SYLLABUS: Music History 1
MUSL 3321 - University of Texas at El Paso
Fall 2016

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Course Objectives:
1. To examine musical repertoire from the approximately the 6th to mid-18th century in the
Western classical tradition.
2. To produce an understanding of the aesthetic and stylistic aspects of that music in
relation its context in history and culture.
3. To understand the basic tools and methods of musicology.
4. To enhance research, collaboration, creative thinking, and presentation skills.

Class Procedure:
The class will be divided into 6 research teams. Each team will be assigned a topic and a series of
questions to research and present on. Each team will present 8 times during the semester.

On days when the teacher lectures, you have no out-of-class assignments aside from the brief
blackboard quizzes.

Daily Research and Presentation:
• Group Roles: Researchers, Presenters, and Performers
  o For each day your group is assigned a presentation, your group will select two
    presenters. Everyone else will be researchers.
  o Everybody has to be a presenter at least once throughout the semester.
  o If your group is assigned a musical analysis topic, you have the option of electing
    several members of the group to perform the piece instead of researching it.
    Non-performing members will speak for a few minutes each about the style of
    the piece.
• Researchers:
  o Will turn in a paper with a short bibliography and a summary of your own
    research contribution to your group’s given topic. You are graded on the
    thoroughness of your research, the clarity of your explanations, and the quality of
    your resources.
  o These assignments are independent for the most part. The work you turn in
    should not be the same as anyone else’s work from your group.
  o Only peer-reviewed, academic resources are acceptable bibliographic material.
    Google wisely.
    ▪ Bibliographies should use correct formatting.
  o The format of this assignment is up to you. Complete sentences are not
    necessary and if your topic is music analysis, you may wish to submit a diagram.
    Outlines are preferred - see sample homework assignment on Blackboard.
• These assignments must be typed and printed unless your submission is a diagram.
• In order to give enough time for presenters to prepare, you need to email your research to the presenters 48 hours before the presentation.
  ▪ You need to copy the instructor on your email as proof that it is on time.
  ▪ Your grade will be lowered if you give your work to the presenters late.
• Be prepared to answer questions via email for the presenters. Give them as much information to use as possible!
• Researchers must answer questions from presenters. If a topic is unclear to a presenter, you might have to do more research to clarify the issue.

• Presenters:
  • No one can be a presenter three times in a row.
  • Your grade is determined on how effectively you present the information. You’ll be graded on your use of visual and musical examples, clarity of explanation, and quality of public speaking.
  • You do not need to use all of the information given to you, but you do need to fill 15 minutes.
  • Organize your presentation with your presentation partner.
  • Ask the Researchers questions whenever necessary
  • After each presentation you need to project three questions from your lecture onto the screen and quiz the class using the SRS (I will demonstrate how to do this in class.

Participation
• After each presentation, the whole group involved will go up to the front for questions.
• The rest of the class needs to ask relevant questions.
• An entire group will receive participation credit for the day if at least one of their members asks a question.

SRS Questions
• During lectures and after student presentations, you will answer questions using your smartphone or laptop through an SRS (student response system). These are graded!

Short Research Paper:
You will select one of your research outlines to expand upon. You will add to your research on your selected topic to write a 1500 word report.

Your Grade:

8 Individual Research/Presentation Grades: 70%
Short Research Paper: 15%
SRS Questions: 10%
Group Participation: 5%
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

• Go to class! Don’t be late!
• It is your responsibility every day to hand in either your daily homework, or a piece of paper with your name on it. Otherwise, you will be marked as absent for the day.
• After the third unexcused absence the student’s final grade will go down 2% per unexcused absence (so 4 unexcused absences would mean a loss of 2%, 5 would mean 4% etc.). It is the student’s job to keep track of absences, though you can check with the instructor at any time concerning your grades and number of excused or unexcused absences.

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/

To Summarize:

• All information not completely original to your own experience must be cited correctly.
  o 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.