



Course MUSI 1306.006
Course Title Understanding Music
Professor Chris Widomski
Term Fall 2016
Meetings MWF 8:00-8:50 a.m. AH2 1.204

Professor's Contact Information

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Office Hours By Appointment

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.

General Course Information

Course Description: An introduction to the elements and basic forms of Western art music, with a particular emphasis on active listening. Methods of analytical and aesthetic appreciation will be applied to musical examples, with corollaries in literature, history, theatre, and the visual arts.

Learning Outcomes: Students will have an understanding of the basic elements of music, and will be able to identify and discuss music from various composers, genres, and periods throughout the history of western music. As well as the ability to locate and attend live music, theatre, and other artistic performances around the region. Collectively, students will work in small groups to create a presentation to the entire class on an assigned topic.

Required Texts & Materials: *The Enjoyment of Music*, 12th edition Shorter (W.W. Norton)
Forney, Dell'Antonio, and Machlis. ISBN: 978-0-393-93638-4
Naxos Music Library Online (accessed via the Library's online database)

Assignments & Academic Calendar

All assigned readings are due the following class meeting.

WEEK 1 (8/22-26) PART I: MATERIALS OF MUSIC

22: Introduction and Orientation

24: Melody, Rhythm and Meter

26: Listening Exams, Naxos Database, Harmony

WEEK 2 (8/29-9/2)

29: Texture and Form

31: Tempo, Dynamics, and Text

2: Concert Review outline

WEEK 3 (9/5-9)

5: **LABOR DAY – No Class**

7: Instruments and Ensembles of Western Music (*Last Day to Drop Classes without a “W”*)

9: Listening Exam and Intro to the Middle Ages and Renaissance.

Part I Online Quiz (Due by Sunday 11:59pm)

WEEK 4 (9/12-16) PART II: THE MIDDLE AGES AND RENAISSANCE

12: Music in the Early Church

14: Polyphony, Renaissance Mass

16: Madrigals

WEEK 5 (9/19-23)

19: Instruments of the Renaissance

21: Dance Music

23: Listening Exam and Baroque Sacred Music of Germany, France, and Italy.

Part II Online Quiz (Due by Sunday 11:59pm)

WEEK 6 (9/26-30) PART III: THE BAROQUE ERA

26: Buxtehude and Bach

28: Early Opera, English Oratorio, Lutheran Cantata

30: The Baroque Dance Suite, *Concert Review I Due Today*

WEEK 7 (10/3-7)

3: Early North American Sacred Tradition, **GROUP PROJECTS ASSIGNED**

5: The Baroque Concerto

7: Listening Exam and Intro to the 18th Century

WEEK 8 (10/10-14) PART IV: EIGHTEENTH-CENTURY CLASSICISM

10: *MID-TERM EXAM – PARTS I, II, and III*

12: Music of Haydn and Mozart

14: The Classical Opera and Requiem

WEEK 9 (10/17-21)

17: The Classical Concertos and Symphony in Transition

19: Beethoven

21: Listening Exam and Beethoven Continued

Part IV Online Quiz (Due by Sunday 11:59pm)

WEEK 10 (10/24-28) PART V: THE NINETEENTH CENTURY

24: Music of Schubert, Schumann, and Chopin

26: Romantic Virtuosity, Program Music

28: Opera and Ballet

Assignments & Academic Calendar Continued

WEEK 11 (10/31-11/4)

- 31: American Music of the 19th Century
- 2: Brahms, Mahler, and other Late Romantic Music
- 4: Listening Exam and American Music Continued.

Part V Online Quiz (Due by Sunday 11:59pm)

WEEK 12 (11/7-11) PART VI: TWENTIETH-CENTURY

- 7: Musical Impressionism
- 9: Religious Music in the 20th Century
- 11: Musical Expressionism, *Concert Review II Due Today*

WEEK 13 (11/14-18)

- 14: GROUP I PRESENTATION: MUSIC IN THE THEATRE
- 16: GROUP II PRESENTATION: MUSIC ON THE RADIO
- 18: GROUP III PRESENTATION: MUSIC IN THE MOVIES

WEEK 14 (11/21-25)

- 21: **FALL BREAK**
- 23: **FALL BREAK**
- 25: **FALL BREAK**

WEEK 15 (11/28-12/2)

- 28: American Classical Music of the Time
 - 30: Ragtime, Jazz, and Blues
 - 2: Listening Exam and Ballet of the 20th Century
- Part VI Online Quiz (Due by Sunday 11:59pm)*

WEEK 16 (12/5-9)

- 5: *Semester Overview*
- 7: *Review for Final Exam*

FINAL EXAM: TBA

Course Policies

Grading (credit) Criteria	Class Participation: 10% Concert Review 1: 10% Concert Review 2: 10% Group Project: 10% Quizzes: 20% Midterm: 20% Final: 20%
Make-up Exams	Make-up exams are given only for students who have made a prior arrangement.
Late Work	Assignments are due on the announced Due Date. Late assignments will be accepted up to one week after the due date, but your grade will be reduced (5 points out of 100 for each day late). Assignments that are more than one week late will not be accepted and will receive a Zero, unless you have obtained prior approval. If there are extenuating circumstances that preclude your submitting an assignment on time (such as a serious illness or a death in the family, for example), email me <i>before the due date</i> so we can discuss your circumstance and see if a special accommodation can be made in your case.
Class Attendance	You are permitted <i>three absences</i> (excused or unexcused) from class. Absences beyond three will result in a reduction of your final grade for each absence (I.E. a 4.0 to a 3.7).
Group Projects	You will be split into 3 separate groups and have a little more than 1 month to meet and prepare a 50-minute presentation on your topic. Grading will consist of quality of material, delivery, and you will grade each other on participation as a team.
Concert Reviews	Concert Reviews are to be in the manner of a newspaper critic. 500 to 750 words, double spaced, 12-point Times New Roman font. Quality of content, vocabulary, and clarity will all count toward a grade of 100.
Grading Scale	Final Grade is on a 4.0 scale. The full grading scale can be found here: http://catalog.utdallas.edu/now/undergraduate/policies/academic Quizzes, Tests, Concert Reviews, and Group Project are out of 100 points.
Comet Creed	<i>This creed was voted on by the UT Dallas student body in 2014. It is a standard that Comets choose to live by and encourage others to do the same:</i> “As a Comet, I pledge honesty, integrity, and service in all that I do.”
UT Dallas Syllabus Policies and Procedures	<i>The information contained in the following link constitutes the University’s policies and procedures segment of the course syllabus.</i> Please go to http://go.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies for these policies.

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