

**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 5<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.augsburgfortress.org) *ELW (Evangelical Worship)* utilized by the ELCA  
[www.abingdonpress.com](http://www.abingdonpress.com) *UMH (United Methodist Hymnal)* utilized by the United Methodist Church  
[www.americancatholicpress.org](http://www.americancatholicpress.org) for information on the *ACH (American Catholic Hymnal)*  
[www.cph.org](http://www.cph.org) *LSB (Lutheran Service Book)* utilized by the LCMS  
[www.churchpublishing.org](http://www.churchpublishing.org) for information on *The Episcopal Hymnal 1982*  
[www.oregoncatholicpress.org](http://www.oregoncatholicpress.org) *Glory & Praise*  
[www.ppcbooks.com](http://www.ppcbooks.com) *The Presbyterian Hymnal*  
[www.thepillgrempress.com](http://www.thepillgrempress.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](http://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.congregationalsong.org](http://www.congregationalsong.org)

Smith, Timothy Dudley. *Lift Every Heart: Collected Hymns (1961-1983) and some early poems*. Carol 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](http://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%
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		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: [lrellis@ufl.edu](mailto:lrellis@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

## Syllabus and overview of course

Discuss hymn festival project, date, and possible location

### Reading: *Hymns and Hymnody*/vol 1

pp xiii-xxx

## Chapters 1-4: pp 3-48 & 303-306

## 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.

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***Additional Course Fees:*** \$1.00.