

Introduction to Hymnody

Spring 2004 Syllabus

Course Numbers:	MUSC 489	and	ENGL 489
Prerequisite Course:	MUSC 204		Junior/Senior Engl. major or approval of instructor
Time:	4:10–5:25 PM Mondays and Wednesdays		
Place:	Reed McDonald Bldg. 112		
Instructor:	Dr. Leon W. Couch III	and	Dr. Jan Swearingen
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Course Webpage:	http://orpheus.tamu.edu/couch/Courses/Course_Index.html		

Course Description and Content

This special-topics course surveys hymnody of the Western church from its Hebrew and Greek roots to the present. Using the topic of hymnody, students will develop their ability to analyze worded music from historical, musical-analytical-theoretical, and musicological vantage points by examining:

- (1) rhetorical and poetic devices employed in texts that add persuasive and aesthetic value,
- (2) the relationships between structures and devices in text and in music,
- (3) the relationships between text and the philosophy/theology that produced them,
- (4) musical style and level of craftsmanship,
- (5) the purpose of representative hymns, and
- (6) the aesthetic value and scholarly criticisms of texts and music from conflicted points of view.

Specific topics addressed in this course may include Gregorian chant, Reformation hymns, Genevan and English Psalters, Evangelical and Anglican hymns, early American and Gospel hymns, African-American spirituals, non-western/non-Christian hymns, and contemporary hymnody.

Required Texts and Materials

1. Eskew, Harry, and Hugh T. McElrath. *Sing with Understanding*. 2nd ed. Nashville, Tenn: Street Press, 1995.
2. Grindal, Gracia. *Lessons in Hymnwriting*. See www.thehymnsociety.org book service.
3. *The United Methodist Hymnal*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1989. ISBN 0687431328
(Other editions of this hymnal, such as ISBN 0687431344 or ISBN 0687431468 are fine!)
4. Westermeyer, Paul. *With Tongues of Fire: Profiles in 20th-Century Hymn Writing*. Concordia Publishing House, 1995.
5. Another standard hymnal of your choice: Baptist, Episcopal, Lutheran, Presbyterian, etc.

Grading

Midterm	20%
Quizzes, Homework, and Participation	20%
Class Presentation of Works in Progress	20%
Final Creative Project	20%
Research Paper	20%

Borderline grades will be determined by attendance, participation, and weekly grades.

Tests and Quizzes

The cumulative midterm constitutes 20% of the final grade. There is no final exam. Quizzes, along with homework and participation, comprise another 20% of the final grade. The weekly quizzes not only evaluate one's understanding of weekly reading assignments, they also involve recognition and memorization of representative hymn tunes and texts. Although quizzes and tests cannot be made up, one quiz will be dropped. Cheating on any exam will result in an "F" in the course and legal action in accordance with the Texas A&M University's policies.

Research Paper

A paper representing consistent research during the semester constitutes 20% of the grade. The style, format, and research must reflect professional standards: typed, double spaced, bibliography of at least five reliable sources (three not from the web) in Turabian style, sufficient length to support a significant claim (minimum of eight pages), formal prose, and so forth. Although you may examine the history of a particular tune, the accomplishments of a particular hymn writer, contents/style of a particular hymnal or tradition, or a historical period of hymnody, we prefer that students to do field research into the relationships between hymn selection, congregation demographics, theology, and so forth in a specific local setting.

Due on February 16, your paper proposal arguing for the need for your research and limiting the scope of your inquiry to a semester-long project must also demonstrate preliminary research. This proposal must be resubmitted until satisfactory (approved by the instructor). A prospectus/outline of the paper due on March 1. A draft of the paper is due on April 21. Your final paper is due on May 3. During the final class meeting and during the final exam time, students will summarize their paper in 10 minute presentations for the class's benefit.

Creative Project

During the semester, English/Music-major pairs will draft and polish a hymn text and musical setting(s) for the Houston Bach Society to perform in a public concert at St. Thomas Episcopal Church, College Station. The proposal for the hymn text is due on February 25. The draft of the hymn is due on March 8. The draft of the hymn tune is due March 22. The entire hymn text is due on March 31. The hymn setting is due on April 7. The polished hymn is due by April 14. The concert will occur late in the semester (to be announced).

Through generous financial support from the Academy of Visual and Performing Arts (\$5000), the Department of Performance Studies (\$1000) at Texas A&M University, and other agencies, we have been able to invite this professional ensemble to perform and record your creative artwork(s).

Homework

With sincere effort and diligence, nearly everyone can be successful in this course. You will read from our textbook and supplementary readings for several hours per week. In addition, you will study specific hymns and survey hymnals that represent the tradition, period, or author of the week; and, you will need to memorize tunes and texts for weekly quizzes. You are expected to have completed all assignments before class and participate in discussion. Your participation will be evaluated informally through discussion and weekly writing assignments due at the beginning of class.

Attendance and Tardiness

Attendance is mandatory. You may claim an excused absence only for pre-approved university functions, documented family emergencies, officially-recognized religious observances, or sicknesses verified by a medical doctor or clinic. You should write us an email prior to any absence and make arrangements with fellow students to review missed material beforehand.

You are allowed only two unexcused absences with prior notification. Further absences will lower your entire grade by 3% each time. In addition, you will receive a zero for any in-class assignments, quizzes, or tests.

Tardiness is disruptive to your classmates' learning and irritating to instructors. Please be considerate. Consistent or excessive lateness will be counted as unexcused absences and will prompt unannounced quizzes to permanently remedy the issue.

Miscellaneous Information

Please visit our office hours. They are for you!!! You may discuss your concerns about the class and life at Texas A&M University with me privately, or we can simply review your past and upcoming assignments and tests. We would like to know each of you and contribute in any way that we can towards your success here.

We will be out of town for professional engagements a few times during the semester, and class will meet these days to cover important material.

Dr. Couch will present a free organ recital/concert of women composers' music at 3:00 PM on February 22, 2004 at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church in College Station. You are invited to attend.

Disability Statement

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact the Services for Students with Disabilities in Room 126 of the Koldus Building, or call 845-1637.

Copyright Statement

All materials generated for this course, which include but are not limited to syllabi, quizzes, exams, lab problems, in-class materials, review sheets, web pages, and additional problem sets, are copyrighted. Because these are copyrighted, you do not have the right to copy the handouts, unless we expressly grant permission.

Supplementary Material (available in library but many are highly recommended for purchase)

1. Bailey, Albert. *The Gospel in Hymns*. Charles Scribner's Sons, 1978.
2. Foote, Henry Wilder. *Three Centuries of American Hymnody*. Archon Books, 1968.
3. Frost, Maurice, ed. *Historical Companion to Hymns Ancient and Modern*. London: William Clowes & Sons, 1962.
4. *The Hymn*, journal of The Hymn Society in the United States and Canada. <http://www.hymnsociety.org>.
5. Hymnal companions to any hymnals you regularly use.
6. Julian, John. *A Dictionary of Hymnology*. 2 vols. New York: Dover Publications, 1957.
7. **Music, David W.** *Hymnology: A Collection of Source Readings*. Studies in Liturgical Musicology, No. 4. Lanham, Md.: The Scarecrow Press, Inc., 1996. ISBN 0-8108-3148-1.
8. Reynolds, William J., and Melburn Price. *A Survey of Christian Hymnody*. 4th ed. Hope Publishing, 1995.
9. Randel, Don, ed. *The New Harvard Dictionary of Music*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1986.
10. Sadie, Stanley, ed. *The New Grove Dictionary of Music and Musicians*. 29 vol. New York: Grove, 2001.
11. **Young, Carlton R.** *Companion to the United Methodist Hymnal*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1993. ISBN 0687092604

(We will augment this list as more library acquisitions arrive.)

Music 489/English 489
Dr. Couch, Dr. Swearingen

Short Syllabus of Readings and Assignments

- Jan 20 Introductions, information sheets, initial readings assigned.
Music and rhetoric (handout).
- Jan 26-28 Poetry review and exercise; *Sing With Understanding* 1-49;
hymn and literature; hymn and rhetoric
- Feb 2-4 Music exercises; *SWU* 49-77; hymn and scripture; hymn and theology
- Feb 9-11 Early Church history, Greek and Hebrew sources; plainsong and
descants; Hildegard of Bingen unit (handouts)
- Feb 16 -18 Pre-reformation and reformation; *SWU* 78-126 ; the shift to
vernacular. Sir Philip and Mary Sidney's *Psalms*, *Scottish Psalter*, *Bay Psalm Book*
Term Paper Proposal due
- Feb 23-25 British and American traditions; *SWU* 127-237; Watts & Enlightenment unit;
denominational histories; words attached to specific melodies; Evangelicalisms
in 19th and 20th C Britain and America; from psalms to hymns
Hymn Text Proposal due
- Mar 1-3 Hymn in Proclamation and Worship *SWU* 238--276
Review of genres and rhetorical forms, textual and musical innovations and
improvisations ; Emily Dickinson; Whittier, other examples; Vaughn Williams
Term Paper Prospectus due
- Mar 8-10 Hymn in Education and Ministry *SWU* 277-311; musical styles;
modern compositions; unit on women hymn writers; Hobbs,
I Sing for I Cannot Be Silent (handout)
Draft Hymn Text due
- Mar 15-17 Spring Break
Finish Reading *Lessons in Hymn Writing*, and *With Tongues of Fire*
- Mar 22-24 *LHW* and *WTF*; **Draft of Hymn Tune due**

Mar 29-31 *LHW* and *WTF* **Final Hymn Text due**

April 5-7 *LHW* and *WTF* **Hymn Setting due**

April 12-14 *LHW* and *WTF* **Polished Final Hymn due;** rehearsals begin!

April 19-21 Review; revision workshops **Draft Term Paper due**

April 26-28 Rehearsals and performance preparation

May 3-5 last classes and presentations..... **Term Paper due**

To be announced: date for concert; date for midterm