

SYLLABUS: Graduate Music History Seminar in 20th- Century Opera

MUSL 5211 - University of Texas at El Paso
Spring 2018

Instructor: Dr. Lindsey Macchiarella
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Class Meetings: T, Th 4:30-5:50 M343

Office Hours in M234

- o Tues and Thurs 11:30 am - 12:30 pm
- o Or by appointment

Course Objectives:

1. To engage creatively with music-historical topics by producing original historical narratives supported by academic research.
2. To deconstruct and emulate academic-style writing.
3. To communicate these narratives both verbally and in writing to peers and to the public.
4. To understand, deconstruct, discuss, and emulate academic writing.
5. To become familiar with some canonical and non-canonical works in opera from the last century.
6. To explore the concept of music as a cultural product.
7. To create a professional online presence.

Class Procedure:

This class is student-centered. Most classes will alternate discussions of one or more specific articles, with student research presentations. Exceptions will be made for class periods oriented around guest speakers.

Class Requirements

Article Outlines: For each specific article assigned for class discussion, will be due a brief (apprx. 1-2 pages) hierarchical outline of the author's argument and evidence.

Blog Posts: For each day of free research, you will begin with a broad topic and narrow your research according to your interests, then post an aprx. 500-word blog post on <https://20thcenturyoperaseminar.wordpress.com/>. These will usually be expected to draw on at least 4 academic resources.

Final Paper, Presentation, and Video: You will select a creative topic of your choosing, related to issues discussed in class, for a final paper of aprx. 1500 words. You will present your research in a formal presentation in class. The presentation will be made into a video and put on the website.

Participation: Everyone is expected to come to class prepared to thoroughly discuss the assigned readings and discuss student presentations. You will receive a participation grade after every class that reflects how thoroughly you demonstrated your preparation and understanding of the assignments and presentations.

Concerning the Class Website

Each student has the power to edit or delete their website contributions whenever they wish. Since your contributions will be made public and become a part of your internet presence, it is strongly recommended that you exercise this ability, and carefully edit your work.

Your Grade:

Article Outlines: 35%

Blog Posts: 35%

Final Project: 15%

Participation: 15%

Attendance:

University Attendance Policy: Excused absences include documented illness, deaths in the family and other documented crises, call to active military duty or jury duty, religious holy days, and official University activities. These absences will be accommodated in a way that does not arbitrarily penalize students who have a valid excuse. Consideration will also be given to students whose dependent children experience serious illness. Final decisions on whether or not an absence counts as excused is made by the instructor.

Class Attendance Policy: After 2 unexcused absences, your grade will go down 3% per unexcused absence.

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 to the Student Conduct office for evaluation and possible disciplinary action. Refer to the Student Conduct Guide for further information <http://sa.utep.edu/osccr/academic-integrity/>

To Summarize:

- All information not completely original to your own experience must be cited correctly.
 - For example, even if you (think you) know Beethoven died in Austria in 1827, but you were not there to watch it happen (!) you should cite someone who was, or someone with compelling evidence of it. Peer-reviewed academic sources are a safe choice.
- Do not copy other people's work unless it is required as part of a group project assignment.
- You cannot invent historical facts, but you can have opinions.
- You must put information you've researched into your own words. It cannot be exactly copied from your sources unless it is properly cited and clearly in quotes.
- All work for this course must be original to this course. You cannot turn in assignments you've written for another class.

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.