

SYLLABUS: Music Appreciation

MUSL 1324 - University of Texas at El Paso

Spring 2019

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Contacting your instructor: Plan on contacting me entirely via email. Before doing so, 1) check the syllabus and course calendar, 2) consider the “in the event of computer problems” notice (below) and 3) bear in mind that it will usually be 2 hours, but could take up to 12 hours for me to respond to your email. If you ask me a question about an assignment shortly before its due, I probably will not be able to answer it in time to help you.

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:

NONE! ☺

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. Most course-related emails are archived under the “announcements” tab on Blackboard. Please check the announcements, syllabus, and course calendar before contacting your instructor with questions!

A Word on Computer Literacy

This course takes place entirely online. This means that in order to take this course, you must have:

- Constant access to a working computer throughout the semester.
- Your computer must have internet access and Microsoft Word.

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, contact the technology center in the

library for assistance *during the first week of classes*. www.helpdesk.utep.edu

Save your work!

- Do not upload the only copy of your assignment to blackboard. You are responsible for saving a copy of every assignment you write to your computer.

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

Adds, Drops, and Withdrawals

- Late Additions to the Class: Because this class is so large, I cannot make exceptions and accept late work from students (see section regarding deadlines). This includes situations in which a student adds the class after it has begun.
- Drops and Withdrawals: Check with the registrar to find out when last day to drop this class is without receiving an “F” or “W” on your transcript. I will not sign paperwork allowing students to drop the class without receiving an F after the deadline. I consider such practices unfair to other students unless the student has a very extreme and sudden emergency with considerable documentation, or a situation the instructor was notified about in the first few weeks of class.

Class Requirements

Coursework will vary by week, but you should plan on spending roughly 3-5 hours per week on assignments.

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.

Videos and Video Quizzes:

- Ad Notice: Some of the videos I made for this course have YouTube ads due to copyright circumstances beyond my control. Be assured that they are someone else’s ads and I am not profiting from them in any way.
- Quizzes will usually consist of 10 questions on a course video. These are timed and students receive two attempts. Definitely see the “How to Take the Quizzes and Tests” document under “course information” on BlackBoard.

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.

Tests:

- There will be timed listening tests covering audio examples from a unit of 10-12 videos.

Discussion Boards:

- These assignments consist of two parts.
 1. Write an essay on the given prompt. 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.

Projects:

- For the first project, you'll compose a short piece using the program on soundation.com, then write a brief essay describing your piece and comparing it to another students'.
- In the second project, you'll take a short quiz on a historical background reading, watch two different versions of the ballet, *Rite of Spring*, describe them, and research a recent review of performances of the work.

Your Grade

Research Exercises: 5%
 Discussion Boards: 20%
 Video Quizzes: 35%
 Projects: 20%
 Listening Tests: 20%

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

Knowing Your Grade: I find the blackboard grading program overly complex and inconsistent, so I will not calculate grades on that website. You will see grades for individual assignments under the "my grades," but your current and final grade are calculated on my computer, not on blackboard. You will receive regular, automatically generated grade updates to your UTEP email.

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 and inform your instructor either immediately before, or after an assignment is due, all deadlines are final.

The One Exception:

Since this is a lower level course and projects are worth a considerable portion of your grade, they are the only assignment that can be submitted late.

- Late projects will not be graded unless the student emails the instructor to say it's been submitted late.
- A late penalty will be applied, depending on how late the project is.
- Projects will not be accepted more than one week late.

Academic Honor Policy

Plagiarism is not tolerated in the course. Suspected cases of plagiarism will be immediately turned over 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:

- I'm serious. I submit people from this class to the Student Conduct Office every semester.
- 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.** It is also plagiarism if you copy something someone else has written and change a few words, and/or skip over sentences in the original.
- All work for this course must be original to this course. You cannot turn in assignments you've written for another class.
- You may not turn in the same assignment twice. This includes assignments you've completed from other courses.
- 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.