



**Course** MUSI 1306.001  
**Course Title** Understanding Music  
**Professor** Chris Widomski, MM  
**Term** Spring 2017  
**Meetings** MWF 8:00-8:50 a.m. AH2 1.204

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### ***Professor's Contact Information***

**Email Address** chris.widomski@utdallas.edu  
**Office Hours** By Appointment (Wednesdays @ 9am is best)  
**Office Location** JO 5.109  
**Other Information** You must use your UTD email to contact me. Do not use any other personal, potentially non-secure email accounts. In addition to the increased security of UTD email, this requirement ensures that our correspondence is official, and that any information you convey to me regarding absences, questions, etc. will be on record.

### ***TEXAS CORE CURRICULUM***

This course fulfills a requirement in the Texas Core Curriculum as it is offered at UT Dallas. Thus, 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.

### ***General Course Information***

**Course Description:** An introduction to the elements and basic forms of Western (European and American) art music, with 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. This course is designed to enable students to increase their understanding of music as a creative art form within historical context.

**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 in 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 during live performances (CT);
- (3) Identify and describe genres and sub-genres of Western 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 live music performances, using the understanding and insights gained through participation in the course (CT).

**Required Texts & Materials:** *Listen*, 8th edition (W.W. Norton) with Total Access.  
Kerman, Kerman, Tomlinson. ISBN: 978-0-393-60363-7  
<https://digital.wwnorton.com/listen8>

**This is a Hybrid Course. All Exams will be online (either on Blackboard or the Norton Total Access site).**

### **Assignments & Academic Calendar**

Lecture Topics Subject to Change. Readings are to be completed with online listening and chapter quizzes as assigned.

#### **WEEK 1 (1/9-13) UNIT I: FUNDAMENTALS**

9: Introduction and Orientation

11: Rhythm, Meter, Tempo

13: Listening Exams, Pitch, Dynamics, and Tone Color

#### **WEEK 2 (1/16-20)**

16: NO CLASS – MLK DAY

18: Scales and Melody

20: Concert Review outline

#### **WEEK 3 (1/23-27)**

23: Harmony, Texture, Tonality, and Mode

25: Musical Form and Musical Style >> *(Last Day to Drop Classes without a “W”)*

27: Instruments and Ensembles of Western Music >> *Listening Exam I*

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

#### **WEEK 4 (1/30-2/3) UNIT II: EARLY MUSIC**

30: Music and the Church

1: Music at Court

3: Polyphony

#### **WEEK 5 (2/6-10)**

- 6: The Renaissance and the Church
- 8: Chanson and Madrigal
- 10: Instrumental Music

#### **WEEK 6 (2/13-17)**

- 13: Renaissance to Baroque, Changes in Style
- 15: Early Opera
- 17: Instrumental Music >> [Listening Exam II](#), [Concert Review I Due Today](#)  
[Part II Online Quiz \(Due by Sunday @ 11:59pm\)](#)

#### **WEEK 7 (2/20-24) PART III: THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY**

- 20: The Late Baroque Period >> [GROUP PROJECTS ASSIGNED](#)
- 22: Baroque Instrumental Music
- 24: *continued*

#### **WEEK 8 (2/27-3/3) *MID-TERM EXAM – Due by Friday, March 3 @ 8am***

- 27: Baroque Vocal Music
- 1: *continued*
- 3: Music and the Enlightenment

#### **WEEK 9 (3/6-10)**

- 6: The Symphony and Other Classical Genres
- 8: *continued*
- 10: *continued* >> [Listening Exam III](#)  
[Part III Online Quiz \(Due by Monday, March 20 @ 11:59pm\)](#)

#### **WEEK 10 (3/13-17)**

- 13: **SPRING BREAK**, 15: **SPRING BREAK**, 17: **SPRING BREAK**

#### **WEEK 11 (3/20-24) PART IV: THE NINETEENTH CENTURY**

- 20: Beethoven
- 22: *continued*
- 24: Music after Beethoven: Romanticism

#### **WEEK 12 (3/27-31)**

- 27: Early Romantics
- 29: *continued*
- 31: Romantic Opera >> [Concert Review II Due Today](#)

#### **WEEK 13 (4/3-7)**

- 3: Romantic Opera *continued*
- 5: The Late Romantics
- 7: *continued* >> [Listening Exam IV](#)  
[Part IV Online Quiz \(Due by Sunday @ 11:59pm\)](#)

#### **WEEK 14 (4/10-14) PART V: TWENTIETH-CENTURY**

- 10: Music and Modernism
- 12: Early Modernism
- 14: Impressionism, Expressionism, and Wartimes

#### **WEEK 15 (4/17-21)**

- 17: Modernism Between Wars
- 19: The Late Twentieth Century
- 21: Music in America: Jazz and Beyond

**WEEK 16 (4/24-28)**

24: GROUP I PRESENTATION: MUSIC IN THE AMERICAN THEATRE

26: GROUP II PRESENTATION: MUSIC ON THE AMERICAN RADIO

28: GROUP III PRESENTATION: MUSIC IN THE AMERICAN MOVIES

**FINAL EXAM: Monday, May 8: 8am-10:45am****Course Policies**

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|---|---|
| <b>Grading (credit) Criteria</b>                  | <b>Participation</b> (includes chapter quizzes and attendance): <b>10%</b><br><b>Concert Review 1: 10%</b> <b>Concert Review 2: 10%</b><br><b>Group Project: 10%</b> <b>Unit Quizzes: 20%</b><br><b>Midterm: 20%</b> <b>Final: 20%</b>  |
| <b>Make-up Exams</b>                              | Make-up exams are given only for students who have made a prior arrangement.  |
| <b>Late Work</b>                                  | Late assignments will be accepted up to one week after the due date, but your grade will be reduced. 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 <b>before the due date</b> so we can discuss your circumstance and see if a special accommodation can be made in your case.   |
| <b>Class Attendance</b>                           | Attendance is required for this course. Attending class will greatly increase your understanding and comfort level with the kinds of written assignments, such as analyses of musical performances, which contribute to your final grade.<br><b>Absences:</b> If you must miss a class because you are participating in another UT-Dallas approved event, you must provide me with documentation at least one week in advance and in writing. If you must miss class FOR ANY REASON, you should notify me, earlier than later. Excessive absences will result in a lowered FINAL GRADE; do not miss more than three class sessions during the semester.<br><b>Attendance:</b> Arrive on time for class, remain alert for the duration of the class period, and stay through the entire class period. Sleeping in class, distracted attention, late arrivals, and early departures may result in a lowered final grade. If your device interrupts the class, or if you remove yourself from the classroom environment by using a device during class for any purpose unrelated to the classroom activity, such as texting, web-surfing, checking email, or playing games, you will be asked to leave the room immediately, and will be marked absent for that day. |
| <b>Group Projects</b>                             | You will be split into 3 separate groups and have about 2 months to plan 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.   |
| <b>Concert Reviews</b>                            | 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.  |
| <b>Grading Scale</b>                              | Final Grade is on a 4.0 scale. The full grading scale can be found here: <a href="http://catalog.utdallas.edu/now/undergraduate/policies/academic">http://catalog.utdallas.edu/now/undergraduate/policies/academic</a><br>Grades should be self-monitored on Blackboard, please check often!<br><b><i>I will not argue your grades*.</i></b> *Unless I made a clerical mistake.   |
| <b>Comet Creed</b>                                | <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><br><b>“As a Comet, I pledge honesty, integrity, and service in all that I do.”</b>  |
| <b>UT Dallas Syllabus Policies and Procedures</b> | <i>The information contained in the following link constitutes the University’s policies and procedures segment of the course syllabus.</i><br>Please go to <a href="http://go.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies">http://go.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies</a> for these policies.   |

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