UNDERSTANDING MUSIC

MUS 131-i61 - TBZ

Winter 2020

Number of Credits: 3

Course Dates: 3/16/20 - 5/03/20

Instructor: Christine Guarino

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Office Hours: By Appointment

Online: Understanding Music (Online) TBZ

Software: *OnMusic Appreciation, v.4, Index A*

Available at www.mywebtext.com or JCC Bookstore

Course Description

Lecture and directed listening on the elements, forms and historic chronology of Western music. This is a survey course designed to introduce the non-music major to the basic building blocks of musical composition, the instruments of the orchestra, musical styles of the Great Periods of Western art music and the lives and major works of representative composers from each period. Along the way, my hope is that you will develop critical listening skills, which will enhance your enjoyment of music.

The course is divided into 4-basic sections after the Introduction:

1. Basic Musical Concepts
2. Building Blocks of Sound
3. The Organizing Elements of Music
4. Historical Periods

The 4 sections are subdivided into Classes 1-40; those are for organizational purposes only as a recommended pace of study. The course will be presented in its entirety from day one, and you can move through the content at your own pace. It will be up to you to read, study, listen and complete the lessons, assessments and assignments at your own pace.

The college requires the reporting of engagement in the class within the first week of the course. To avoid being dropped from the class, registration needs to be completed and meaningful participation in the form of a submission needs to happen during week one of the class.

Prerequisite
Eng. 085

Course Goals
As a result of successfully completing this course, you will be able to:

1. Name, define and describe the elements of music
2. Name, define and identify the instruments of the orchestra
3. Name, define and describe the absolute forms utilized in one of the Great Period Styles of Western art music
4. Listen to randomly played works and identify four features of each

Course Objectives
The course goals and objectives incorporate specific General Education Outcomes (GEOs) established by the JC Board of Trustees, administration, and faculty. These goals are in concert with four-year colleges and universities and reflect input from the professional communities we serve. GEOs guarantee students achieve goals necessary for graduation credit, transferability, and professional skills needed in many certification programs. The GEOs and course objectives addressed in this class include GEO #6, which specifies "understanding aesthetic experience and artistic creativity".

Textbook
- **Text Book Zero!** *This text is available in a digital format. Please see the links posted on our class Jet Net site. This text is available to purchase in digital format through the JC Bookstore or online at **www.mywebtext.com***

- **OnMusic Appreciation, v.4, Index A**

Grading Procedure and Instructional Methods Used to Attain Objectives
The following items and their point breakdown are what will be graded during the semester:

- 35 Assessments - 37%
- 4 Assignments - 12%
- A Concert Reflection Paper - 5%
- Midterm Exam - 23%
- Final Exam - 23%

Throughout this course and contained in the course software, are many learning tools to augment the lessons and help you navigate through the Assessments and Assignments. These are:

- Listening Guides
- Self-guided tests
- Web-queries
- Discover videos
- Glossary of relevant keywords
- Outlines and Objectives
- Audio Lectures

Grading Scale

GPA	GRADE RANGE
4.0	94-100%
3.5	89-93%
3.0	84-88%
2.5	78-83%
2.0	72-77%
1.5	66-71%
1.0	60-65%
0.5	55-59%
0.0	0-54%

Academic Honesty Policy

Academic Honesty is defined as ethical behavior that includes student production of their own work and not representing others' work as their own, by cheating or by helping others to do so.

Plagiarism is defined as the failure to give credit for the use of material from outside sources. Plagiarism includes but is not limited to:

- Submitting other's work as your own

- Using data, illustrations, pictures, quotations, or paraphrases from other sources without adequate documentation

- Reusing significant, identical or nearly identical portions of one's own prior work without acknowledging that one is doing so or without citing this original work (self-plagiarism)

Cheating is defined as obtaining answers/material from an outside source without authorization. Cheating includes, but is not limited to:

- Plagiarizing in any form

- Using notes/books/electronic material without authorization

- Copying

- Submitting others' work as your own or submitting your work for others

- Altering graded work

- Falsifying data

- Exhibiting other behaviors generally considered unethical

- Allowing your work to be submitted by others

Course Management

There is much information contained in this course, and many assessments and assignments which will need to be submitted. My strong advice is to get into the coursework as quickly as you can, and set aside time each week to study, listen, and submit some Assessments and Assignments. I will always offer opportunities to improve your Assignment submissions. Those opportunities will come in the form of feedback found in the Comments section of the Assignment, so please check my Comments before re-submitting your work.

Help

I am always here to help you succeed in any way I can. You will have multiple opportunities to improve your grades on Assignments by reading my Comments relevant to the Assignment, **at least until the final week of the course**, so please review those comments to improve your outcomes. The college also adds the following advice:

If you are anticipating more serious academic support, it is important to contact a Center for Student Success professional prior to the start of the semester in order to receive accommodations in a timely manner. While we will make every effort to coordinate accommodations in a timely manner, failure to self-identify prior to the start of the semester may delay notification to instructors and timeliness of acquiring accommodations. Accommodations do not automatically carry over to the next semester.

https://www.jccmi.edu/center-for-student-success/accommodations-for-students-with-disabilities/

Concert Reflection Paper

One of the large assignments in this course is a Concert Reflection Paper. The details of what is required in the paper can be found in **Class 20**. For this assignment, you will need to plan ahead. You must attend a symphony orchestra concert, opera, or musical in order to complete it. As long as it is a symphony orchestra concert, opera, or a musical, any event is OK. If you go to a musical, try to find a "professional" rather than a "community" production. In any case, you must find a way to see the orchestra at some point in the performance (they are usually in the "pit"—and yes, that's what it's called). Please don't attend a high school production as points will be deducted from your overall grade. I would recommend you run your choice of concert by me for approval, if you have any doubts about its appropriateness.

Attendance Policy

Even though the course is self-guided and self-paced, the college requires me to submit evidence of relevant course engagement throughout the semester. In compliance with Federal Title IV funding requirements, as well as college initiatives, reporting of student participation in classes will occur at two designated times each semester. I will assign one of two non-transcripted letter symbols to each student during each reporting period (see below). Students identified as no longer participating will be dropped or administratively withdrawn from the class, and students identified as needing academic assistance will be contacted.

Participation/Progress Symbols

- H – The student is not doing acceptable work and needs **H**elp to be successful.

- Q – The student has not participated and the instructor believes they have unofficially withdrawn (**Q**uit). These students will be dropped/withdrawn from the class.

- V – The instructor **V**erifies that the student is participating and doing acceptable work.

Sometimes Stuff Happens….

If there are circumstances in your life which prohibit you from successfully managing the coursework during the semester, please contact me directly and quickly via email, so we can put a plan in place which will help you succeed. I will do my best to work with you and any situation you might encounter in your life which impedes your work in our course.

Technical Support

We all have had challenging experiences with internet connection at one time or another. And since this is an online course, we are all going to depend on having that internet service uninterrupted and available a good deal of the time. With the widespread availability of wireless internet these days, if your system is down, it's not impossible to find another source or spot where you can access the internet and our online course. So I recommend you plan ahead for that possibility.

That said, stuff happens! Sometimes it is out of our control, but much of the time it is possible to troubleshoot on your own. If you have a technical problem in the course, please follow these steps:

1. For Technical Support please contact the software company at support@connect4education.com or you can visit the Student Help Center. They can also be reached at 703-880-1180 x200 if you would prefer to speak by phone.
2. Check out the Getting to Know C4Elink video tutorial! Created with new users in mind, this tutorial provides a brief overview to get you better acquainted with the course site.

What You Can Expect of Me

I value your time and applaud your commitment to continuous learning. Please let me know whenever I can be of any help or assistance to you. You can reach me by email at guarinochristim@jccmi.edu and I will do my best to respond within 24 hours. Since this class is held and delivered completely online, I am also available for individual virtual office hours via The Big Blue Button, FaceTime, Google Chat or Skype. Please contact me directly to setup a virtual office hour. I am also more than happy to schedule a phone chat at our convenience as well.