

# **SYLLABUS: Music Appreciation**

## MUSL 1324 - University of Texas at El Paso

### Spring 2024

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Office hours hybrid: zoom and in-person.

See blackboard and email for more information.

### **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 in classical music.
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.

### **Units:**

- |                      |                |
|----------------------|----------------|
| 1. Elements of Music | 6. Modern      |
| 2. Renaissance       | 7. Popular     |
| 3. Baroque           | 8. Video Game  |
| 4. Classical         | 9. Non-Western |
| 5. Romantic          |                |

### **Some Important Course Policies in a Nutshell:**

(Explained in greater detail throughout the syllabus)

- Late work is not accepted (except for Projects, up to a point)
- Due dates are on the Course Calendar
- Check your email daily
- Computer and constant internet are required
- This class takes 3-6 hours per week
- Contact the Help Desk if you have problems with BlackBoard: 915-747-4357

### **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. Please check your email, the syllabus, and the course calendar before contacting your instructor with questions.

## A Word on Computer Literacy

Much of 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](http://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.

### File Types:

- Acceptable:
  - .doc
  - .docx
  - .pdf
  - .jpeg
  - .png
- Not Acceptable:
  - .pages (It is particularly common for people to try to submit this one! Mac users: I cannot read these files)
  - .heic

## 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](http://Helpdesk.utep.edu)

## Class Requirements

Workload will vary, but you should plan on spending roughly 3-6 hours per week on assignments. **If you do not have 3-6 hours per week to dedicate to this class, you should not be in it.**

### 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 5 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.

### Aural Skills Training

- These are audio-based quizzes that you are meant to take over many times to drill your listening skills.

### Tests:

- There will be timed listening tests covering audio examples from a unit of 5-6 videos. See study guides for pieces of focus.

### 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.
- 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](http://www.uwc.utep.edu)

### Projects:

- For the first project, you'll compose a short piece of music, share it, and compare it to another student's composition in an essay.
- In the second project, you'll watch or attend a UTEP Department of music concert and write a report on it.

## Your Grade

Video Quizzes and other minor assignments: 40%

Aural Skills Training: 10%

Discussion Boards: 20%

Projects: 20%

Listening Tests: 10%

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

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. 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 may not be graded unless the student emails the instructor, stating the project has been submitted late.
- A late grade penalty will be applied.
- Projects will not be accepted more than 1 day late.

## 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 1 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/>

## 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 almost every semester. I have never submitted work to this office without hard evidence of misconduct according to the rules outlined below.
- 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 even if it is cited.** 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.
- 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](mailto:cass@utep.edu).