

Understanding Music
MUS 131.51
Spring 2014

Course Overview

Number of Credits: 3

Day/Time: MW 6:00pm - 9:07pm

Location: Central Campus, Bert Walker Hall, Room 212

Instructor: Brian Ketner

Office Hours: By Appointment

Email: ketnerbrianm@jccmi.edu

Course Description: Lecture and directed listening on the elements, forms, and historic chronology of Western music.

Course Goals: To provide the student with the necessary tools to listen to music with more comprehension of musical form, style, and other basic musical concepts, and to understand the historical development of Western music.

Textbook: *The Enjoyment of Music*, eleventh edition (shorter version), by Kristine Forney and Joseph Machlis

Assignments

Listening Quizzes / Participation: Listening quizzes will be given at the beginning of each class period, with the exception of test days. Participation in class discussion is also expected. Therefore, if a student fails to attend the entire class period, they will receive a zero on that day's listening quiz.

Unit Tests: Unit tests will be given for each major musical period. Tests will be given at the start of the period in place of the listening quiz. Tests will cover listening examples, terms, major composers, and important works discussed during previous class periods. There will be 4 Unit Tests throughout the semester.

Final Exam: Final Exam will cover the entire semester. This exam will also include listening, as well as prepared essays.

Presentation: Students will choose a modern example of popular music and a historical piece of music which share similar musical qualities (rhythm, harmony, texture, etc), and give a 10-15 minute presentation describing these aspects. Presentation should demonstrate an understanding of the music as learned throughout the class.

Expectations

Classroom Behavior: Students are expected to be considerate and respectful to others. Cell phones are to be turned off during class, and laptops/tablets may only be used for note taking. Any disruptive behavior will result in being dismissed from the classroom, and student will receive a zero for the day.

Participation: Students are expected to participate in class discussions. Students should read materials and be familiar with listening examples before class begins.

Grading

Listening Quizzes/Participation: 30%
Presentation: 10%
4 Unit Tests: 10% each
Final Exam: 20%

Grading Scale

100-94 = 4.0
93-89 = 3.5
88-84 = 3.0
83-78 = 2.5
77-72 = 2.0
71-66 = 1.5
65-60 = 1.0
Below 60 = 0.0

Calendar

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topics</u>	<u>Reading</u>	<u>Test/Quiz</u>
5/5	Introduction / Music Fundamentals	Pr. 1, Ch. 1-11	n/a
5/7	Medieval and Renaissance Music	Pr. 2, Ch. 12-15	n/a
5/12	Baroque Music	Pr. 3, Ch. 16-20	Unit Test 1
5/14	Baroque	Pr. 3, Ch. 16-20	Listening Quiz
5/19	Classical Music	Pr. 4, Ch. 21-26	Unit Test 2
5/21	Classical	Pr. 4, Ch. 21-26	Listening Quiz
5/26	Memorial Day, No Class		
5/28	Classical	Pr. 4, Ch. 21-26	Listening Quiz
6/2	Romantic Music	Pr. 5, Ch. 27-33	Unit Test 3
6/4	Romantic	Pr. 5, Ch. 27-33	Listening Quiz
6/9	Romantic / Presentations	Pr. 5, Ch. 27-33	Listening Quiz
6/11	Early 20th Century	Pr. 6, Ch. 34-39	Unit Test 4
6/16	20th Century / Presentations	Pr. 6, Ch. 34-39	Listening Quiz
6/18	American Popular Music / Presentations	Pr. 7, Ch. 40-43	Listening Quiz
6/23	Presentations / Final Exam		

This syllabus is not a contract. The instructor reserves the right to modify it if needed.