutics of Hymnody: A Comprehensive and Integrated Approach to Understanding Hymns*. Macon, GA: Smyth & Helwys Publishing, Inc., 2015.

Huber, Jane Parker. *A Singing Faith*. Philadelphia, PA: Westminster Press, 1987.

Lorenz, Ellen Jane. *Glory, Hallelujah!: The Story of the Campmeeting Spiritual*. Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press, 1980.
 Saliers, Don. E. *Music and Theology*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2007.
 Sing! The Center for Congregational Song: www.congregationalson.org
 Smith, Timothy Dudley. *Lift Every Heart: Collected Hymns (1961-1983) and some early poems*. Carlo Stream, IL: Hope Publishing, 1984.
 Sydnor, James Rawlings. *Hymns and Their Uses*. Carol Stream, IL: Agape, 1982.
 The Hymn Society in the US and Canada: www.thehymnsociety.org
 Vajda, Jaroslav J. *Now the Joyful Celebration*. St. Louis: MorningStar, 1987.

HISTORICAL BOOKS of HYMN STORIES

Barrows, Cliff, ed. *Crusader Hymns and Hymn Stories*. Chicago, IL: Hope Publishing, 1967.
 Emurian, Ernest. *Forty Stories of Famous Gospel Songs*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1959.
 Emurian, Ernest. *Forty Stories of Inspiring Hymns*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1956.
 Emurian, Ernest. *Hymn Stories for Programs*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1963.
 Emurian, Ernest. *Living Stories of Famous Hymns*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1955.
 Osbeck, Kenneth W. *101 Hymn Stories*. Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Publications, 1982.
 Osbeck, Kenneth W. *101 More Hymn Stories*. Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Publications, 1985.

PURPOSES AND GOALS

This course will trace the historical development of hymns in liturgical use, the scope of hymnic literature, and the major trends in hymnal compilation and editing. Course topics will include a survey of Western hymnody, from its Latin roots to contemporary American hymnody.

GRADE DISTRIBUTION

Attendance & Class Preparation	--	40%
Build Your Historical Hymnal	--	30%
Hymn Festival or Presentation	--	30%

		100%

ATTENDANCE & CLASS PREPARATION

Prompt and regular class attendance is required. Students are required to attend each class 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. If 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: irellis@ufl.edu

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

What to prepare for class?

The textbook series contains articles on hymnic topics. For each class period, please prepare

- 1) An annotated bibliography for EACH assigned article (I suggest that you keep a running document throughout the semester, a template will be provided).
- 2) Share your annotation and/or thoughts on the strength/weaknesses of each article
- 3) When possible, provide a "hmm, I didn't know that" statement and a question for class discussion.

We will spend remainder of each class period reviewing hymnody of the historical period being surveyed.

Requirements for class attendance and other work in this course are consistent with university policies: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/>

PRESENTATION or HYMN FESTIVAL

During the first week, the class will decide whether to A) prepare & present a hymn festival as a group project **OR** B) prepare individual in-class presentations. A topical hymn festival could include readings and/or historical background on hymns. A hymn festival would be an outreach to an area church and last +/-50 minutes. The presentation will be approximately fifteen (15) minutes and may cover any topic relevant to the course, including: an analysis of the hymns of a particular composer, texts of a representative poet, a major trend in hymnody, etc. Please prepare a presentation that would be appropriate to share with your local congregation.

If interested, the hymn festival and/or presentations may be shared with the attendees of UF's Sacred Music Workshop, May 3-5, 2026.

BUILD YOUR HISTORICAL HYMNAL

To build your hymnal, select your “top” 5-10 hymns in each of the time periods as outlined in *Hymns and Hymnody: Historical and Theological Introductions*:

- 1) First to Ninth Centuries
- 2) Tenth to Thirteenth Centuries
- 3) Fourteenth and Fifteenth Centuries
- 4) Sixteenth Century
- 5) Seventeenth Century
- 6) Eighteenth Century
- 7) Nineteenth Century
- 8) Twentieth Century
- 9) Twenty-First Century

You may wish to refer to the timeline found at the end of each volume for examples of representative hymns identified by the editors. Vol 1 timeline = p298, Vol 2 timeline = p304, Vol 3 timeline = p316.

Your hymnal should contain 45-90 hymns, organized in 9 sections. At the beginning of each section, please provide a brief synopsis of the theological trends and major personalities of the period. Since your personal hymnal may lack hymns from some of these time periods, provide a scan of each hymn. Prepare this as a digital document (save the trees!)

FINAL EXAM

During the final exam period each student will share their “hymnals” with colleagues.

ACADEMIC POLICIES AND RESOURCES

To ensure consistent and accessible communication about 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.

TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE

Complete and prepare selected readings for the week listed on the syllabus

** Please review all reference materials to provide suggestions for future library acquisitions.*

WEEK ONE

January 12	<p>Syllabus and overview of course</p> <p>Discuss hymn festival project, date, and possible location</p> <p><u>Reading:</u> <i>Hymns and Hymnody</i>/vol 1</p> <p>pp xiii-xxx</p> <p>Chapters 1-4: pp 3-48 & 303-306</p>
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WEEK TWO

January 19 Reading: *Hymns and Hymnody*/vol 1
Chap 5-8: pp 49-105 & 306-307

Bonus reading: *Source Readings*
Chap 1-2, pp 3-21

WEEK THREE

January 26

Reading: *Hymns and Hymnody/vol 1*
Chap 9-12, pp 106-173 & 307-309
Bonus reading: *Source Readings*
Chap 3-4, pp 23-34

WEEK FOUR

February 2

Reading: *Hymns and Hymnody/vol 1*
Chap 13-16, pp 174-234 & 308-310

WEEK FIVE

February 9

Reading: *Hymns and Hymnody/vol 1*
Chap 17-20, pp 235-296 & 310-312
Bonus reading: *Source Readings*
Chap 5-6, pp 37-55

WEEK SIX

February 16

Reading: *Hymns and Hymnody/vol 2*
pp xix-xxiv
Chap 1-4, pp 3-63
Bonus reading: *Source Readings*
Chap 7-8, pp 71-79

WEEK SEVEN

February 23

Reading: *Hymns and Hymnody/vol 2*
Chap 5-8, pp 64-118
Bonus reading:
Source Readings
Chap 10-11, pp 97-114

WEEK EIGHT

March 2

Reading:
Hymns and Hymnody/vol 2
Chap 9-12, pp 121-178

WEEK NINE

March 9

Reading: *Hymns and Hymnody/vol 2*
Chap 13-16, pp 179-239
Bonus reading: *Source Readings*
Chap 13, pp 151-168

SPRING BREAK

March 16

Let us sing hymns as we enjoy a week off!

WEEK TEN

March 23

Reading: *Hymns and Hymnody/vol 2*
Chap 17-20, pp 240-302

WEEK ELEVEN

March 30

Reading: *Hymns and Hymnody/vol 3*
Chap 5-8, pp 65-133
Bonus reading: *Source Readings*
Chap 14, pp 169-176

WEEK TWELVE

April 6

Reading: *Hymns and Hymnody/vol 3*

Chap 9-12, pp 134-189

Bonus reading: *Source Readings*

Chap 17, pp 213-215

WEEK THIRTEEN

April 13

Reading: *Hymns and Hymnody/vol 3*

Chap 13-16, pp 190-254

Bonus reading: *Source Readings*

Chap 9, pp 81-96

WEEK FOURTEEN

April 20

Reading: *Hymns and Hymnody/vol 3*

Chap 17-20, pp 255-314

WEEK FIFTEEN

April 20

Presentations, if applicable

EXAM WEEK

Share your hymnal with colleagues during exam week. Exam slot will be chosen after class time is secured.

Additional Course Fees: \$1.00.