

# MUSI 1306: Understanding Music

## INSTRUCTOR

Katrina Rushing, DMA  
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## GRADING

- 25% Weekly Reading/Homework, Listening Guides, Discussions
- 30% 3 Exams (online)
- 20% LISTENING Quizzes (in class)
- 25% Projects:
  - Musical Analysis
  - Concert Review
  - Music & Neuroscience
  - Composer Presentation



## RESOURCES

*Groves Dictionary of Music & Musicians* (online via UTD Library)  
<https://www-oxfordmusiconline-com.libproxy.utdallas.edu/grovemusic>

## GETTING STARTED

- **eLearning Modules:** ALL outlines, readings, and assignments will be posted in eLearning.
- **Recommended Textbook:**  
Kamien, *Music: An Appreciation*, 13<sup>th</sup> ed., McGraw Hill  
(Textbook is NOT required and you do NOT need Connect access)  
<https://www.mheducation.com/highered/product/music-appreciation-kamien/M9781260719345.html>
- **Listening:** We will practice active listening and there will be in-class listening quizzes! Playlist:  
<https://open.spotify.com/playlist/4W46cn0xxixmP612laHGND?si=fc8c500b7acd4592>

## TOPICS

- Unit 1: Elements of Music
- Unit 2: The Middle Ages
- Unit 3: The Renaissance
- Unit 4: Baroque Era
- Unit 5: Classical Era
  - Part 1: Classical Era Forms
  - Part 2: Classical Era Composers
- Unit 6: Romantic Era
  - Part 1: Piano music and art songs
  - Part 2: Orchestral music (program music and nationalism)
  - Part 3: Romantic Era Opera
- Unit 7: The 20<sup>th</sup> Century (and beyond)
  - Part 1 (1900-1945)
  - Part 2 (1945-now; American composers)
- Unit 8: Contemporary Music
  - Part 1: Jazz
  - Part 2: Music for Stage & Screen
  - Part 3: Living composers and performers
- Special Topic: Music and Neuroscience



## Understanding Music Course Syllabus Spring 2024

**Course** MUSI 1306.HN1  
**Course Title** Understanding Music  
**Professor** Katrina Rushing, DMA  
**Term** Spring 2024  
**Meetings** Tu/Th 2:30 – 3:45  
PHY 1.103

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### Professor Information

**Professor:** Katrina Rushing, DMA  
**Email:** [Katrina.Rushing@utdallas.edu](mailto:Katrina.Rushing@utdallas.edu)  
**Office:** JO 4.622  
**Office Hours:** Monday, 11:30-12:30 or by appointment  
*Email is the best way to contact me! Students must use their UTD email to communicate with faculty.*

### TEXAS CORE CURRICULUM

This course fulfills a requirement in the Texas Core Curriculum as it is offered at UT Dallas. It shares characteristics and course objectives with other courses that fulfill the same requirement across the university and among other public colleges and universities in Texas. These objectives will be reflected in assignments and exam questions, as well as in the student learning outcomes specific to this course.

If you complete this course successfully, it is fully transferable among all Texas public colleges and universities. This information explains the statewide uniform requirements for General Core Area 050 Creative Arts:

#### Description:

Courses in this category focus on the appreciation and analysis of creative artifacts and works of the human imagination. Courses involve the synthesis and interpretation of artistic expression and enable critical, creative, and innovative communication about works of art.

#### Objectives:

**Critical Thinking (CT)**—to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation, and synthesis of information

**Communication (COM)**—to include effective development, interpretation, and expression of ideas through written, oral, and visual communication

**Teamwork (TW)**—to include the ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal

**Social Responsibility (SR)**—to include intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities

**Pre-requisites,** None  
**Co-requisites**

**Course Description** An introduction to the elements and basic forms of music, with particular emphasis on the composer's creative process and the listener's participation. Methods of analytical and aesthetic appreciation will be applied to musical examples, with corollaries in literature, history, theater, and the visual arts. The course is designed to enable students to increase their understanding of music as a creative art form within historical context and focuses primarily on Western Art Music (European and American music).

**Learning Outcomes** Students who successfully complete this course will be able to:

- 1) Define the primary elements of music (pitch, harmony, rhythm, timbre, form, etc.) and identify characteristics of these elements in recorded musical excerpts and while attending live performances (COM);
- 2) Use appropriate musical terminology to describe style attributes of music from various historical eras and recognize them in recorded excerpts and live performances (CT);
- 3) Identify describe genres/sub-genres of classical music in historical context (CT)
- 4) Consider and describe music as a form of expression that may reflect personal creativity and interpretation, and that may be influenced by social, historical, political, religious, and cultural contexts for both the performance and consumption of music (SR);
- 5) Identify principal composers from each era, their basic biographical information, and examples of their principal compositions, exemplified through the required listening examples (COM);
- 6) Identify the composer, title, genre, and stylistic features of required recorded listening excerpts (COM);
- 7) Compare and contrast the musical style and cultural characteristics of different musical compositions or performances, and defend those opinions in collaborative discussion with others (TW);
- 8) Write informed critiques of at least two music performances, using the understanding and insights gained through participation in the course (CT)

**Recommended** Kamien, *Music: An Appreciation*, 13<sup>th</sup> ed., McGraw Hill  
**Texts & Materials** ISBN10: 1264142935 | ISBN13: 9781264142934

- <https://www.mheducation.com/highered/product/music-appreciation-kamien/M9781260719345.html>
- The eBook includes guided listening
- If you prefer a physical book, musical recordings are available online via YouTube, Spotify, etc.
- Students do NOT need Connect access.

**Groves Dictionary of Music and Musicians** (online via UTD library)

- <https://www-oxfordmusiconline-com.libproxy.utdallas.edu/grovemusic>

## Assignments & Academic Calendar

*This schedule is subject to change according to the needs of the class and at the discretion of the instructor.*

***Specific due dates/times for all assignments are posted in eLearning.***

DATE	TOPICS	ASSIGNMENTS
Week 1 Jan 16-18	Introduction Elements of Music: Sound	
Week 2 Jan 23-25	Elements of Music: Melody, Harmony, Rhythm, Meter, etc. Introduction to Western Music: Eras of Music History Middle Ages	<b>Online Quiz: Elements of Music</b>
Week 3 Jan 30-Feb 1	The Middle Ages The Renaissance	Middle Ages & Renaissance homework and Listening Guide Text painting discussion
Week 4 Feb 6-8	Early Baroque Era Writing Assignment/ Musical Analysis	Music Analysis project Baroque homework & Listening Guide Compare Bach and Handel <b>Listening Quiz</b>
Week 5 Feb 13-15	Late Baroque Era: Handel and JS Bach	<b>EXAM 1 (online):</b> Middle Ages, Renaissance, Baroque Eras
Week 6 Feb 20-22	Classical Era Forms: Symphony, Concerto, Sonata	Classical Vocabulary homework
Week 7 Feb 27-29	Classical Composers: Haydn, Mozart, Beethoven	Classical Composers homework Classical Listening Guide Beethoven Assignment
Week 8 Mar 5-7	Romantic Era: Character Pieces, Art songs, Virtuosity	Romantic Era I Listening Guide Piano music & art song homework <b>Listening Quiz</b>
<i>March 11-15</i>	<i>Spring Break</i>	
Week 9 Mar 19-21	Romantic Era: Nationalism; Program Music	Romantic Era II Listening Guide Symphonic music homework Berlioz homework
Week 10 Mar 26-28	Romantic Era: Opera	Romantic Era III Listening Guide Opera homework <b>Exam 2 (online):</b> Classical and Romantic Eras
Week 11 Apr 2-4	The 20 <sup>th</sup> Century Impressionism	20 <sup>th</sup> century homework <b>Listening Quiz</b>
Week 12 Apr 9-11	Expressionism, Neoclassicism, Primitivism, Minimalism	20 <sup>th</sup> Century I Listening Guide
Week 13 Apr 16-18	Jazz Living composers Music for Stage and Screen	20 <sup>th</sup> Century II Listening Guide
<i>April 20</i>	<b><i>LIVE CONCERT!</i></b> <i>Saturday, April 20</i> <i>Richardson Symphony Orchestra, 7:30 pm</i>	
Week 14 Apr 23-25	Music and Neuroscience	Music and Neuroscience Project
Week 15 Apr 30-May 2	Student Presentations Review	Concert Review <b>Listening Quiz</b>
Final Exam week May 6-10	<b>Final Exam: TBA</b>	<b>Exam 3 (Final - online)</b>

## Course Policies

<b>Grading Criteria</b>	Exams (3): 30% Listening Quizzes (in class): 20% Attendance/Homework/Listening Guides/Group Discussions: 25% Projects: 25%  TOTAL 100%			<i>Your lowest homework grade and lowest listening quiz will be dropped when calculating your overall average.</i>
<b>Final Grades</b>	A+ = 97–100 A = 93–96 A– = 90–92	B+ = 87–89 B = 83–86 B– = 80–82	C+ = 77–79 C = 73–76 C– = 70–72	D = 63–66 D+ = 67–69 D– = 60–62 F = 0–59
<b>Special Projects</b>	1. Musical Analysis 2. Concert Review 3. Music and Neuroscience Project 4. Presentation: Living Composer			
<b>Class Materials</b>	In addition to your optional textbook, outlines and videos will be provided through eLearning. These materials may be downloaded during the course; however, these materials are for registered students' use only. Classroom materials may not be reproduced or shared with those not in class or uploaded to other online environments except to implement an approved Office of Student AccessAbility accommodation			
<b>Class Attendance &amp; Participation</b>	Attendance is required in this class. Class sessions will include interactive and team activities that require attendance and active engagement.  Excused Absences: If you must miss a class due to illness or because you are participating in another UT-Dallas approved event, please let Dr. Rushing know as soon as possible.			
<b>Make-up Exams</b>	Make-up exams may be scheduled in advance for those students who must miss a scheduled exam due to another UT-Dallas approved event. Make-up exams following an exam date are only permitted in certain circumstances. These circumstances include a serious documented illness or a serious emergency. The implementation of a make-up exam in these instances is at the sole discretion of the professor.			
<b>Late Work</b>	All assignments, projects, and exams must be completed ON TIME!  Unless you have made prior arrangements with your instructor, any missed homework, quizzes, and exams will receive a 0. Late homework is NOT accepted. Exceptions can be made in the case of a genuine emergency or significant illness if written documentation (e.g. a note from a health care provider, an accident report etc.) is shown to the instructor within one work of the due date.			
<b>Classroom Citizenship</b>	The use of technology in the classroom is limited to the use of laptop computers and tablets for joining Microsoft Teams meetings and the use of laptops, tablets, or cell phones to respond to in-class polls. The use of personal devices for any other purpose is strictly prohibited. If you and/or your device are disruptive to the class environment, you will be asked to leave the room and will be marked absent for the day.			

<b>Class Recordings</b>	Students are expected to follow appropriate University policies and maintain the security of passwords used to access recorded lectures. Unless the Office of Student AccessAbility has approved the student to record the instruction, students are expressly prohibited from recording any part of this course. Recordings may not be published, reproduced, or shared with those not in the class, or uploaded to other online environments except to implement an approved Office of Student AccessAbility accommodation. Failure to comply with these University requirements is a violation of the <a href="#">Student Code of Conduct</a> .
<b>Comet Creed</b>	<i>"As a Comet, I pledge honesty, integrity, and service in all that I do."</i>
<b>Academic Support Resources</b>	<p>Please go to <a href="http://go.utdallas.edu/academic-support-resources">http://go.utdallas.edu/academic-support-resources</a>.</p> <p>Following federal law, UTD arranges academic accommodations for eligible students with documented disabilities. For accommodation in this class, the student will present a form to the instructor from the Office of Student AccessAbility (OSA). For additional information see <a href="http://www.utdallas.edu/studentaccess/">http://www.utdallas.edu/studentaccess/</a></p>
<b>UT Dallas Syllabus Policies and Procedures</b>	<p><i>The information contained in the following link constitutes the University's policies and procedures segment of the course syllabus. Please review the sections regarding the <a href="#">credit/no credit</a> grading option and withdrawal from class.</i></p> <p>Please go to <a href="http://go.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies">http://go.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies</a> for these policies.</p>

*The descriptions and timelines contained in this syllabus are subject to change at the discretion of the Professor.*