SYLLABUS: Music Appreciation
MUSL 1324 - University of Texas at El Paso
Fall 2016

Instructor: Lindsey Macchiarella: lmacchiarella@utep.edu
Office Hours: For those of you on campus, instructor office hours are Wednesdays and Fridays 10-11 am in M234 (Fox Fine Arts Building), or by appointment.
Office Phone: 915-747-6630

Contacting your instructor: If you are an on-campus student, and your question is not an emergency, I much prefer to meet students in person during office hours. If your question is immediate, please contact me via email. First consider the “in the event of computer problems” notice (below) and bear in mind that it will usually be 2 hours, but could take up to 12 hours for me to respond to your email.

Course Collaborators:
Nancy Hill, Librarian: nhill@utep.edu

Course Objectives:
1. To learn how to listen deeply, describe, and discuss music in the Western classical tradition.
2. To discover some of the infinite variety of styles and genres.
3. To discern some of the ways in which music and culture are intimately connected.
4. To develop writing, analytical, and critical thinking skills.
5. To further your information literacy skills, which includes learning how to utilize proper academic sources, incorporate that research into your writing, and use proper citation techniques.

Required Texts:
Wright, Craig. Listening to Music, 8th ed. Cengage Publishing
https://www.cengagebrain.com/shop/ProductDisplay?urlRequestType=Base&catalogId=10057&categoryId=&productId=742191&errorViewName=ProductDisplayErrorView&urlLangId=-1&langId=-1&top_category=&parent_category_rn=&storeId=10151
I suggest that you purchase the 6 months access to the ebook from the website above.

IMPORTANT: You need to have access to the musical recordings that come with the textbook. The physical copies of this book come with an access code inside that lets you listen to the recordings on the internet. If you buy just any used copy, the previous owner will probably have already used the access code, and you will not be able to hear the music, and will have thrown your money away! Be wary of used books!

Concerning Communication
You are expected to check your UTEP email at least once a day. Since this class takes place entirely online, it is vital that you read all course-related emails carefully.
A Word on Computer Literacy

This course takes place entirely online. This means that you must have:

- Constant access to a computer throughout the semester.
- Your computer must have internet access and Microsoft Word.
- If you do not own a computer, consider using one of the school computers in the library.

You must be capable of accomplishing the following tasks on a computer:

- Accessing the course website.
- Accessing the library website and databases.
- Creating a word document.
- Uploading a document to a blackboard.

If you are unable to complete any of these tasks, visit the technology center in the library for assistance during the first week of classes.

In the Event of Computer Problems . . .

Technology problems are not a valid excuse for late assignments. Do not leave work until the last minute. You must allow yourself time (at least 2 hours) to adjust for emergencies - e.g. internet goes down, computer breaks, etc.

You should usually contact the Blackboard technical support for technical issues. Assess the situation and decide whether your issue is one for the instructor, or for the UTEP help desk. Helpdesk.utep.edu

Class Requirements

***NOTE*** Be sure to refer to the extremely helpful course calendar of due dates I’ve made for you! It is available in the course library on blackboard.

**Discussion Board Posts:** These assignments consist of two parts.

1) Write an essay on the given prompt (apprx. 300-400 words). See full descriptions for these prompts on the course site.

2) Read other students’ essays and respond to at least two other students’ posts. Suggestions for response topics are included on each prompt.

Discussion board posts are graded for writing, content, correct use of academic sources and correct citation. Be sure to familiarize yourself with the “Academic Honesty” portion of this syllabus. Six posts will be due throughout the semester, approximately every two weeks (not including spring break). They are due before 11 pm on Mondays (see course calendar).

**Weekly Guided Questions:** These will consist of 10 guided reading questions that correspond to your textbook. Answer all questions fully (1-4 sentences) and use complete sentences. These will be due (pretty much) most Fridays before 11 pm (see course calendar).

**Tests:** There will be a short test for each major section of the textbook. They will also cover material on the brief video interviews with musicians in El Paso. These tests will be irregular lengths and will not be due at regular intervals, so take careful note of the dates! You can take each test up
to three times. These must be completed sometime before 11 pm on Wednesdays (see course calendar).

**Projects:** Individual projects are designed as alternatives to the Group Project, and are only for those who have difficulties scheduling meeting with groups. Students are encouraged to work on Group Projects instead, which are (in my opinion) more fun, and probably easier, since the work is divided among several people.

In order to work on a group project instead of the individual project, email lmacchiarella@utep.edu and ask to be added to a group. There are deadlines for joining groups - earlier the better. See email announcements for cut-off dates.

**See the full descriptions for these prompts on the course site.**

**Research Exercises:** You will need to complete several exercises to help you learn how to access certain online library databases and to cite correctly for this course. These are due before 11 pm on the first three Saturdays of the course.

**Your Grade**

**Knowing Your Grade:** I find the blackboard grading program overly complex and inconsistent so I will not calculate grades on that website. Check for bi-weekly grade update reports under “course information” on blackboard.

- Research Exercises: 8%
- Discussion Board: 23%
- Weekly Homework: 23%
- Group Projects: 23%
- Tests: 23%

100-90% = A  
80-89% = B  
70-79% = C  
60-69% = D  
Below 60% = F

**Regarding Deadlines:** Familiarize yourself with due dates for major projects and quizzes at the beginning of the semester. Let the instructor know in the first week of the semester if you foresee any legitimate conflicts with these dates. Unless you have a legitimate emergency, all deadlines are final.

**Academic Honor Policy:** Plagiarism is not tolerated in the course. Suspected cases of plagiarism will be immediately turned over to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action. Refer to the Student Conduct Guide for further information [http://sa.utep.edu/osccr/academic-integrity/](http://sa.utep.edu/osccr/academic-integrity/)
To Summarize:

- All information not completely original to your own experience must be cited correctly.
- Don’t copy other people’s work.
- You cannot invent historical facts.
- You must put information you’ve researched into your own words. It cannot be exactly copied from your sources.
- All work for this course must be original to this course. You cannot turn in assignments you’ve written for another class.
- Collaboration with other students or tutors on written assignments is prohibited unless the instructor or assignment instructions state otherwise.

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.