

♪*°♪ +°♪ ° . SYLLABUS: Music Appreciation ♪*°♪ +°♪ °
MUSL 1324 - University of Texas at El Paso
Spring 2026: T-Th

Instructor: Professor Lauren Martinez

lmartinez6@utep.edu

Office: Fox Fine Arts -M311

Office Hours: Friday's 11:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m. (in-person) OR scheduled virtually by appointment.
You are **always** welcome to email me if you have any questions!

Information about Professor Martinez can be found at the following link: ♪*°.

www.LaurenLizetteMartinezPiano.com

Course Objectives:

1. To listen deeply, to describe, and discuss live musical events.
2. To discover some of the infinite variety of styles and genres in classical music.
3. To discern some of the ways in which music and culture are intimately connected.
4. To develop information literacy, writing, analytical, and critical thinking skills.

Some Important Course Policies in a Nutshell:

(Explained in greater detail throughout the syllabus)

- Class attendance **IS** required. (!)
- Due dates are on the Course Calendar
- Late work is not accepted (!!)
- Check your email regularly
- Computer and constant internet are required for online assignments
- You will need to attend 2 live (in-person) concerts (!!!)

Required Texts:

NONE! 😊

Recommended: Randel, Don Michael, ed. *Harvard Concise Dictionary of Music and Musicians*. Cambridge: Belknap Press, 2002.

Concert Attendance:

Attending 2 concerts is required for the Concert Review Postcard assignments in this class. On-Campus concerts are (majorly) free for UTEP students. I regularly will be sending out emails about upcoming concerts throughout our community. Classical-style concerts are preferred, however, check with the instructor if you plan on attending a non-classical concert.

Submitting Work:

All work will be conducted and submitted through Blackboard.

Technology Requirement:

While this class is held face-to-face, assignments will be due online via

Blackboard. To avoid class cancellations, classes may sometimes be held online. During online periods, access to a computer and reliable internet is required. Contact the UTEP technology center if you need to check out equipment for the semester. Additionally, ensure that your UTEP e-mail account is working.

File Types for Submitting Assignments:

Acceptable:

- ✓ .doc
- ✓ .docx
- ✓ .pdf
- ✓ .jpeg
- ✓ .png

Not Acceptable:

.pages (It is particularly common for students to try to submit this one!)

Mac users: I cannot read these files. 😞

Regarding Deadlines:

In this course, you are expected to develop professional skills, including, but not limited to - coping with conflicts between your personal, work, and school life, planning your week's schedule in advance, practicing clear email communication, and submitting work on time. Unless you have a legitimate emergency and inform your instructor either immediately before, or after an assignment is due, all deadlines are final.

Personal scheduling conflicts, including work schedules, do not qualify for assignment extensions. If you have a busy and unpredictable personal schedule, you need to complete work in advance to avoid missed deadlines.

Attendance Policy:

- If you are sick, do not come to class. Contact the instructor via email.
- If you are not sick, you **must** come to class during in-person teaching periods.
- 3 non-emergency absences are allowed without grade penalty.
- **After the 3rd unexcused absence, the student's final grade will go down 2% per unexcused absence**
 - Ex. 4 unexcused absences would mean a loss of 2%, 5 would mean 4% etc.
- It is your responsibility every day to either make sure you are marked present or to speak with the instructor after class. Otherwise, you will be marked as absent for the day.
- If you are absent, the instructor is not responsible for providing you with notes from the lecture. On the first day of class, everyone will get a chance to mingle and exchange contact information (a.k.a., everyone will make notetaking buddies!)

A Finite Number of Emergencies:

Extensions may be granted in extreme emergency situations. No student will be granted more than 3 emergency extensions in a semester. Emergency extensions will not be granted covering more than 3 weeks. Students with problems that

extend beyond these conditions should contact the registrar for an emergency medical withdrawal from the semester: <https://www.utep.edu/student-affairs/registrar/>

Class Structure:

Quizzes:

- Quizzes will usually consist of 5 questions based on each lesson. These are timed and students receive two attempts.

Tests:

- Tests are a culmination of the Quizzes. These are timed and students receive two attempts.

Discussion Boards:

- Some require writing; others are fun class projects! Discussion Boards consist of two parts.
 1. Answering the main question/uploading the class project.
 2. Read other students' posts and respond to at least two other students' posts.

Writing is not taught in this course, but your work will be graded with technical writing in mind. College-level writing is expected in this course. If you struggle with writing, contact the UTEP Writing Center for help: www.uwc.utep.edu

Concert Review Postcards:

Throughout the semester, you must attend two in-person concerts. You do not need to write an essay for these reviews. There will be a PowerPoint template uploaded on Blackboard where you simply need to fill in the prompts.

Your Grade:

Quizzes and Discussion Boards/Class Projects: 75%

Concert Report Postcards: 15%

Tests: 10%

100-90% = A

80-89% = B

70-79% = C

60-69% = D

Below 60% = F

Academic Honor Policy:

The state of Texas has particularly harsh punishments for Academic Honor transgressions, so think very carefully before breaking any of the rules listed here. Plagiarism is not tolerated in the course. Suspected cases of plagiarism will be immediately submitted for disciplinary action. Refer to the Student Conduct Guide for further information <http://sa.utep.edu/osccr/academic-integrity/>

Americans with Disabilities Act:

Any reasonable accommodations for students with limitations due to disabilities will be made. If you have a documented disability and require specific accommodations, you will need to contact the Center for Accommodations and Support services Office. CASS can be reached in the following ways: <http://sa.utep.edu/cass/> 915-747-5148, or via email, cass@utep.edu.