

MUSIC APPRECIATION  
MUS 133  
SYLLABUS  
STILLMAN COLLEGE

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### **COURSE OUTCOMES**

Music Appreciation is a basic course designed to enhance your enjoyment and understanding of music. Historical and cultural perspective, as well as building of analytical and listening skills, will be stressed. No musical background is required or expected. The course will explore several genres of music, such as classical, rock, blues, jazz, folk, country etc.

The benefits of music in our lives are increasingly acknowledged by researchers and scientist. As human beings, we have taken the existence of music for granted and rarely think critically about music and its purpose. Perhaps for this reason, such critical thinking about music is sometimes perceived as difficult.

### **REQUIRED TEXTS/RESOURCES**

*Understanding Music: Past and Present* creates a roadmap from some of the earliest known origins of music to modern day. This linear approach allows the reader to trace the history and evolution of music through the ages. *Understanding Music: Past and Present* is designed to grow the reader's appreciation of music through improved understanding and listening skills, allowing the reader to develop his or her own informed opinions and express them.

*Understanding Music: Past and Present* is a free downloadable PDF listed in the Open Textbook Library.

### **COURSE POLICY**

**Testing:** There will be a minimum of four (4) exams in class during the semester. The exams are not cumulative. If for a justified reason the student cannot take the exam on the assigned date, the student must notify the instructor and arrange a suitable time and day, before the next scheduled class meeting, for a make-up exam. The dates of the exams will be announced in class.

**Reports:** There will be a total of 2 reports. Each of the reports must be a one to two-page paper about a concert attended during the semesterr. The concerts attended must be of two contrasting styles - for example, a Broadway musical and a jazz concert, a symphonic performance and a bluegrass concert, etc.

**Assignments:** There will be weekly assignments (homework) posted on the adjoining Canvas portal (MUS 133: Music Appreciation). Each assignment will have a due date - usually Sunday evening

**Grades:** The grades in this course depend exclusively on the points scored by the student on the different exams and assignments. This means that the student earns his or her grade in this class. The 4 exams will constitute 60% of the grade (15% each), the online homework will count for 20% of the grade, while the 2 reports will constitute 20% of the grade (10% each).

Grades are awarded at Stillman College for courses according to the following table of letter grades and point values:

Grade	Point Value
A	4.0
B	3.0
C	2.0
D	1.0
F	0.0
Incomplete	

**Incompletes:** Grades of “I” (Incomplete) should be removed by the eighth week of classes in the following term in residence, unless the Provost grants an extension. Students on academic probation must remove the grade of “I” before the last day for registration and schedule changes in the following semester. Students who do not return for the following semester after assignment of an “I” will have to repeat the course, unless the student arranges to remove the “I” prior to the beginning of the following semester.

**Attendance Policy:** Except when officially exempted, students and faculty are expected to attend all classes for which they are registered and assigned. Similarly, faculty and students are expected to meet classes at the scheduled time and to participate for the full period. Frequent tardiness (3 or more) by students and early departures may lead to the assignment of an unexcused absence. Students may be allowed as many unexcused absences as a course bears credit. Instructors should report excessive absences to the Academic Success Center. Absence from class for any cause is a loss to students and maybe harmful to the grades earned for the semester. After the 3<sup>rd</sup> absence, each subsequent absence will result in 5 points off your final grade.

**Unexcused Absences:** Unexcused absences exceeding the number of credit hours for a course can automatically suspend a student from a course. Where courses meet in 80-90 minute blocks, two unexcused absences are allowed for a 3-credit course. Double absences may be charged for unexcused absences that occur on the day before or following a holiday. When a student is suspended from a class for excessive absences, the Dean of Retention and Placement may reinstate him/her after a conference or counseling session with designated college staff.

**Excused Absences:** Students may obtain an official excuse by presenting the appropriate documentation to the Vice President for Student Affairs. The Provost & Vice President for Academic Affairs must endorse the excuse before it becomes official. Officially excused

absences are permissible so long as such absences do not destroy the ability of a student to master course requirements. Presenting Excuses - Official excuses must be presented by the student to the concerned instructor within seven (7) days of the student's return to class. The presentation of a timely excuse shall entitle the student to an opportunity to perform all class assignments missed. Seven additional days, following the return to class, shall be allowed for student (and the instructor) to execute make-up work. If the faculty does not provide the make-up work in the allotted time, or chooses not to provide the make-up work, then the faculty will not consider the missed work in determining the student's final grade.

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**Withdrawals:** "W", Withdrawal. This grade will be assigned when a student withdraws from a course with the approval of the Provost between the last day for change of schedule and one week after mid-semester grade reports have been delivered to students.

"WD", Administrative Withdrawal. This grade will be assigned when a student is withdrawn from a course by the Provost or the Vice President for Student Affairs. This grade is non-punitive and may be assigned by the appropriate official at any time during a semester or term.

"WP", Withdrawal Passing. This grade will be assigned when a student withdraws from a course for good cause past the published date with the approval of the Provost.

"WF", Withdrawal Failing. This grade will be assigned when a student withdraws from a course without good cause past the published date.

"UW", Unofficial Withdrawal. This grade will be assigned when a student begins to attend class but then ceases to attend class for three weeks consecutively without providing official notification to the College of their intent to withdraw, by completing the College Withdrawal Form. The last date of attendance as documented through attendance records submitted weekly by faculty will serve as the withdrawal date for students who unofficially withdraw.

### **MISSION STATEMENT**

Stillman College is a liberal arts institution with a historical and formal affiliation with the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). It is committed to fostering academic excellence, to providing opportunities for diverse populations, and to maintaining a strong tradition of preparing students for leadership and service by fostering experiential learning and community engagement designed to equip and empower Stillman's students and its constituents.

### **DISABILITY STATEMENT**

A Stillman College student with a disability should contact the Director of the Student Development Center. It is the responsibility of the Stillman College student to declare the disability, document it, and request appropriate accommodations. Accommodations will be made for those persons with learning or physical disabilities. Please inform me during the first week of class if this applies to you