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| CODE: THO 2141 | TITLE: Introduction to Sacred Music (Selected Topics in Theology I) |
| CREDITS: 3 cr. | |
| TERM: Study Week, Winter 2015 (Feb. 16-21) | PROFESSORS: Uwe Lieflander & Brian Butcher |

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| DESCRIPTION | This course explores the traces of the divine in music, probing the question of why music, in the Christian tradition, has been regarded as the highest of all the arts. To that end it introduces students to the history, theory (including philosophy and psychology), and theology of Gregorian chant—the classical expression of sacred music in the Western Church—as well as its development into polyphony from the Renaissance through to the present day. The course includes a practical component of instruction in note-reading and ensemble singing, along with optional participation in liturgical services (Vespers and Mass) featuring the very music learned in rehearsals. |
| OBJECTIVES | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To become acquainted with the broad history of sacred music in the Western Christian tradition, in reference both to its Jewish antecedents and to musical developments in the Christian East • To acquire familiarity with the particular tonal and rhythmic characteristics of Gregorian chant (as well as its texts and liturgical contexts) and the course of its evolution into polyphony • To understand the basic concepts and terminology employed in music theory • To appreciate the arguments invoked in debates over the nature and role of music in the life of the Church, particularly with respect to the theology of music expressed in biblical, patristic, canonical and papal texts • To consider the relationship of music to sacred art and architecture, and inspire reflection on the notion of beauty and its connection to truth and goodness |
| WORKLOAD | This course is comprised of daily lectures and rehearsals (six hours per day, over six days), optional liturgical services, as well as individual reading and assignments. Lectures and rehearsals will take place both on campus and at local churches, in order to experience the interaction of music with its acoustic and aesthetic environment. |
| EVALUATION | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10% - Participation • 10% - Reading Quiz • 10% - Reflection Paper • 35% - Essay (due two weeks after the end of the course) • 35% - Oral Final Exam |
| REQUIRED TEXTS | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Daniel Saulnier, <i>Gregorian Chant: A Guide to the History and Liturgy</i>, trans. Mary Berry (Paraclete Press, 2009) • <i>THO 2141 Anthology of Selected Readings</i> |
| RECOMMENDED TEXTS | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Daniel J. Levitin, <i>This Is Your Brain on Music</i> (Plume, 2006) |