

MUS 201: Music Appreciation, Introduction to Music and Its Literature
Lane Community College, College Now

2014 – 2015

Fall Term 3 Credits

3rd Period

Instructor: Dixon

Description

In this one-year course, students will develop an understanding of all aspects of music -- specifically Classical (Western Art Music), but I hope to touch on Ethnomusicology (Non-Western Music), Popular, Jazz, etc., as well.

Attention will also be paid to music theory and analysis, and organology (the study of the history, construction, performance and cultural context of musical instruments). Significant world events, as well as art and architecture, will also be discussed whenever relevant. Previous musical training, while helpful, is not a requirement.

Students will also develop their listening skills -- musical examples will be a part of nearly every class and students will be expected to listen critically and discuss, either verbally or in writing, what they have heard.

This class is part of the College Now program through Lane Community College, and is available for college credit.

Course Goals

The purpose of this course is to enable the student to do the following:

- Recognize diversity and creativity in music, both in our own and differing cultures.
- Study the lives and works of the great composers and their place in history.
- Trace the development of music from the Medieval to Modern eras and how it relates to important historical events.
- Increase awareness and appreciation of music as an art.
- Develop critical, purposeful listening as a means of expanding understanding and appreciation of a wide variety of music.
- Use appropriate musical terminology to assess musical judgment.
- Gain an aesthetic experience of music.

Materials

Each student needs to have the following items in class every day:

- Text: Listen (6th Ed.), by Joseph Kerman and Gary Tomlinson. Provided.
- A dedicated spiral notebook. Probably more than one.
- A pen or pencil
- Recommended: An iPod/mp3/flash drive player to record listening examples for home study.

Attendance

Regular attendance is mandatory and 20% of the final grade. Mr. Dixon will often discuss subjects that are not in the assigned text, and students will still be responsible for the information. Attendance also assumes the following: That all students will be respectful at all times, and will be listening with open ears. Please note that you cannot pass this class if ALL you do is show up and do nothing else!

Please note that if you cannot follow the preceding attendance/behavior expectations then you should find something else to do with your time during this period.

Home Study

It is also essential that students not only read their text, but also listen to the musical examples regularly. All tests and quizzes will reference reading, lectures, and listening examples.

Quizzes

Quizzes will be short, one-page tests given periodically throughout the term and will include vocabulary, composer identification and biographies when relevant, visual identification of musical instruments as well as art and architecture taken from the lectures. There will often be a listening component as well.

Projects

Students will complete two written paper/projects every term. Fall term projects will be deal with organology: The study of the construction, performance, and history of musical instruments. The first project will be a brief discussion of a musical instrument, while the second project will be more in depth. Both projects will have written and oral components.

Project II will actually have two due dates: A rough draft due roughly two weeks before the completed project. This will allow Mr. Dixon to critique grammar, spelling, format, etc. Writing is an important component at the university level, and this class will deal directly with developing writing skills. You will not receive full credit for this project if you do not hand in a rough draft!

Final Examination

In the final exam, students will be responsible for any information that was covered in the preceding term -- including vocabulary, composer identification and biographies, as well visual identification of musical instruments, art and architecture. There will often be a listening component as well.

Grading

All assignments, quizzes, tests, and projects will be given a number grade. Overall grades will be divided as follows:

Assignment	Points
Attendance	300 (30 points/week)
Quiz I	100
Quiz II	100
Quiz III	100
Project I	50
Project II	150 (50 points for rough draft + 100 points for final paper/presentation)
Final	200
TOTAL:	1000 Points

Late projects: Projects handed in after the due date will receive half credit point. I will continue to accept late projects for lesser credit for a full week after the due date.

Extra Credit: Students can get extra credit by attending and reporting on live musical performances and writing a short paper about their experience. If available, a program from the concert is required as well. Suggested venues are the Hult Center and the Shedd (Oregon Festival of American Music). Each extra credit report can add up to 25 points to their final grade.

NOTE: For LCC credit you must get a grade of "B" or higher.

Organology Project I

Brief description and history of an assigned musical instrument.

Paper length: 3+ pages

Presentation: 5 minutes

- Brief presentation w/handouts & poster-board project.

Organology Project II

In-depth description and history of a musical instrument of your choice.

Paper length: 5+ pages

Presentation: 10 minutes

- More in-depth presentation w/handouts & poster-board project. Recordings strongly encouraged.

An Important Consideration, or Dixon's First Sidebar (get used to them!)

It is imperative that you understand that this is a class that will often require you to sit quietly and listen. *Really* listen. No talking, no snickering, no dozing, no texting (ESPECIALLY NO TEXTING!). Much of the music will be unfamiliar, if not completely alien, to you. I will be deliberately pushing the envelope of your musical understanding. Every culture, both contemporary and throughout human history, has its own style of music, with widely differing modes of sound production as well performance contexts. It is your job, as a budding music scholar, to listen with sensitivity and understanding regardless of whether or not you actually like it.

You must remember something vitally important when talking about human art and culture: *Some people are different from you.* Of course this observation is so obvious as to be ridiculous, but one must always remember that people of different cultures will usually have completely different belief systems than your own. One of the most important things you will learn in this class is that the cultural context in which music is performed is often more important than the music itself, and that the music has a power beyond that of just an enjoyable sequence of sounds. When studying music that is completely foreign to you, do not pre-judge the people who make the music based on your own belief system. To do so renders this class meaningless, as well as being grossly unfair to the culture you are criticizing.

Please remember that at no time am I going to use this class as some kind of soapbox touting someone else's beliefs or culture over your own. Obviously, your own culture and beliefs are dear to you, if not the very essence of who you are as a person. I am merely asking that you listen and learn with an open mind in order to fully appreciate this class and what I am trying to teach you.

Fall Term 2014 Music Appreciation Schedule

(Subject to change!)

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
9/1 No School Labor Day	9/2 Introduction How to Listen	9/3 Begin Chapter 1 Music, Sound & Time	9/4 Ch. 1, cont.	9/5 Begin Chapter 2 Rhythm & Pitch
9/8 Ch. 2, cont.	9/9 Ch. 2, cont.	9/10 Quiz 1 (Ch. 1 & 2) Begin Chapter 3 Musical Structure	9/11 Ch. 3	9/12 Ch. 3
9/15 Ch. 3	9/16 Ch. 3	9/17 Quiz 2 (Ch. 3) Begin Organology Assign Project I	9/18 Organology	9/19 Organology
9/22 Organology	9/23 Quiz 3 (Organology) Begin Chapter 4 Form & Style	9/24 ½ Day Project I Due Presentations	9/25 Ch. 4	9/26 Ch. 4
9/29 Ch. 4	9/30 Ch. 4	10/1 Ch. 4	10/2 Mid-Term Review	10/3 Mid Term Exam (Ch. 1-4, organology)
10/6 Musical Timeline Begin Chapter 5 Middle Ages Assign Project II	10/7 Ch. 5	10/8 Ch. 5	10/9 ½ Day Progress Reports	10/10 No School State Inservice
10/13 Ch. 5 Sacred Music *Project II Rough Draft Due (optional)*	10/14 Ch. 5	10/15 Quiz 4 (Ch. 5) Begin Chapter 6 (Renaissance)	10/16 Ch. 6	10/17 Ch. 6
10/20 Project II Due Presentations	10/21 Presentations as needed Ch. 6	10/22 Ch. 6	10/23 Ch. 6	10/24 Ch. 6
10/27 Review for Final	10/28 Final Exam (Ch. 5 & 6 with some Mid-Term)	10/29 ½ Day	10/30 TBA	10/31 No School Grading Day