MUS-108 History of Western Music After 1750

Bergen Community College

Course Description: This course is a study of the historical and stylistic development of music from the Classical period to the present. General Education Course.

Course Objectives
This course is a study of the historical and stylistic development of music of the Western “art” tradition from the Classical period to the present. Through our readings, discussions, and listening/viewing of musical performances, we will explore how the music itself – its forms, compositional techniques, harmonic language, and vocal/instrumental forces – has changed over the course of almost three centuries, as well how the cultural contexts in which it has been produced and consumed (encompassing historical, national, financial, and philosophical variables, among others) have impacted upon musical change.

As a result of this course, students will:

1. develop an understanding of the selected period in history through the avenue of music.
2. develop a working vocabulary of musical terminology
3. be able to recognize distinctive musical characteristics of each of the historical periods covered during the course
4. have an understanding of significant historical events of Western music after 1750.
5. apply aspects of critical thinking by writing a term paper on a selected topic

Texts
Required

- You may purchase (or rent) the books at the Bergen bookstore.
- You are also free to purchase your textbook at any other store which carries this title, and it is probably possible to find it cheaper online (although it may be used); however, Do NOT buy the text if it does not include the accompanying CDs, as these are integral components of the course materials.
- Make sure to buy the correct edition!

Please bring the text to each class.

Additional reading and/or listening materials from other sources may also be assigned during the course of the semester, and will be posted on Moodle.

Online Components of this Course
All syllabi, written, reading, and listening assignments will be posted on the course’s Moodle site. As such, students will need to access this site throughout the semester, either on their home computer, or on site at BCC. If you encounter any problems accessing the Moodle site for this course, please contact the help desk, which is available 24/7.

Students should check their messages in Moodle regularly to see if any announcements pertaining to class have been sent/posted (including the unlikely event that a class is cancelled or re-scheduled).
**Attendance, Participation, and Preparation**

Attendance is mandatory, and students are expected to come to class having read the assigned texts; both attendance and preparation/participation will be taken into account in tabulating the student's final grade.

- Each student is allowed 3 “free” absences (but is responsible for materials covered in classes s/he has missed).
- Each unexcused absence above these will lower the student’s overall grade by 5 points.
- Absences are excused only for *verifiable and documented* extreme emergencies or illness. All documentation must be received within 2 class periods of the absence or lateness.
- Any student with 5 or more unexcused absences, above and beyond the 3 “free” absences, will receive an F for the course. The student may continue to come to class, but the grade will not be changed.

Roll call will be taken at the beginning of each class; students arriving after roll has been taken must see me after class, and will be marked as having arrived late. Two late arrivals will be equivalent to one absence, and will incur the same grade penalty delineated above. Students arriving later than twenty minutes into the class will be marked absent. *If you anticipate a scheduling conflict that will prevent you from arriving punctually to each class, you should not take this course. Remember that lateness's add up to absences, and will incur the same penalties.*

In addition to being responsible for all the materials covered in the readings and listening assignments – whether or not they are covered in class – classroom lectures and discussions may cover material not found in the textbook, material for which you will, nonetheless, be responsible. As such, you must attend class in order to do well in this course.

It is furthermore each student’s responsibility to ensure that s/he has received all of the materials posted on WebCT.

**Comportment**

Courtesy and respect for the professor and fellow students mandate the following:

a. Leaving and re-entering the classroom during the class session is not permitted; if you must leave the classroom, please take books and personal belongings with you, as you will not be allowed to return.

b. Food or drinks are not to be consumed in the classroom, except for beverages in *covered* containers.

c. Talking during lectures or while music is being played is *not permitted*; those students whose talking becomes disruptive will find their grades adversely affected, and may be asked to leave the class (resulting in an absence) or, in severe cases, withdrawn from the class (resulting in a failing grade).

d. **ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY:** *I reserve the right to ask any student who is behaving in an inappropriate manner to leave the room. If a student is asked to leave two times within the semester, s/he must meet with a school counselor before returning.*

**Laptops**

If you wish to use a laptop, you must sit in the front row of the classroom. Laptops are to be used only for note taking. Any students who are found to be using their laptops for other purposes will not be able to use their laptop in class for the remainder of the semester, and will incur a penalty of 5 points off of their total exam score.

**Cell Phone, Pagers, Etc.**

Texting, checking/sending emails, paging, etc. *is expressly forbidden in class.* Students should have all devices *turned off and put away* while in class.

The penalties for texting, etc., during class are as follows:

- **First offense:** 5 points off total exam score
- **Second offense:** an additional 10 points off total exam score
- Third offense: an additional 15 points off total exam score
- Fourth offense: a final grade of F for the course. Students may continue to come to class, but the final grade will not be changed
- Fifth offense: removal from the course

There is a ZERO TOLERANCE policy regarding texting and emailing during class. No exceptions.
- Student and Faculty Support Services [optional but recommended]
  List support services, e.g., the Writing Center, the Math Lab, the Tutorial Center, Online Writing Lab (OWL), Office of Specialized Services, etc. Include information on the BCC Library.
  Example:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student and Faculty Support Services</th>
<th>Room/Location</th>
<th>Contact Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Distance Learning Office – for any problems you may have accessing your online courses</td>
<td>Room C-334</td>
<td>201-612-5581 <a href="mailto:psimms@bergen.edu">psimms@bergen.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Tutoring Center</td>
<td>Room L-125</td>
<td>201-447-7908</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Writing Center</td>
<td>Room L-125</td>
<td>201-447-7908</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Online Writing Lab (OWL)</td>
<td>On Line at:</td>
<td><a href="http://www.bergen.edu/owl">www.bergen.edu/owl</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Office of Specialized Services (for Students with Disabilities)</td>
<td>Room S-131</td>
<td>201-612-5270 <a href="http://www.bergen.edu/oss">www.bergen.edu/oss</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Sidney Silverman Library – Reference Desk</td>
<td>Room L-226</td>
<td>201-447-7436</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Exams
- There will be four exams for this course. Each will test students only on those materials covered after the occurrence of the previous exam; none of the exams will be cumulative, except for listening skills. A review sheet may sometimes be supplied for exams. At the end of the semester, I will drop the student's lowest exam score.
- Missing any of these exams will result in a grade of “F” for the exam missed.
- “Make-up” exams will only be scheduled in the most extreme circumstances, which must be documented.
- All requests for make-up exams must be received within 24 hours of the missed exam; documentation must be received on the class period following the missed exam.
- In the rare case that a make-up exam is approved, it will be a different exam than the one originally given, and no review sheet will be given.
- All make-up exams must be taken within 48 hours of the missed exam date.

Quizzes
I reserve the right to give unannounced quizzes throughout the course of the semester, which will be based upon the reading assignments. The grades received on these quizzes will be averaged into the student's final grade. As such, it is imperative that students do the required reading for each class meeting.

Quizzes will be given during the first five or ten minutes of the class; students who are late for classes will not be able to take the quiz at the end of the period, and will thus receive an “F” for that quiz. Depending upon the number of quizzes given, I will drop one or more of the lowest grades from the final tally.

Plagiarism and Cheating
Plagiarism is the act of copying the words and/or substantive ideas of another author, and presenting it as the student’s own work. This includes making minor changes to an original text, as in the following example:

Original:
“The first theme, described as ‘somber and fierce’ in Berlioz’s program, is introduced by cellos and basses and moves down the scale for two octaves. This scalewise melody appears both in minor and in major, and is combined with countermelodies” (Kamien 2002: 242).

Hypothetical Student Version:
“Berlioz calls the first theme ‘somber and fierce’ in the program, and it is played by the basses and cellos which descend for two octaves. The melody, which goes through the scale, is played in major and minor. Berlioz also adds some countermelodies.”

The second version is, indeed, plagiarism, despite the changes; you may NOT do this type of thing in your written assignments. You are welcome to cite materials from other sources, provided they are adequately and correctly footnoted.

Any student caught plagiarizing any portion of her/his written assignments, or cheating in any way on any exam or quiz, will receive an F for the course, and will be subject to strict disciplinary action.

Written Assignments
- There will be several written assignments throughout the semester, each of which is designed to help the student master important aspects of college-level research
- All written assignments are to be typed, double-spaced, in 12-point font. In all cases, adherence to standard, written English is essential, as is attention to grammar, format, punctuation and spelling. Please proofread your assignments before submitting them for grading, as those that fail to meet adequate “technical” standards will be given lower grades.
- All written assignments will be submitted both as hard copies (at the beginning of class, on the due date) and via Moodle (again, by the start of class on the due date).
- Only under the most extraordinary circumstances (serious illness corroborated by a doctor’s excuse, etc.) will late papers be accepted; other than documented emergencies, late papers are not accepted.
- Any late papers excused for documented emergencies will be due within 48 hours of the original due date.

Extra Credit
There are no extra credit assignments for this course. There will, however, be opportunities to accrue additional “extra credit” points on each of the exams.

Grading
The student’s grade will be calculated according to the following formula:
Exams 45%
Written Assignments 40%
Attendance/Participation/Comportment 15%
Each of the preceding will receive a set number of points; at the end of the semester, all points are tallied, and the student’s final grade will be calculated as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Points</th>
<th>Final Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>90-100</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>86-89</td>
<td>B+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80-85</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>76-79</td>
<td>C+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70-75</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65-69</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt; 65</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
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</table>

**Schedule of Classes and Reading/Listening Assignments**

The following is a general outline of the semester’s topics and reading/listening/viewing assignments. Reading and/or listening assignments may occasionally be amended and/or substituted during the course of the semester. Any changes to the syllabus will be made on Blackboard, and I will advise you of such changes in advance.

**INTRODUCTION**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WEEK 1</th>
<th>Learning Objectives 1 - 5</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Introduction and Overview:</strong></td>
<td>What are the major stylistic/historical eras under consideration this semester?</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>How are music and culture mutually constitutive?</td>
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**THE CLASSICAL PERIOD, 1750-1820**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WEEK 5</th>
<th>Learning Objectives 1 - 5</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>The Classic Style; Mozart and Haydn; Classical Forms I</strong></td>
<td>READ: Wright, Ch. 15, 16, and 17</td>
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<tr>
<th>WEEK 6</th>
<th>Learning Objectives 1 - 5</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Classical Forms II; Instrumental Music</strong></td>
<td>READ: Wright, Ch. 18, 19</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>WRITTEN ASSIGNMENT #1 DUE</strong></td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WEEK 7</th>
<th>Learning Objectives 1 - 5</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Vocal Music; Beethoven</strong></td>
<td>READ: Wright, Ch. 20, 21</td>
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<tr>
<th>WEEK 8</th>
<th>Learning Objectives 1 - 5</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Beethoven, cont’d</strong></td>
<td>No additional reading assignment</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>REVIEW AND EXAM #2</strong></td>
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<tr>
<th>WEEK 9</th>
<th>Learning Objectives 1 - 5</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>SPRING BREAK – NO CLASSES</strong></td>
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**ROMANTICISM 1820-1900**
| WEEK 10 | Learning Objectives 1 - 5 | Introduction to Romanticism; The Art Song; Program Music  
*READ: Wright, Ch. 22, 23, 24*  
*WRITTEN ASSIGNMENT #2 DUE* |
|---|---|---|
| WEEK 11 | Learning Objectives | Piano Music; Romantic Opera; Music and Nationalism  
*READ: Wright, Ch 25, 26, 29*  
*VIEWING: Playing on the Edge (Documentary)  
*REVIEW AND EXAM #3* |
| WEEK 12 | Learning Objectives 1 - 5 | Musical Competitions  
**VIEWING:** Playing on the Edge (Documentary)  
**REVIEW AND EXAM #3** |

**MODERN AND POSTMODERN ART MUSIC, 1880-PRESENT**

| WEEK 13 | Learning Objectives 1-5 | Modernism in Western Europe and Russia/Eastern Europe  
*READ: Wright, Ch 32, 33, 34* |
|---|---|---|
| WEEK 14 | Learning Objectives 1-5 | American Modernism; Postmodernism  
*READ: Wright, Ch. 35, 36*  
*WRITTEN ASSIGNMENT #3 DUE; PRESENTATIONS* |
| WEEK 15 | Learning Objectives 1-5 |  
*WRITTEN ASSIGNMENT #3 DUE; PRESENTATIONS* |
| WEEK 16 | Learning Objectives 1-5 | REVIEW AND EXAM #4 |