UNDERSTANDING AND ENJOYING MUSIC  
Summer II  2015

Instructor: Dr. Rai Morales  
Office: BH 1.13
Course and Section: MUSI 1306-W01  
Email: Via Blackboard only
Credits: 3  
Phone: 361-825-2281
Time/Day: Online  
Office Hours: By appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION
A course for non-music majors. A study of selected music literature of contrasting styles and forms with an emphasis on listening and understanding music. This satisfies the university core curriculum requirement in Fine Arts. There are no prerequisites.

TEXT AND MATERIALS

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES
At the completion of this course, you will be able to analyze a musical work according to the elements of music and historical context. In addition, you will discuss it cogently in a social context. In order to achieve this objective, you will be able to do the following with 100% accuracy:

1. Define and describe the elements of music and how they contribute to the creation of distinctive musical styles
2. Identify the major style periods in Western Art Music in terms of their dates, important music characteristics and genres, major musical developments and principal composers as outlined in the text.
3. Recognize the social, political and economic environment of a society that influences the creation and performance of music.
4. Describe the major styles of music from non-Western cultures in terms of their elements, historical backgrounds and locations.
5. Explain the major styles of American popular music in terms of characteristics and genres, major developments and principal performers.

COURSE OVERVIEW
There are four units in the class, and they will be made available progressively; for example, units 1 and 2 will be made available the first week, unit 3 the second week, etc. I recommend you follow the suggested structure. There are a few important points:

1. Assignments must be completed at the end of the unit in which you find them. They are also progressive, so complete all of the units leading up to the assignment before completing that assignment. For example, complete units 1-3 before attempting assignment #3.

2. There are assessments at the ends of every section in the units. Complete the assessments once you have read the sections.

3. The midterm and final exams will be available on the scheduled dates only. All assessments and assignments for the units covered must be completed by the test date. The midterm covers units 1-3 and the final covers unit 4, so all of the work for those units must be submitted by the dates of those tests.

4. The five discussion forums will open Monday of each week, and you need to respond by the Friday of that week.

Unit 1 - Basic Musical Concepts
1: Unity and Variety; the Structure of Music;
2: Types of Listeners and Music

Unit 2 - Building Blocks of Sound
3: Duration, Pitch, and Intervals
4: Volume and Timbre
5: The Symphony Orchestra; String Instruments
6: Woodwind and Brass Instruments
7: Percussion and Keyboard Instruments

Unit 3 - The Organizing Elements of Music
8: Rhythm, Tempo and Meter
9: Melody and Harmony
10: Texture and Form

MIDTERM - July 22nd

Unit 4 - Historical Periods
11: The Medieval Period
12: The Renaissance
13: The Baroque Period I
14: The Baroque Period II
15: The Classical Period I
16: The Classical Period II
17: The Romantic Period I
18: The Romantic Period II
19: The Contemporary Period I
20: The Contemporary Period II

FINAL EXAM - August 6th

GRADING
Grading will be based on assessments in the text, quizzes, and participation in discussion boards in Blackboard. You must utilize Blackboard for all assignments and assessments in this class.

Assessments – 40% of the final grade: There are assessments (mini-quizzes) at the end of each section in the text. You will complete the assessments for all of the sections in the text. There are 27 assessments – you should have no trouble completing them quickly if you do them immediately after reading the text.

Midterm and Final Exam – 40% of the final grade: The midterm and final exam are comprehensive exams based on material from the texts. They – along with the assessments – account for the majority of your final grade. Exams must be completed on the day they are assigned. The midterm date is July 22; the final exam is August 6.

Assignments – 10% of the final grade: There are five assignments, one for each teaching unit and a final concert attendance report. Assignments 1, 2 and 3 must be completed by the midterm date (July 22). Assignments 4 and 5 must be completed by the final exam date (August 6).

Discussion – 10% of the final grade: There will be 5 topics for discussion based on concepts from the text. You will respond at least once to each discussion and will receive 2% credit (out of 10% total) for each different thread to which you respond. Be sure to check Blackboard weekly for discussions. The point is for you all to interact as a class. You may submit a response at any time after the discussion is posted.
Late Work Policy—Late work will not be accepted for assignments or assessments, but you may turn in work as early as you wish. Assignments 1-3 are due by the date of the midterm. Assignments 4 and 5 are due by the date of the final.

GRADING SCALE
A 90-100%
B 80-89%
C 70-79%
D 60-69%
F 59% and under

Grades of "Incomplete" will be given only for certifiable medical reasons or in other extraordinary circumstances. Requests for incompletes must be made in writing and must include:

1. Documentation
2. Advanced notice
3. Dates that the coursework will be submitted

If the coursework is not submitted by that date, the Incomplete will become permanent.

TURNING IN ASSIGNMENTS AND ASSESSMENTS
All assignments and assessments will be submitted through Blackboard.

To submit an assignment:

1. Click on the assignment folder.
2. Click on the assignment in the folder.
3. Read through it thoroughly.
4. When you are ready to write the assignment, you may write directly into the text box provided, or you may write the assignment in a word processing program and paste it into the text box. You may also attach a Word file with the completed assignment.

To complete an assessment:

1. At the end of a section, click on the assessment link.
2. Click "Begin" to start the assessment.
3. You may exit the assessment and return to it later if needed.
4. You may consult the book during assessments.

You must finish the entire assessment or assignment for it to be considered complete.

ONLINE CLASS AND UNIVERSITY POLICIES

Grade Appeals

As stated in University Rule 13.02.99.C2, Student Grade Appeals, a student who believes that he or she has not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in the class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. The burden of proof is upon the student to demonstrate the appropriateness of the appeal. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details, including the responsibilities of the parties involved in the process and the number of days allowed for completing the
steps in the process, see University Rule 13.02.99.C2, Student Grade Appeals, and University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.01, Student Grade Appeal Procedures.

These documents are accessible through the University Rules Web site at http://www.tamucc.edu/provost/university_rules/index.html. For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Office of Student Affairs.

Copyright / Plagiarism

The online materials used in this course are copyrighted. These include but are not limited to assessments, exams, and course content materials. Because these materials are copyrighted, you do not have the right to copy them without expressly granted permission. As commonly defined, plagiarism consists of passing off as one's own the ideas, words, writings, etc., that belong to another. In accordance with this definition, you are committing plagiarism if you copy the work of another person and turn it in as your own, even if you have the permission of that person. Plagiarism is one of the worst academic sins, for the plagiarist destroys the trust among colleagues without which ideas and research cannot be safely communicated. If you have any questions regarding plagiarism, please consult the university rules at the above website. The guiding principle of academic integrity is that a student's submitted work must be his/her own. It is expected that all course assignments will consist of work done specifically for this course.

Related Issues

Online courses require time management and planning on your part. Though this class is not progressive - and you may elect to work on material in any order - you do not want to get behind in the work. Contact me if you are having any problems with assignments. There is a reliance on technologies in this course that impacts the need to have assignments done on time. Having ample time to complete an assignment will be the responsibility of the student. It is also the student’s responsibility to find solutions to technical problems with sufficient time to complete the required tasks. Do not wait until a due date is near to discover/report lack of access to software, inability to connect to a network, etc. While the instructor will help wherever possible, it is the students' responsibility to maintain his or her network. However, technical problems can originate on the TAMU-CC campus, in which case you will not be responsible to complete work that you can not complete due to TAMU-CC network or software problems. You are responsible for contacting me as soon as you detect a problem so that we can arrange a way for you to meet the course objectives.

Disabilities Accommodations

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please call or visit Disability Services at (361) 825-5816 in Corpus Christi Hall, rm. 116.

If you are a returning veteran and are experiencing cognitive and/or physical access issues in the classroom or on campus, please contact the Disability Services office for assistance at (361) 825-5816.

Technical Support and Requirements

Blackboard Learning System Help: http://iol.tamucc.edu

“Help” At the bottom of the Blackboard Course Management Control Panel in the course menu on the left hand column of the course interface. Phone: Help Desk (361) 825-2825

Island Online Student Resources Webpage:
Getting Technical Help

If you are having difficulties accessing course materials from your home computer, first let your instructor know, then contact the IOL Helpdesk at (361)825-2692 or submit a request via email to iol.support@tamucc.edu

Technology Requirements

To prepare your computer for using Blackboard 9.1, go to https://iol.tamucc.edu/techreq.php for computer requirements.

To view .pdf files you will need the Adobe Reader. Download it at: http://get.adobe.com/reader/

To view flash (.flv) files from sites such as You Tube, download the Flash player at http://get.adobe.com/flashplayer/

Navigating Blackboard 9.1

Once you are in the course, read the “Announcements” on the home page. Check this each time you enter your course. You will see a **Course Menu** on the left of the page. The menu is a list of links that connect to materials and tools associated with the course. Blackboard has several features and tools for communicating content delivery that you should use almost daily. Links to information about how to use these tools include: *Bb Help*, which contains a complete guide to learning how to use the many tools and features in Blackboard, and *Bb Video Tutorials*, which links to a page with videos to show you how to do tasks such as submitting an assignment.

**Library resources** (including print, electronic, and human) can be accessed through the Mary and Jeff Bell Library website that supports electronic searches of articles, books, journals, course reserves, and databases. It includes information such as Ask a Librarian, research tools, remote access information and tutorials, information about plagiarism and copyright, and interlibrary loan (http://rattler.tamucc.edu/distlearn/). The library is a member of TexShare which provides you with a card that allows you to checkout materials from libraries across Texas. Librarians' contact information is also on the website and you are encouraged to contact librarians for assistance.

**Online Course Guidelines**

Students will practice respect and responsibility as a part of this learning community. Here are some things you can do to exhibit an attitude of respect and responsibility:

- Post assignments on time. Early is even better.
- Work extra hard to get to know other classmates.
- Reach out through email Blackboard Messages and Discussions to support each other. If you have good info/tips on what is working for you/resource ideas, please share with the group so we can help each other out.
- Respect other classmates by watching what you say.
- Add your opinions to/participate in the discussions.
- Check the assignments every week. Don't wait until the last minute.
- Be helpful to other students.
- Don't get behind. If you get behind in an online course it is harder to get back on track than it is in a traditional course.
- Stay focused and stay connected.
- Keep up with your assignments and your grades. It is not the teacher's responsibility to tell you what you have or haven't turned in. Your grades will be available in Blackboard so all you have
to do is regularly check to make sure you have grades posted for all work.

In general terms, students are expected to "demonstrate a high level of maturity, self-direction and ability to manage their own affairs" and to "conduct themselves in accordance with the highest standards of academic honesty." Instances of plagiarism will be handled in accordance with Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi General Academic Policies and Regulations as listed in the current catalog.

**Delivery of Instructor Feedback**

**During the week (excludes weekends):** Instructor response to online requests usually occurs within a 24-hour period. Expect a response within 3 days.

**Student login expectations:** Students are required to login often - it is recommended that students check daily for announcements and updates.