

MUSI 1306: Music Appreciation

Course Syllabus

Instructor: Lewis Pilot, M.M.

Instructor Contact: Questions or concerns about class activities, grades, and other matters should be sent via email through the Mail feature within this classroom located to the left under the Course Menu. My virtual office hours are Monday-Wednesday from 12-3pm.

Course Description: A study of the elements of music necessary for enjoyment and understanding of music through recorded music; analysis of form and design and its relation to other subjects and activities. Designed as a visual and performing arts elective for students with no previous musical training. It will fulfill the fine arts requirement in the core curriculum and has guaranteed transferability as a part of the core curriculum to any Texas state supported college or university.

Textbook: The required textbook for the course is titled *Music: An Appreciation* (7th Brief ed.) by Roger Kamien. Make sure your copy of the textbook comes with a 5 CD set. We will be using both the text and the CDs quite a lot so they are well worth purchasing.

Classroom Setup:

- **Orientation:** There is no group orientation session for this class. However, each student is expected to look over the course website, read the course syllabus and course calendar thoroughly during the first week of class.
- **Homepage:** When you first log on to the class you will enter the Homepage; there I will post any important information and/or announcements relevant to the course.
- **Mail:** All communication for the course will take place through email using the Mail link within the classroom.
- **Gradebook:** Online exam grades will be updated as soon as the exam is submitted. Essay grades will be posted with a few days after the due date.

Course Objectives: There are basically 5 objectives I have for the course, and I consider these to be in order of importance:

1. I hope that you will develop an appreciation for the aesthetic principles that guide Western art music (classical music). I hope that by the end of the class you have found that your life is in some way enriched by the wealth of this music.
2. I hope that you will develop the ability to distinguish between the 6 major stylistic periods of Western music (i.e. Medieval; Renaissance; Baroque; Classical; Romantic; & Modern) and be able to respond critically.
3. I hope that you will develop an appreciation for a number of the important composers of this history and their compositions.
4. I hope that you will develop listening skills in order to hear music with "new ears" as it were.
5. I hope that you will gain a knowledge of important musical vocabulary and terminology, that is, to be able to discuss and understand music the way a musician does.

Course Competencies: Upon successful completion of the course, the student should be able to:

- Identify the composer of a given piece by listening to it.
- Identify the title of a given piece by listening to it.
- Identify the musical genre of a given piece by listening to it.
- Identify the historical musical period classification of a given piece by listening to it.
- Identify the differences in the various historical musical period classifications.
- Explain the stylistic practices of each musical period.
- Identify the sound of the most common instruments used in symphonic works.
- Interpret the common language and musical terms used in music.
- Understand historical significance of each historical musical period.

What to Expect: The course will be arranged into 4 sections consisting of a series of online lessons which correspond to particular chapters and listening examples from the textbook. Each lesson will include specific objectives. You will find links for lessons to the left under the Course Menu when you first log in.

- **Reading:** Students are expected to read all assigned textbook pages as well as the entire online lesson. Each lesson will provide specific textbook pages and/or listening examples. Some lessons are longer than one web page.
- **4 Online Exams:** Each section will conclude with an online exam. Questions will reflect material covered in that section's online lessons and assigned readings. The online exams are a part of your final grade, so please do not neglect them.
- **4 Essay Assignments:** Students will be required to submit an essay of at least 400 words as a part of each section. You will be given a list of topics from which to choose.
 - Make sure you have organized your thoughts into substantial paragraphs, each on a focused topic. Take the time to express your thoughts in a professional yet eloquent manner. When possible, use musical terminology in your writing.
 - Be sure to use complete sentences. This means capitalize the first word of the sentence, use correct punctuation, check spelling, use the correct verb tense and avoid abbreviations. Do not write in "text messaging" mode, which I realize could just be daily habit. Instead, show me your best work. Essays are a part of your final grade, so please do not neglect them.
- **2 Listening Exams:** Both a midterm and final listening exam will cover 20 selections each taken from the CD set which accompanies the textbook. Students will identify selections by composer, title, genre, and historical era.

Method of Evaluation: The final course grade will be calculated based upon 4 Online Exams, 4 Essays, and 2 Listening Exams:

- 4 Online Exams = 40% (10% each)
- 4 Essay Assignments = 40% (10% each)
- 2 Listening Exams = 20% (10% each)

Grading Key:

- A = 90-100
- B = 80-89
- C = 70-79
- D = 60-69
- F = below 60

Grading Standards:

- A - Student's work is exceptional and consistently well above average.
- B - Student's work is above average. Required assignments were completed in a timely manner and have met at least the minimum required standards.
- C - Student's work is acceptable. Majority of assignments meet the minimum required standards.
- D - Student's work fails to meet the minimum requirements for a grade of "C." Overall performance was sub-standard in comparison to normal expectations for this class.
- F - Student's work is clearly unacceptable. Student either did not attempt the work, or failed to meet any of the minimum required standards.

Notices:

- **Course Content:** College-level courses may include controversial, sensitive, and/or adult material. Students are expected to have the readiness for college-level rigor and content.
 - **Academic Integrity:** Academic integrity is fundamental to the educational mission of Clarendon College and the College expects its students to maintain high standards of personal and scholarly conduct. **Academic dishonesty of any kind will not be tolerated.** Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work, plagiarism, collusion, and the abuse of resource materials. It is the intent of Clarendon College to foster a spirit of complete honesty and a high standard of integrity. The attempt of students to present as their own any work they have not honestly performed is regarded by the faculty and administration as a serious offense and renders the offender liable to serious consequences, possible suspension.
 - **Student Conduct:** Students are expected to take responsibility in helping to maintain a classroom environment that is conducive to learning. Please be polite and maintain a professional tone in your writing. **NO abusive language will be tolerated in this course.**
 - **Changes to Syllabus:** The schedule and procedures in this syllabus are subject to change if deemed appropriate by the instructor.
 - **Students with Special Needs:** Students who qualify for specific accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) should notify the instructor the first week of class. It is the student's responsibility to provide the necessary documentation to the Special Populations Coordinator.
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