

MUS1376 Music Appreciation

Course Syllabus

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Music Appreciation is an introductory course. No prerequisite is necessary. All students may enroll.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Music Appreciation will give the student an expansive capsulation of music stretching back to the Middle Ages and spanning decades of time right up to the present. This course is designed to help the student to promote listening skills and assimilate a vast variety of musical genres, thereby heightening the students musical experience. The various types of musical instruments used in an orchestral arrangement will be briefly examined.

Music is a part of all cultures and peoples around the world. It is a powerful, motivational medium. It can evoke a broad range of emotions, from tears of sadness to the flight of ecstasy, all in the same musical piece. You will enrich your music listening skills to enhance your pleasure of music. You will also experience an expansive range of musical genres and bolster your music appreciation.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Music has been described as a channel to soothe the soul and a means to calm a wild beast. Music is a dynamic force. You will gain a broader realization of how music works and what the various components are that go into making music. By the end of this course, all students should:

- Achieve a working vocabulary of musical terms and concepts
- Recognize distinct characteristics from music from various historical eras
- Gain an understanding the various approaches of musical works throughout history
- Have a knowledge of the instruments that comprise an orchestra
- Enhance listening skills to better appreciate musical compositions
- Recognize the powerful force that music exerts on our emotions
- Experience exposure to a broader range of musical types

ATTENDANCE

Attendance is mandatory for all students. Excellent attendance is imperative for mastery and application of the information dispensed. Whether you are sitting at a desk in a classroom or attending via Skype, your attendance is vital to your success. Late arrivals are distracting and disrespectful. Please refrain from being tardy. Grades will be affected by absences and tardiness. Participation in class is a prerequisite. You learn from lectures, discussions and presentations.

CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR

Students are expected to treat all persons with respect. We should all conduct ourselves in a courteous and responsible manner. Be considerate, you can disagree, don't insult.

Please set all your electronic devices to silent during class so as not to be a disturbance to others in the class.

TUTORIAL ASSISTANCE

We maintain an open-door policy for our students. We are absolutely willing to discuss any matter that may arise during the course. If you have any questions, problems, or need help with the course material, we urge you to reach out as soon as the issue arises. If you want to contest a grade, you must do so within 48 hours and put it in writing. Please ask your student advocate for help. If you do not have a student advocate send an email to: tutordept@usilacs.org.

NON-DISCRIMINATORY STATEMENT

All students regardless of age, race, gender, religion, physical disability, class, etc., shall have equal opportunity without harassment in this course. Any problems with or questions about harassment can be discussed confidentially via email at: hr@usilacs.org.

DRESS CODE

For students enrolled who are attending in a classroom or via Skype, please be sure you are dressed modestly and respectfully. Please refer to www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/business%20casual. NO short shorts or skirts. Avoid low-cut tops. We want to present ourselves in a dignified manner at all times.

NETIQUETTE

- Always read through all the comments of the class before responding. This will avoid duplicating comments or questions asked.
- Avoid language that could be offensive. All profanity is strictly prohibited. Remember that using all caps when replying online signifies shouting. This would be rude and combative.
- Be sensitive to the fact that there will be fellow students from all parts of the world with many differing backgrounds and languages. Remember that slang and idioms will most likely be misconceived and/or misinterpreted. These should be avoided.
- Respect others views or opinions.
- Be thoughtful of the privacy of others. Ask permission before sharing email addresses or other personal information.
- Do not forward inappropriate material such as: virus warnings, chain letters, jokes, etc. The sharing of pornographic material is strictly prohibited.
- Use good spelling and grammar. Avoid using texting shortcuts.

- Strive to compose your comments in a positive, supportive and constructive manner at all times.

Any of these offenses will be dealt with by the school disciplinary committee.

ADA ACCOMMODATIONS

All reasonable accommodations will be provided for students with disabilities. Any student attending USILACS who needs an accommodation due to a chronic challenge (i.e. blindness, deaf or hard of hearing, mobility issues, psychological, or learning disability), register with:

USILACS Registrar's Office
1221 Brickell Ave.
Miami, FL 33131
1-305-330-2202
registrarsoffice@usilacs.org

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY/CHEATING

We encourage collaborating with others, either in person or online, to study and learn. When you complete your assignments or your exams, however, the wording has to be your own.

Plagiarism is the theft of someone else's work and ideas. You are permitted to cite or even quote someone else, however, you must properly cite them. There are two accepted ways of doing this. They are known as Modern Language Association (MLA) or American Psychological Association (APA). You can visit www.citationmachine.net for help in correctly citing information.

As a school that strives to maintain high moral standards, we strongly caution our students to be ethical and honest. Endeavor to be honest in conducting yourself in regard to any coursework you accomplish or exams you may take. Cheating is a dishonest practice.

REFERENCE MATERIALS

The vast majority of textbooks are outdated by the time they are published. USILACS education programs are not based upon outdated printed textbooks. USILACS programs are based on the most accurate and reliable knowledge available; specifically, up-to-date vetted internet-based information.

For those who would like some reference or Internet search recommendations, we would recommend the following.

(2014) Music Appreciation: Rice University, Houston, Texas. Gordon Lamp, Catherine Schmidt-Jones

(2016) Western Music History: WIKIBOOKS, Open books for an open world. How Music Works – Rhythm Part 3. Howard Goodall

Instrument Families of the Orchestra. University Portal. Liz Diamond-Manlusoc & Ryan Bechtel
How Playing Music Benefits Your Anita Collins.

MINIMUM REQUIRED SUPPLIES

All students will need all of the following:

- Computer with camera, microphone, and speakers.
- Skype installed on the computer with an active Skype account.
- Internet
- Printer
- Notebook paper
- Pens/pencils

If the student does not have a computer or internet, there will be some available for use at the school in the computer lab.

GRADING SYSTEM

There will be three tests throughout the course. Each test will count for 33.3% of the final grade.

Grade	Percentage	Grade Point
A+	99	4.0
A	97	3.8
A-	94	3.7
B+	89	3.3
B	85	3.0
B-	81	2.7
C+	77	2.3
C	73	2.0
C-	69	1.7
D	66	1.0
F	59	0.0

All students must earn at least a “D” in order to pass the class.

ASSIGNMENTS

Research Presentation-

You will pick a composer or musical artist from the time period between 1400-1900. You will then research that person and create a PowerPoint presentation on that person. This should be made as if that person were seeking to be hired by an orchestra. It should present like a sales pitch or resume' for the person. The PowerPoint presentation should be at least 10 slides long.

Concert Attendance and Report-

Student must attend some form of public concert involving music, singing and/or instrumentation. You must then write an essay on the experience. Describe the performance and the venue. Observe how the audience reacts and describe any

emotion that you can see evoked in the audience. Did it move any in the audience to respond physically? If so, how? Lastly, explain how you were affected. This essay should be a minimum of 1,000 words.

Musical Instrument Paper-

The student should choose a piece of instrumental music and through listening try to discern which orchestral instruments or sections are used throughout the piece. Pay attention to the tempo and meter and how the instruments are used to aid in those instances. Finally, describe how the instruments effect the emotions evoked in the piece. This should be a minimum of 1,000 words in length.

WEEKLY ASSIGNMENTS

Week 1	Overview of course and coursework Rhythm (1) Meter (3)
Week 2	Renaissance Period (1400-1600) (30)
Week 3	Baroque Period (1600-1750) (31)
Week 4	Tempo (5) <i>Research presentation due</i>
Week 5	<i>Video review and Exam</i>
Week 6	Classic Period (1750-1820) (32)
Week 7	Romantic Period (1820-1900) (33)
Week 8	Melody (12) Harmony (16) <i>Concert Attendance essay due</i>
Week 9	<i>Video review and Exam</i>
Week 10	Orchestral Instruments (28)
Week 11	Dynamics and Accent (7)
Week 12	Theme and Motif in Music (15) <i>Musical Instrument paper due</i>
Week 13	<i>Video review and Final exam</i>