

Syllabus

Course Information

Course title: Masterpieces of Music

Course number: MUHL 3308:001

Course discipline: Music

Course description: It is a course designed to develop knowledge and familiarity primarily with the music of the Western European tradition, through listening and exploring specific pieces of music and their social, cultural, and historical contexts. The musical works under consideration will cover all eras of western classical music, Jazz and popular music of our own time, as well as some non-western pieces.

Computer access: Since this course relies heavily on web-based activities, it is essential that students gain access to a reliable computer with Internet capabilities. If your computer is slow, doesn't support media applications, or if your Internet connection is prone to busy signals or disconnects, please schedule your day so that you can use a computer in the library. Technical problems do arise, but do yourself a favor and get acquainted with a good computer.

As a start, click "Check your browser" on this MUHL3308 Home Page and make sure your machine is properly set-up.

Please note: *you the student* are responsible for identifying, articulating, and seeking solutions for any computer problems you may encounter; most commonly, you can do this via the Academic Teaching and Learning Center, in the basement of the Main Library.

“Computer problems” will not be considered an acceptable excuse for late or missed assignments

Course date: Wednesday, January 9, 2008 through Tuesday, April 29, 2008

Location: M248, Music Building

Meeting day(s): MWF

Meeting time(s): 2:00-2:50pm

Prerequisite(s): Upper-level (junior or senior) status

Instructor Information

Name: Mr Jack Unzicker

Email: jack.unzicker@ttu.edu

Office location: M262

Office hours: Mondays 1:00-2:00 or by appointment

Phone: 742-2270 x285

Textbooks

Required reading: *Understanding Music*, Jeremy Yudkin, Prentice-Hall: New Jersey, 5th, ISBN 0-13-223332-0

Required reading: *Understanding Music*, 3 CD companion set, Sony, 2006, ISBN 0130343374

Recommended reading: *Online resources and links to listening:*,
http://wps.prenhall.com/hss_yudkin_music_5,
<http://internal.ttu.classical.com/>

Course Goals

Course goals: Course Purpose: It is a course designed to develop knowledge and familiarity primarily with the music of the Western European tradition, through listening and exploring specific pieces of music and their social, cultural, and historical contexts. The musical works under consideration will cover all eras of western classical music, Jazz and popular music of our own time, and some non-western pieces. This course applies towards the Visual & Performing Arts requirement.

Course Objectives: Why do we study music history? By understanding music in its historical and cultural context, and learning about its inherent value within a certain culture and time, we become more sensitive to its meanings, and improve our ability to understand, appreciate, and communicate about the music. Learning about the music of the past will also help you understand the shapes and characteristics of later music, because every aspect of music has historical roots, often extending back centuries. The goal of MUHL 3308 is to enhance our knowledge and familiarity with the music of the Western European tradition by exploring specific musical pieces and the circumstances and values of the cultures that produced them. This requires the development of certain analytical skills and a particular body of knowledge about the music.

The objective of the visual and performing arts in a core curriculum is to expand students' knowledge of the human condition and human cultures, especially in relation to behaviors, ideas, and values expressed in works of human imagination and thought. Through study in disciplines such as the visual and performing arts, students will engage in critical analysis, form aesthetic judgments, and develop an appreciation for arts as fundamental to the health and survival of any society.

Outcomes and Assessments

Outcomes and What you will be expected to learn and to do

Assessments:

: *Skills; going beyond “reading about it.”*

To attain the goal described above requires a specific set of skills, above and beyond just “reading about” a particular kind of music. By the end of this semester, you should be able to hear or see the music of an unfamiliar piece of western music and:

1. compare it to other pieces you know from this period
2. recognize its genre
3. describe its principal stylistic features, in terms of sound, harmony, melody, rhythm, and growth (structure)
4. in some cases, suggest a possible composer and approximate date of composition
5. place it in an historical context
6. describe the probable circumstances of its performance, including where, when, why, how, and by whom such a piece might have been performed
7. say something about what those who created, performed, heard, and paid for music of this type, and what they valued in it

Knowledge: the background required to develop the skills

To develop the skills detailed above, you need to have acquired and organized a certain amount of information.

First, you must be familiar with the representative pieces chosen from each period. You will be expected to identify pieces on the listening list by hearing or by sight, name their genre, composer, and date, and discuss significant features of the music.

Second, you must know terms and concepts important to this music. By the end of the semester, you will be expected to recognize, define, and employ significant terms and concepts introduced in the readings or lectures.

Third, you must be aware of the genres and musical styles (including styles of individual composers) practiced during this period and by sensitive to their history. By the end of the semester, you should be able to describe the genres and musical styles represented by pieces on

the listening list, to explain how these genres and styles changed over time or from one group of composers to another, and to identify the genre, salient stylistic traits, and likely composer and date of and unfamiliar piece of music.

Fourth, you must understand what various types of music were used for and how music was shaped by broad political, cultural, and economic trends and by the values of the society that produced it. This requires more knowledge beyond music itself than we can include in a single semester, but we can at least begin with the pieces on the listening list and the types of music they represent. Thus, by the end of the semester you should be able to describe the broad historical context, likely social function, and probable performance circumstances for pieces on the listening list and for pieces of similar types, and say something about what those who made, heard, and paid for such pieces valued in them. Methods for Assessing the Expected:

Quizzes: Listening Quizzes will occur on the dates that appear in the schedule accompanying this syllabus.

How a Listening Quiz works: A short excerpt of music will be played, and you will need to identify the excerpt. The excerpts will be chosen from among the class listening assignments. And/or you may be asked a couple of multiple-choice questions about the piece that are drawn from information in the Listening Guides.

Exams: There are three exams, all of which may have short-answer, identification, multiple-choice, and/or essay questions. These will test not only recognition of pieces and composers, but knowledge pertinent to the composition of these pieces – historical, cultural, etc.

Final Exam: The Final Exam will occur on Monday, May 5, 2007 at 1:30 p.m. The final exam will be comprehensive, and will be based on selections from the listening.

Final Project: Objective: Through applying the new listening skills and vocabulary learned in this class, the students shall analyze a piece of their selection, submit their analysis through formal diagrams or graphs that include time markings, i.e. 3:12, a minimum of five pages of written explanation, and present their analysis to the class in a short presentation, 4-5 minutes, with quick listening examples.

The Final Project will consist of four stages: 1) Piece Selection (10 points) 2) Rough Draft (20 points) 3) Final Draft (50 points) 4) Presentations (20 points).

Readings: Each assigned reading in the Yudkin textbook is accompanied by an on-line, timed quiz that must be completed prior to coming to class on the day the material will be discussed. Each quiz will consist of a collection of 3-15 randomized questions (each worth one point) focusing on important factual and interpretive detail in the readings for the day. After completing the assigned reading, students will have a brief timed period to take the accompanying quiz once they are logged on to the web site (<http://webct.tlhc.ttu.edu>). Each quiz may be taken only once. The quizzes are programmed for a timed release: each will be available at least two days early and will become inactive ten minutes before the start of the class period (to be exact, 1:50pm). Results of the quizzes will be available to the student pending the deadline.

Final Grade: Your course grade will be calculated from your grades on each aspect of the class, weighted as follows:

Total: 500 points

Quizzes: 80 points (10 exams, 10 points each) includes both reading and listening quiz points. Your lowest two quiz grades will be dropped.

Exams: 200 points (3 Exams, 100 points each). Your lowest exam grade, excluding the final exam will be dropped.

Final Exam: 120 points

Final Project: 100 points

Extra Credit:

Concert Attendance: Extra credit may be earned through attending concerts and writing two-page report. Each report is worth up to ten points, and you may earn up to, but no more than 50 extra points in a term. Concert reports must be submitted (either electronically in .doc or .pdf format or by hard copy) within one week of the performance. You must also supply either a program or ticket stub. Late submissions will not receive any credit.

Course Outline and Requirements

Introduction: This course will include lecture, listening, discussion, in-class activities, and web-based testing. It is essential that students complete the daily readings and their online quizzes and come to class prepared to engage in discussion.

Requirements: **Assignments:** Students participating in MUHL classes are expected to

successfully complete all assignments in a timely manner in the following categories:

- Readings
- Quizzes
- Exams
- Final Projects

Computer and Internet Access: It is the responsibility of the student to schedule time for and have access to a **reliable** computer and internet connection.

Policies

Introduction: **Attendance:** Attendance is strongly recommended for this class. Your grade will not be penalized for excused nor unexcused absences. However, the student is responsible for acquiring all assignments, materials and information given during class. Exams and assignments will only be accepted during class times. Make up exams will not be given nor late assignments accepted.

Course content issues: This course will observe the university's guidelines for avoiding sexual harassment. However, because the arts often imitate and represent human living and because sexuality, politics, religion, and personal ethics are all part of life, some materials in this course may deal with sexual, political, religious, or ethical behaviors, situations, or language. People offended by such subjects may want to reconsider taking this course.

Conduct: Students participating in MUHL classes are expected to maintain a respectful and professional level of conduct. In the event of student misconduct, it is MUHL policy that teaching staff may exercise any or all of the following:

- Ejection from class
- Grade of F for class session
- Report of student misconduct to upper-administration, faculty colleagues, or studio teacher
- Grade of F for course

Computer and technology usage: Students are encouraged, when possible, to employ modern technology during class-time, including laptops, iPods, etc.

Students employing technology during lectures are required to sit in the front row of the classroom, nearest the instructor.

Technology usage is expected to be relevant to class work, and is strictly prohibited in any testing situation.

Playing video games, text-messaging, and so on are likewise strictly prohibited. Any such activities are grounds for ejection from class.

Absence, Academic Integrity, and ADA Compliance (TTU Catalog 7.5.2007):

Absence Due to Religious Observance. A student may be excused from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. A student whose absence is excused for this purpose may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused.

Absence Due to University Official Trips. Department chairpersons, directors, or others responsible for a student representing the university on officially approved trips should notify the student's instructors of the departure and return schedules in advance of the trip. The instructor so notified must not penalize the student, although the student is responsible for material missed. Students absent because of university business must be given the same privileges as other students (e.g., if other students are given the choice of dropping one of four tests, then students with excused absences must be given the same privilege).

Academic Integrity

It is the aim of the faculty of Texas Tech University to foster a spirit of complete honesty and a high standard of integrity. The attempt of students to present as their own any work that they have not honestly performed is regarded by the faculty and administration as a serious offense and renders the offenders liable to serious consequences, possibly suspension. The instructor in a course is responsible for initiating action for dishonesty or plagiarism that occurs in his or her class. In cases of convincing evidence of or admitted academic dishonesty or plagiarism, an instructor should take appropriate action. Before taking such action, however, the instructor should attempt to discuss the matter with the student. If cheating is suspected on a final exam, the instructor should not submit a grade until a reasonable attempt can be made to contact the student, preferably within one month after the end of the semester. See the section on "Academic Conduct" in the Code of Student Conduct for details of this policy. "Scholastic dishonesty" includes, but is not limited to, cheating,

plagiarism, collusion, falsifying academic records, misrepresenting facts, and any act designed to give unfair academic advantage to the student (such as, but not limited to, submission of essentially the same written assignment for two courses without the prior permission of the instructor) or the attempt to commit such an act.

“Cheating” includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- Copying from another student’s test paper.
- Using materials during a test that have not been authorized by the person giving the test.
- Failing to comply with instructions given by the person administering the test.
- Possessing materials during a test that are not authorized by the person giving the test, such as class notes or specifically designed “crib notes.” The presence of textbooks constitutes a violation only if they have been specifically prohibited by the person administering the test.
- Using, buying, stealing, transporting, or soliciting in whole or part the contents of an unadministered test, test key, homework solution, or computer program.
- Collaborating with or seeking aid or receiving assistance from another student or individual during a test or in conjunction with an assignment without authority.
- Discussing the contents of an examination with another student who will take the examination.
- Divulging the contents of an examination, for the purpose of preserving questions for use by another, when the instructor has designated that the examination is not to be removed from the examination room or not to be returned to or kept by the student.
- Substituting for another person, or permitting another person to substitute for oneself to take a course, a test, or any course-related assignment.
- Paying or offering money or other valuable thing to, or coercing another person to obtain an unadministered test, test key, homework solution, or computer program, or information about an unadministered test, test key, homework solution, or computer program.
- Falsifying research data, laboratory reports, and/or other academic work offered for credit.
- Taking, keeping, misplacing, or damaging the property of the university, or of another, if the student knows or reasonably should know that an unfair academic advantage would be gained by such conduct.

“Plagiarism” includes, but is not limited to, the appropriation of, buying, receiving as a gift, or obtaining by any means material that is attributable in whole or in part to another source, including words, ideas, illustrations, structure, computer code, other expression and media, and presenting that material as one’s own academic work being offered for credit. Any student who fails to give credit for quotations or for an essentially identical expression of material taken from books, encyclopedias, magazines, Internet documents, reference works or from the themes, reports, or other writings of a fellow student is guilty

of plagiarism.

“Collusion” includes, but is not limited to, the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing academic assignments offered for credit or collaboration with another person to commit a violation of any section of the rules on scholastic dishonesty.

“Falsifying academic records” includes, but is not limited to, altering or assisting in the altering of any official record of the university, and/or submitting false information or omitting requested information that is required for or related to any academic record of the university. Academic records include, but are not limited to, applications for admission, the awarding of a degree, grade reports, test papers, registration materials, grade change forms, and reporting forms used by the Office of the Registrar. A former student who engages in such conduct is subject to a bar against readmission, revocation of a degree, and withdrawal of a diploma. “Misrepresenting facts” to the university or an agent of the university includes, but is not limited to, providing false grades or resumés; providing false or misleading information in an effort to receive a postponement or an extension on a test, quiz, or other assignment for the purpose of obtaining an academic or financial benefit for oneself or another individual; or providing false or misleading information in an effort to injure another student academically or financially.”

ADA Compliance

Any student who, because of a disability, may require special arrangements in order to meet the course requirements should contact the instructor as soon as possible to make any necessary arrangements. Students should present appropriate verification from Student Disability Services during the instructor's office hours. Please note instructors are not allowed to provide classroom accommodations to a student until appropriate verification from Student Disability Services has been provided. For additional information, you may contact the Student Disability Services office at 335 West Hall or 806-742-2405.

Last Day to drop a course: The 45th class day is the last day to drop a course.

NOTICE: The instructor reserves the right to alter this syllabus to suit the individual needs of this class and to comply with any University policy changes. The instructor will post a notification of any changes on the WebCT homepage.