

MUS 205: music of the western world

Winter online 2015

Dr. Natasia Sexton

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For Moodle assistance: Call Help Desk at 573/592-5169 and ask for Matt Vore or Ryan Smith

Required materials

- *Enjoyment of Music: Essential Listening Edition* by Forney, Dell'Antonio, and Machlis. The purchase of this book includes a necessary e-book with audio files. If you purchased a used book, it will be necessary for you to purchase Total Access to all the online media for *Enjoyment Essentials* at www.wwnorton.com/college/music/enjoyess2.

Course description

Is music really the universal language?

The Russian writer Tolstoy explained, "Music is the shorthand of emotion;" is this true?

Was the philosopher Schopenhauer right when he claimed that where words leave off, music begins? Or did Victor Hugo get it right when he said, "Music expresses that which cannot be put into words and that which cannot remain silent?"

Together we will investigate these questions as we journey through parts of Western Civilization to visit some of its musical monuments. First, we will investigate what it means to think critically about music. After we establish a common philosophical approach to our work together, we must establish a common understanding of the basic or fundamental elements of music—the composer's tools, so to speak, which are used to create expressive, dynamic, and powerful works of art. Once our journey begins, we will consider how time and place are reflected through musical works as well as ways in which great musical works resonate in the hearts and minds of societies throughout the world—past and present! For each composition, we will consider its inherent artistic merit, its entertainment value, its function in society, and also the degree to which the work has become transcendent (in other words, how has the music existed beyond its original context?).

Successful completion of this course earns credit in the artistic expression and critical appreciation context in Tier II of our New Foundations general education curriculum. This means you will be encouraged to broaden your perspective—both personally and in relation to your global community! As a Fine Arts departmental course, MUS 205 also develops artistic appreciation, critical awareness, and alternative ways of knowing. We typically perceive concepts and ideas linearly, but the arts expand the boundaries of linear thinking and require us to comprehend complex concepts through multiple dimensions! Furthermore, as one component within a greater liberal arts curriculum, this course will balance the empirical with the intuitive, the objective with the subjective, and the rational with the emotional. Ultimately, this course has been designed to open your ears, challenge your mind, and touch your soul.

Course objectives

Through conscientious preparation, keen participation, and dedicated reflection, one will:

- Identify and recognize the five basic elements of music and apply this recognition to the analysis of various music compositions;
- Examine compositions of pivotal composers from Western Civilization and record the overarching musical and stylistic characteristics associated with each composer;
- Distinguish specific compositions among various musical genres of the Western canon and classify those compositions according to their appropriate historical period;
- Reflect upon the transcendental qualities of musical compositions and consider the attributes within a work which characterize it as iconic.

Course policies

Although my objective in this online course is to create a learning environment that is engaging and enjoyable, you will be challenged you to perceive concepts in new ways and occasionally to navigate through material quite quickly. Therefore, it is imperative for you to adhere to the course schedule for all assignments and quizzes! Points will be deducted for late work and discussion boards will not be graded after their due dates.

Please keep the following statements in mind as you begin your coursework in the online setting.

Academic Honesty Statement:

Academic honesty is fundamental to the activities and principles of a higher institution. All members of the academic community, whether onsite or online, must be confident that each person's work has been responsibly and honorably acquired, developed, and presented. Any effort to gain an advantage not given to all students is dishonest whether or not the effort is successful. The academic community regards academic dishonesty as an extremely serious matter. When in doubt about plagiarism, paraphrasing, quoting, collaboration or testing, please consult your instructor. Westminster College's honor code, as well as policies disseminated by each individual department regarding honesty, ethics, and professionalism will be respected.

Class Netiquette:

Every voice and opinion in the class matters. Please respect one another's postings no matter how different or controversial they may be perceived. Tolerance and respect are especially important in the online environment. You are encouraged to comment, question, or critique an idea but you are not to attack an individual. Our differences can serve to add richness to this learning experience. Please consider that sarcasm and humor can be easily misconstrued as *hurtful* in online interactions. Working together as a community of learners, we can build a polite and respectful atmosphere to foster learning for all of us.

Assessments and grading scale

A	93-100%	C	73-76
A-	90-92	C-	70-72
B+	87-89	D+	67-69
B	83-86	D	63-66
B-	80-82	D-	60-62
C+	77-79	F	0-59

Weekly Discussion Boards	30% of final grade
2 Reflective Essay	30% of final grade
4 Quizzes	<u>40% of final grade</u> (each quiz is worth 10%)
	100%

Weekly Discussion Boards: Our time together will be divided into 4 units. To accompany each unit, we will all participate in Discussion Boards. For each unit, I will begin a discussion thread to supplement your reading and study. You may participate in discussions in various ways: answer a question of mine, ask me a question, pose a question to members of the class, answer questions posed by your peers, or introduce new topics. I will monitor these on a regular basis (at least daily) by guiding your discussions, answering questions, and asking you to reconsider previous ideas. You are encouraged to post thoughtful and thought-provoking comments and questions with great regularity (to stay fully engaged with our material, we should all plan to participate in multiple posts/comments each week day); however, I am not requiring a specific number of comments in any given week (you will be assessed on how thoroughly you engage with the material, myself and others, and also on your growing understanding of materials). At the close of each unit, I will revisit all posts from that unit and assess each participant with a grade. Assessments will consider quality as well as quantity of student posts. Your final Discussion Board grade of the semester will be one cumulative grade that considers your overall participation and contributions throughout the entire course. See the course schedule for opening and closing dates of each Discussion Board.

2 Reflective Essays: To conclude week one and week three, I will ask you to write a reflective essay in which you will consider the material we are discussing that week. My intention is that the essay is the culmination of ideas that have been exchanged via Discussion Boards and that the essay reflects your best understanding and most thoughtful ideas regarding our unit of study. Most often, the essays will require you to listen to a composition—multiple times—and gain an intimate knowledge of what you hear. The essay should reflect your understanding of what you have heard, our shared discussions via Discussion Board, and what you have read each week. Specific guidelines for each essay will be posted on Moodle. All essays should be sent as Microsoft Word documents to me via e-mail attachments at Natasia.Sexton@westminster-mo.edu. Essays are due on following dates/times: Essay 1—Monday, Dec. 22 @ 12 noon; Essay 2—Thursday, January 8 @ 12 noon.

4 Unit Quizzes: At the conclusion of each week, you will take a timed, online quiz which will assess your understanding of material you have read and that we have discussed via Discussion Boards throughout that week. Quiz formats will be entirely multiple choice. Quizzes will be “open” to you on the following dates: Quiz 1 on Saturday, Dec. 20; Quiz 2 on Wednesday, Dec. 24; Quiz 3 on Wednesday, Dec. 31; Quiz 4 on Wednesday, Jan. 7. All quizzes will be open for 24 hours, and they will open at 10 am each quiz day. Therefore you may take the quiz anytime within that 24 hour time period; however, be aware that the quiz will close at 10 am on the following day—even if you are logged-in and completing the quiz at that time. Please begin the quiz early enough so that you will not be locked-out when it closes. Once

you begin a quiz, you will have a full hour to complete it. After logging-in to a quiz, you may not log out and then log back in. You may take a quiz only one time.

Course schedule

12/17-12/19	1. Materials of Music: Timbre Intensity Duration Pitch Texture (Form)	Read Chapters 1-10. Listen to LG1. Discussion Board 1 opens 12/17 at 9am and closes 12/19 at 9pm.
Quiz 1 opens 12/ 20 @ 10 am and remains open through 10 am 12/21.		
Essay 1 is due Monday, 12/ 22 at noon.		
12/21-12/23	2. Musical Style: Medieval and Renaissance Eras.	Read Prelude 2 and Chapter 11-15. Listen to LG2, LG4, LG5, and LG6. Discussion Board 2 opens 12/21 at 9am and closes 12/23 at 9pm.
Quiz 2 opens 12/ 24 @ 10 am and remains open through 10 am 12/26 (note the extension to accommodate Christmas!).		
12/26-12/30	3. Musical Style: Baroque and Classical Eras.	Read Prelude 3 and Chapters 17, 18, and 20. Listen to LG8, LG9, and LG11. Read Prelude 4 and Chapters 23, 24, 25, and 27. Listen to LG 14, LG15, LG16, and LG18. Discussion Board 3 opens 12/ 26 at 9am and closes 12/30 at 9pm.
Quiz 3 opens 12/31 @ 10 am and remains open through 10 am 1/2 (note the extension to accommodate New Year's!).		
1/2-1/6	4. Musical Style: Romantic and Contemporary Eras.	Read Prelude 5 and Chapters 30, 31, and 35. Listen to LG 21, LG 22, and LG 26. Read Prelude 6 and Chapters 41, 43, and 44. Listen to LG 32, LG34, and LG35. Discussion Board 4 opens 1/2 at 9am and closes 1/6 at 9pm.
Quiz 4 opens 1/7 @ 10 am and remains open through 10 am 1/8		
Essay 2 is due Thursday 1/8 at noon.		

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Credit Hour Worksheet

Instructions: Federal credit hour policies require that students complete a total of 45 hours of work for each academic credit they receive. For a 3-credit course, that means a total of 135 hours. For a 1-credit course, that means a total of 45 hours. Winter term consists of three weeks, so students completing a three-credit course should be working 45 hours/week, while students completing a one-credit course should be working 15 hours/week. Please complete the worksheet below to indicate your expectations for # hours of student work in each week to show how your course meets these requirements (please specify if 'other') and add to your syllabus.

Course Number: MUS 205

Course Name: Music of the Western World

Faculty Member: Dr. Natasia Sexton

Credit Hours: 3

Week	Class Time	Reading	Discussion	Assignments and Written Work	Exams	Other: Listening	Total Student Time
12/17-12/23		15	5	5	5	10	40
12/24-12/30		15	5		5	20	45
12/31-1/8		15	5	5	10	15	50
Totals		45	15	10	20	45	135