

Music Appreciation

MUSI 1306 (Online)

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Course Description

Making music is a universal human endeavor. This course provides an introduction to the art of music through listening and participation. Students will learn how and why people create music in a variety of situations and how basic musical elements may communicate artistic intent. By the end of the course, students will possess the requisite skills to appreciate music more fully in live and recorded settings, and they will be able to describe how music operates in their own lives as human beings.

About the Instructor

I am the choir director at Brazosport College, but I grew up in the mountains of East Tennessee. I have studied music at Vanderbilt University, Westminster Choir College, and the University of Houston. I maintain an active career of teaching, singing, and conducting music in the Houston area. Before that, I taught high school choir and music theory classes in Austin, Texas. My hobbies include doing home improvement projects, playing board games, and doing nearly anything related to Star Wars (or sci-fi in general)!

Materials & Tools

Required Textbook:

Clark, Alan, Heflin, Thomas, Kluball, Jeffery, Kramer, and Kramer, Elizabeth. *Understanding Music: Past and Present*. Dahlonega, GA: University of North Georgia Press, 2015.
[ISBN: 978-1-940771-33-5]

Note: This textbook is available as a free download under CC By-SA 4.0 International Share-Alike license at the following URL: <https://ung.edu/university-press/books/understanding-music-past-and-present.php>

Other Required Materials & Tools

- Computer with internet access, microphone, and webcam or video recorder that can be uploaded
- An active and current email address.

Suggested Materials & Tools

- high-quality over-the-ear headphones
- Skype account
- General knowledge of (view Distance Learning website for manuals and tutorials):
 - Internet browser setting and configuration
 - Email and file attachments

- Uploading and downloading files
- Using a word processing program such as Microsoft Word

Required course materials are available at the Brazosport College bookstore, on campus or online at <http://www.brazosport.edu/bookstore>. A student of this institution is not under any obligation to purchase a textbook from the college bookstore. The same textbook is/may also be available from an independent retailer, including an online retailer.

Course Content

This course will begin with a focus on the basic elements common to all music, but with a particular emphasis toward those found in Western art music. The course will proceed by studying music in detail from various eras and places. As students advance, they will develop opinions and express preferences for different types of music based on their understanding of musical elements, the contexts surrounding the music, and their individual musical journeys.

Course Objectives

- 1) Students will identify musical works and elements in a variety of styles
- 2) Students will analyze the elements and structures of music using appropriate terminology.
- 3) Students will critically evaluate the influence of social, political, technological, and/or cultural ideas on music.
- 4) Students will articulate the significance of music as an art form within historical, cultural, and social contexts.

Essential Questions

- 1) Why is music important for society and individuals (including me)?
- 2) How and what does music communicate?
- 3) What traditions influence and are influenced by music?

Student Expectations

You will or need to:

- Log in often.
- Use this syllabus as your guide.
- Ask questions – don't wait.
- View online lectures.
- Read course materials.
- Actively participate in discussions.
- Think critically.
- Use proper "netiquette" ([view netiquette page](#)).
- Meet all assignment and testing criteria.
- Be self-motivated and disciplined.
- Show increased knowledge and demonstrate it during class activities.
- Work with others in a fair and kindly manner.
- Review the various assignments and develop your own plan for completing them in a timely fashion.

Course Overview and Structure

This course has three parts:

- In **part 1**, you will be studying musical elements. You will discover how composers use various musical elements to create art, as well as learning about and memorizing a variety of musical terms that you'll need to be successful in the rest of the class. There are two summative assessments for part 1: one test and one essay.
- In **part 2**, you will be studying music history. You will discover how Western composers of the past shaped European society through music and how, in turn, their surroundings and circumstances shaped their music. There are two summative assessments for part 2: one test and one essay.
- In **part 3**, you will be studying the relationships between music and society. Using your knowledge of musical elements and historical traditions, we will consider special topics, such as how musicians have contributed to our understanding of societal constructs like love and death, as well as events like war. There is one summative assessment for part 3: a portfolio project in which you will be asked to offer critiques, opinions, and personal insights into this music.

Week	Topics
Week 1	Basic Definitions, Elements of Music Overview
Week 2	Rhythm, Articulation, Melody
Week 3	Harmony, Timbre, Dynamics
Week 4	Texture, Form
Week 5	Test 1 , Medieval Music
Week 6	Renaissance and Baroque Music, Essay 1 Prewriting
Week 7	Classical and Romantic Music
Week 8	Modernist and Postmodernist Music, Essay 2 Prewriting
Week 9	Jazz and Folk Music, Test 2
Week 10	Music and Society (Special Topics), Essay 1 Rough Draft
Week 11	Music and Society (Special Topics), Essay 2 Rough Draft
Week 12	Music and Society (Special Topics)
Week 13	Music and Society (Special Topics), Both Final Essay Drafts
Break	(Thanksgiving)
Week 14 (Finals)	Music and Society (Special Topics), Music and Society Portfolio Final deadline to submit ANY late work by 5:00pm

Course Materials

Course materials (syllabus, required readings, lectures, listening links, and resources) will be available in the Content area of D2L.

Course Assignments and Assessments

Essays (2): Two standard, 5-paragraph college essays. The first asks you to compare and contrast two pieces of music. The second asks you to research a musical tradition and how it relates to society. You must cite your research. Each part of the essay (prewriting,

rough draft, final draft) is graded and required to move to the next stage. In addition, I will need time to read and send you feedback on your rough draft before you'll be allowed to submit a final draft. Please complete these items in a timely manner!

Tests (2): These will cover aspects of music covered in lectures, listening, and reading assignments. Not everything will be discussed in lectures. You may take these at any time after you have completed the module quizzes. You have the option of using BC's Learning Center (E-wing) or using the Respondus Video Monitor.

Reading: Readings are organized in D2L. In many cases, you only need to skim articles for the most important information. Always check the assignment directions!

Notes: You will receive guided notes pages. Upload scans or photos of your completed guided notes pages to D2L to demonstrate that you have studied the material.

Discussion Posts: You will complete discussion posts on D2L. These are under the Communication or Content areas.

Concert Reports: You must attend live performances (one for summer or mini-mester students; two for regular fall or spring semester students) of **Classical** or **Jazz** music, stay for the whole performance, and submit a concert report. Information about performances at BC, including free concerts, can be found on the Clarion website. Many local area schools also offer performances. **KEEP YOUR PROGRAM.** You'll need to submit it, too. You should take notes during the performance and comment on each piece performed. Your review should focus on the art created, through the lens of what you learn in this class about the elements and history of music.

Grading

Tests	20% (2 tests, 10% each)
Essays, including pre-writing and drafts	20% (2 essays, 10% each)
Part 3 portfolio project	10%
Discussion posts, homework assignments, quizzes	40%
Concert reports	10%

A: 90-100% B: 80-89% C: 70-79% D: 60-69% F: 59% or below

Deadlines and Late Work

Most weekly assignments will be due by **11:59pm each Thursday** night. Be sure to check the due dates in D2L, as they will help you determine what is due each week. Discussion posts will often have earlier deadlines, to give you and your classmates time to create meaningful responses. **The final deadline for ALL work is 5:00pm on the last Thursday, before the end of the semester.**

Most ordinary work will be accepted up to one week late for a 20% penalty. Summative assessments (tests, essay final drafts, and portfolio project) will not be accepted later than the due date without specific prior approval from the instructor.

Communication

Communication will take place using various interactive tools (Discussion, Chat, Email, Dropbox) and may include both real and virtual time (Skype or in-course Web Rooms are real time and may be used for online office hours).

Instructor Response Times

I will respond to critical questions within 24 hours while the college is open (Monday through noon Friday). If a question is extremely urgent, my personal email is best (Benjamin.p.may@gmail.com). Otherwise, please use either the D2L email system (ben.may@online.brazosport.edu) or my campus email (ben.may@brazosport.edu). I will typically be responding to and grading regular discussion posts and assignments on Monday through Thursday between 9am and noon.

My office hours are 11am to 12pm each day, Monday-Thursday. I will usually have my browser open during this time, so this would be a good time to use online office hours in the virtual classroom or reach me on the D2L/Virtual Campus chat function.

Caveat: Since I am an active musician, performances and other obligations sometimes interfere with these hours. **It is always best to check with me in advance if you need to chat!**

Testing

There is no cumulative final exam in this course. You may make an appointment with the BC Learning Center OR use Respondus LockDown Browser and Video Monitor for the two tests.

Single-module quizzes do not need to be proctored or monitored. You have unlimited attempts at these, and only need to attempt them to move on.

Assignment Submissions

Submit assignments via the Dropbox. In some cases, Discussions will be used.

Course Policies

Attendance: As per college policy, you are expected to attend classes regularly, whether they are face-to-face or online. In this course, this means devoting time to viewing lecture videos and listening.

Make-ups: If the late submission has been requested and approved in advance of the due date, there will be no deduction of points from the grade. An **email to the instructor** requesting an extension of the due date should be sufficient. All summative assessments (essays, tests, portfolio) must be completed to pass the course.

Late Policy: Prompt submission of assignments and timely feedback to classmates via the discussion area is vital to this class. Early submission allows the instructor to give you the guidance and grades you deserve. Due dates for the course are published on the course calendar at the start of the class. **Work turned in by 11:59pm on the due date will be considered on time and will receive full credit.** Non-summative assessments may be accepted up to one week late for 80% credit, at the instructor's prerogative. **Summative assessments that not been submitted by 11:59pm will receive a zero.**

Course Disclaimer: Every attempt is made to provide a complete syllabus that provides an accurate overview of the courses. However, circumstances and events may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. This may depend, in part, on the progress, needs and experiences of the students.

College Policies

View Student Guide & Calendar (includes Student Conduct and Honor Codes) for detailed College Policy information: <http://www.brazosport.edu/StudentServices/Pages/default.aspx>

Online Student Conduct

- Students are expected to abide by Brazosport College's code of student conduct, including the rules applicable to online courses and student conduct in general.
- Students enrolled in distance education courses are expected to perform with the highest level of academic honesty and integrity.
- Breaches of conduct include:
 - Misconduct
 - Cheating on a Test
 - Plagiarism
 - Collusion

Academic Honesty Policy

Brazosport College assumes that students eligible to perform on the college level are familiar with the ordinary rules governing proper conduct including academic honesty. The principle of academic honesty is that all work presented by you is yours alone. Academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, and collusion shall be treated appropriately. Please refer to the Brazosport College Student Guide for more information. This is available online at <http://www.brazosport.edu>.

Academic dishonesty violates both the policies of this course and the Student Code of Conduct. In this class, any occurrence of academic dishonesty will be referred to the Dean of Student Services for prompt adjudication. Sanctions may be imposed beyond your grade in this course by the Dean of Student Services.

Students with Disabilities and Non-discrimination Policy

Brazosport College is committed to providing equal education opportunities to every student. BC offers services for individuals with special needs and capabilities including counseling, tutoring, equipment, and software to assist students with special needs. Please contact Phil Robertson, Special Populations Counselor, 979-230-3236 for further information.

Brazosport College faculty and staff are committed to supporting students and upholding the College District's non-discrimination policy. Under Title IX and Brazosport College's policy FFDA (Local), discrimination based on sex, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression is prohibited. If you experience an incident of discrimination, we encourage you to report it. While you may talk to a faculty or staff member at BC, please understand that they are "Responsible Employees" and must report what you tell them to college officials. You can also contact the Title IX Coordinators directly by using the contact information below. Additional information is found on the Sexual Misconduct webpage at www.brazosport.edu/sexualmisconduct.

Kelli Forde Spiers, Director, Student Life and Title IX Coordinator
Office J-117D; 979-230-3355; kelli.fordespiers@brazosport.edu

Victoria Young, HR Coordinator and Deputy Title IX Coordinator
Office C-114; 979-230-3303; victoria.young@brazosport.edu

Student Privacy

Brazosport College is committed to providing services and support to meet your needs and achieve your educational goals. We are equally committed to protecting your privacy. For information regarding the confidentiality of student records please view the [Brazosport College Distant Learning Student Privacy Statement](#). For additional information related to Student Privacy contact the Registrar (979-230-3010).

Withdrawals

Withdrawal from a course is, first and foremost, the student's responsibility. An instructor may process an "administrative withdrawal" on a student for excessive absences. *However, it is the student's responsibility to ensure, prior to the deadline for withdrawal, that he/she has been officially withdrawn.* Because you stop attending a class, does not mean that you have officially withdrawn from the class.