

MUSC 1033-201: Appreciation of Music
Midwestern State University
Spring 2026

Instructor: Dr. Amy Thiemann
Phone: 402-660-9058
Credit Hours: 3
Office Hours: By Appointment

Email: amy.thiemann@msutexas.edu
Class Time: Tues.-Thurs 11:00-12:20pm
Location: Fain Fine Arts Center: C111
Prerequisites: None

Recommended Text:

Forney, Kristine and Andrew Dell-Antonio. *Enjoyment of Music: Essential Listening Edition*, 5th Edition. New York: W. W. Norton, 2024

Additional Reading:

Cornelius, Steven with Mary Natvig. *Music: A Social Experience*, 3rd edition. New York: Routledge, 2022.

Sacks, Oliver. *Musicophilia: Tales of Music and the Brain*. New York: Vintage Books, 2007.

Course Description:

A survey of Western popular styles and classical art music from the Renaissance Era to the present that includes a study of musical elements, development of musical styles, and an emphasis on major composers and compositions. Particular attention will be given to the general characteristics from the perspective of stylistic, historical and cultural contexts, as well as examining the connection between music and medicine. Listening, lectures, readings, and experiencing performances are vital components of this course.

D2L will be used extensively for posting syllabi, course communication, course schedule, attendance, and the gradebook. You should regularly check D2L and the email hosted via D2L for important course information.

Student Learning Outcomes:

Students will:

- Demonstrate an understanding of musical elements, form, and style.
- Identify musical characteristics from selected recorded and live performances.
- Develop listening skills to enable the student to identify musical styles of selected historical periods and principal composers.
- Demonstrate the ability to think critically about musical compositions by forming value judgements and then expressing and defending those judgements in concise writing.
- Demonstrate an understanding of how music expresses, reflects, or develops insight into the human condition.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the functions and relative importance of music and musicians in various cultures and societies.

- Demonstrate and observe concert protocol by attending live performances during the semester, followed by written reports.
- Demonstrate competency in written communication through essay questions and written reports.

Grading:

Assessment:	# of Assessments	Points/Assessment	Total Points
Exams	3	100	300
Reflections	3	50	150
Musical Personality	1	50	50
Concert Report	1	100	100
Concert Attendance	1	100	100
Presentations	1	100	100
Final Essay/Project	1	100	100
Participation	--	--	100
Total Points			1000

- Grading scale is: **A** (90-100%), **B** (80-89%), **C** (70-79%), **D** (60-69%), **F** (0-59%)
- Exams will be comprised of multiple choice, listening, and written portions. Exams and assignments may include essay questions in which the student must demonstrate an ability to think critically about musical compositions by forming value judgements and then expressing and defending those judgements in concise writing.
- Classroom participation, including during distance learning “classes” is a contributing factor to the final grade.

Communication:

- All email communication should include MUSC 1033 in the subject heading. This will ensure that your email is addressed quickly.
- Professional emails are expected. Include a greeting, closing, proper punctuation capitalization, and full sentences.
- The lecture and exam schedule is subject to change at the instructor’s discretion. If changes are made to the exam schedule, they will be communicated in advance in class and via email.

Attendance:

- Attendance checks will be used for all face to face classes, as well as any synchronous virtual class meetings.
- Physical classroom presence is required for attendance checks. If you are healthy, you are expected to be present. Notify instructor BEFORE class with accompanying reason if you need to attend class virtually.

General Classroom Expectations: In order to provide a respectful and equal learning environment for everyone, the following policies are necessary to limit distractions:

- Be punctual. Arrive early for class. If arriving a few minutes late, do so quickly and quietly.
- No cell phone use and/or texting. Please turn off all portable electronic devices. If you use a cell phone during class time you will be asked to leave and will be counted as absent for that day.
- Do not talk during lectures, listening, and video presentations.
- If you need to leave early, please notify the instructor prior to class.
- Do not pack up materials until the class has formally ended.
- Water is permitted in the classroom. Other beverages and food are not permitted.
- Treat class members, instructors, and guest lecturers with respect and dignity.
- Cameras must be ON at all times when you are attending class virtually.

Exams: There will be 3 exams throughout the semester

- Each exam will be comprised of multiple choice, listening, and written portions.
- Exams may include essay questions in which the student must demonstrate an ability to think critically about musical compositions by forming value judgements and then expressing and defending those judgements in concise writing.
- There may be cumulative elements from exam to exam.

Reflection Assignments: There will be 3 assignments throughout the semester

- Assignments will focus on various subjects/skills related to the course materials.
- Students will be assigned an article/blog/podcast/video to read/listen to/watch
- Updated and detailed information will be posted on D2L
- They are to be written in Word, Times New Roman, 12-point font, double-spaced, and be your personal reflections and in your own words.
- Each reflection will be 300-400 words, with proper citation techniques and bibliography entries provided (such as Chicago style or MLA style) as necessary.

Projects/Presentations:

Each student will present ONE Group Presentation about the connection between music and medicine. More details will be given as the semester progresses.

Concert Attendance:

- You will attend or listen online to TWO concerts or recitals this semester.
- You are required to listen to or attend the entire concert.
- For one of the concerts, you will write a 2-page concert report, and fill out a concert attendance form.
- For the other concert, you will fill out a concert attendance form only.
- Each report/form is due no later than two weeks after the concert date.

- See the course schedule for the concert attendance and concert report deadlines.
- The concert report should describe the type, time, and location of the concert and discuss the musical aspects of each work performed. Included in the report should be a discussion of the elements of music that you heard in the specific works. If the concert has a large number of works, you may choose certain works to write about.
- Attach a copy of the concert program to your concert attendance form if on is available. Email instructor a photo of yourself at the concert you are attending.

Concert Etiquette: Live performances at Midwestern State University and other “classical” venues typically take place in formal concert halls with campus and community members, business sponsors, distinguished visitors, and dignitaries in attendance. Every concert is recorded and the recordings are used for students grades, graduate school and professional auditions, concert/convention performance auditions, marketing, and archival purposes. These recordings are made with high-quality, sensitive microphones. **Due to the nature of these concerts, when in attendance, absolutely NO talking, and NO USE of cell phones, laptops, or other electronic devices are permissible.** Late arrivals should wait to hear applause before entering the concert hall and the student should take the first available seat upon entering (a student cannot write a concert report for a recital in which he or she arrived late). If a student must exit the performance, he or she must do so between works (during applause or intermission) and never during a performance. No food or drink in concert halls. Students may be asked to leave should there be a disruption. **Students disrupting performances will be at risk of dismissal from the concert, lowered overall grades, or failure of the course.**

Concert Report Information:

- Your concert report should be at least 2 pages in length
- Times New Roman font
- Body of paper double spaced
- Two FULL pages
- 12-point font
- Full name, concert report number, and date in upper RIGHT HAND corner
- Title of concert and date as heading
- Staple the faculty-signed program to the two-page document
- The concert report is due **NO LATER** than **TWO WEEKS** after attendance

Writing the paper:

General points to consider:

- The concert as a whole
- Name and type of performance, place, date and time, and the type of music you hear
- Your general reaction to the performance
- Musical styles performed
- Musical genres and forms
- Emotions, images, and ideas
- Memorable features

- Compare with other works
- Use sources to aid in identifying information
- Use any standard citation method

Performance aspects to consider:

- Emotional projection
- Dynamics
- Tempos
- Melodies
- Vocal Range
- Instruments
- The conductor

OFFICE OF DISABILITY ACCOMMODATIONS: In accordance with Section 504 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Midwestern State University endeavors to make reasonable accommodations to ensure equal opportunity for qualified persons with disabilities to participate in all educational, social, and recreational programs and activities. After notification of acceptance, students requiring accommodations should make application for such assistance through Disability Support Services, located in the Clark Student Center, Room 168, (940) 397-4140. Current documentation of a disability will be required in order to provide appropriate services, and each request will be individually reviewed. For more details, please go to [Disability Support Services](#).

PRIVACY STATEMENT: Federal privacy law prohibits the instructor from releasing information about students to certain parties outside of the university without the signed consent of the student. Thus, in almost all cases the professor will not discuss students' academic progress or other matters with their parents. Please do not have them call. Regardless of these important legal considerations, the professors' general policy is to communicate with the students, not their parents, even when a student has signed a consent form. College students are adults and are expected to behave accordingly.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY: Plagiarism is (1) the use of source material of other persons (either published or unpublished, including the Internet) without following the accepted techniques of giving credit or (2) the submission for credit of work not of the individuals to whom credit is given. If a student in the class is caught plagiarizing, appropriate disciplinary action will be taken. The Student Creed developed and adopted by the MSU Student Government reinforces the discouragement of plagiarism and other unethical behaviors. The first statement of the Creed reads, "As an MSU student, I pledge not to lie, cheat, steal, or help anyone else to do so." Plagiarism is lying, cheating, and stealing.

The use of generative AI tools (such as ChatGPT) is not permitted in this course; therefore, any use of AI tools for work in this class may be considered a violation of Midwestern State University's Academic Integrity policy and the Student Code of Conduct since the work is not your own. The use of unauthorized AI tools will result in referral to the Office of Student Conduct.

CAMPUS CARRY: Effective August 1, 2016, the Campus Carry law (Senate Bill 11) allows those licensed individuals to carry a concealed handgun in buildings on public university campuses, except in locations the University establishes has prohibited. The new Constitutional Carry law does not change this

process. Concealed carry still requires a License to Carry permit, and openly carrying handguns is not allowed on college campuses. For more information, visit [Campus Carry](#).

ACTIVE SHOOTER: The safety and security of our campus is the responsibility of everyone in our community. Each of us has an obligation to be prepared to appropriately respond to threats to our campus, such as an active aggressor. Please review the information provided by MSU Police Department regarding the options and strategies we can all use to stay safe during difficult situations. For more information, visit [MSUReady – Active Shooter](#). Students are encouraged to watch the video entitled “*Run. Hide. Fight.*” which may be electronically accessed via the University police department’s webpage: [“Run. Hide. Fight.”](#)

Changes in the course syllabus, procedure, assignments, and schedule may be made at the discretion of the instructor

Date	Topic	Reading	Assignment Due
Tues. 1/20	Course Overview and Syllabus		
Thurs. 1/22	Intro. to Musical Materials	Prelude Chapter 1	
Tues. 1/27	Melody, Harmony, Musical Time	Chapters 2 and 3	
Thurs. 1/29	Musical Time	Chapter 4	Musical Personality
Tues. 2/3	Organization of Musical Materials	Chapter 5	
Thurs. 2/5	Organization, Expression	Chapter 6	
Tues. 2/10	Tonality		
Thurs. 2/12	Folk Music		
Tues. 2/17	Gospel		
Thurs. 2/19	The Blues		
Tues. 2/24	Popular Music Styles		
Thurs. 2/26	Protest Music		Native America
Tues. 3/3	Review for Exam		
Thurs. 3/5	Exam #1		
Tues. 3/10	No Class: Spring Break		
Thurs. 3/12	No Class: Spring Break		
Tues. 3/17	Jazz Styles		
Thurs. 3/19	Jazz Styles		Music and the Brain
Tues. 3/24	Classical Music Overview	Chapters 10 and 11	
Thurs. 3/26	Symphony Orchestra and Chamber Music		
Tues. 3/31	Opera and Musicals	Prelude 3	
Thurs. 4/2	No Class: Holiday Break		
Tues. 4/7	Review for Exam		
Thurs. 4/9	Exam 2		
Tues. 4/14	Presentations		

Thurs. 4/16	Eras of Classical Music: Renaissance and Baroque		Music and Emotion Through Time
Tues. 4/21	Presentations		
Thurs. 4/23	Eras of Classical Music: Classical and Romantic		
Tues. 4/28	Presentations		
Thurs. 4/30	Eras of Classical Music: Modern		
Tues. 5/5	Music and Film		
Thurs. 5/7	Review for Exam		
Tues. 5/12	Exam 3: 1-3pm Final Essay Due		All Concert Attendance/Reports Due