

**MUSC 4963 Independent Study in Music
Western and World Music III
Midwestern State University
Fall 2025**

Instructor: Dr. Amy Thiemann

Phone: 402-660-9058

Credit Hours: 3

Office Hours: See schedule posted outside 117I

Email: amy.thiemann@msutexas.edu

Class Time: Office Hours, Individual

Location: Fain Fine Arts Center: C117C

Prerequisites: Intro to WW MUSC 2733

Required Text:

Hanning, Barbara. *Concise History of Western Music*, 5th ed. New York: W.W. Norton, 2014.

Recommended Text:

Burkholder, Peter J. and Claude V. Palisca. *Norton Anthology of Western Music*, 8th ed., vol. 2 and vol. 3. New York, W.W. Norton, 2019.

Course Description:

A study of the development of music and the related arts from the 19th century to as close as possible to the present day. Particular attention will be given to the general stylistic characteristics of each musical period and the historical, technological, and societal reasons for their evolution. This course approaches Western Art Music (Western Classical Music) from the perspective of stylistic and cultural contexts. Listening exercises, lectures, and readings 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:

The student who passes this series of courses will be able to:

- Identify, recognize, and describe general stylistic characteristics of music using accepted musical terminology.
- Accurately place a musical work and/or composer within an historical, cultural, or stylistic context.
- Understand and categorize how music functions in different historical cultures from romanticism to the present.
- Cite and identify upon hearing significant compositions from the history of western music
- Understand and appreciate the functions of music in society as cultural, religious, ceremonial, inspirational, and recreational.

Grading:

Assessment:	# of Assessments	Percentage of Final Grade
Assignments	3	20
Exams	3	30
Chapter Quizzes	10	10
Listening Exercises	5	25
Research Project	1	10
Attendance/Participation	--	5
Total		100

- Grading scale is: **A** (90-100%), **B** (80-89%), **C** (70-79%), **D** (60-69%), **F** (0-59%)

Assignment Descriptions:

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.

Listening Exercises: There will be 5 listening exercises throughout the semester.

- These will be based on the assigned listening examples and accompanying class materials.
- All listening exercises will occur in class.
- If you skip class and miss a quiz or graded exercise, it cannot be made up. If you miss class due to sanctioned university activity or illness, you can make it up if you: a) call/email before class and b) present written documentation when you return to class.

Research Project:

- A written project will be required for this class.
- The paper will need to have at least 1000 words (approx. 4 pages), excluding heading, footnotes, and bibliography.
- The body of the paper will use normal margins (one inch for top, bottom, and each side) in Times New Roman or Calibri 12-point font, double-spaced lines.
- This is the ONLY assignment in this class in which you may use Artificial Intelligence (please see section on next page of this syllabus for restrictions on its use).
- Students should adhere to a consistent citation technique (such as Chicago style or MLA).
- The topic of each paper needs to be previously approved by the instructor
- Each paper should cover a topic from the corresponding unit. The topic of the paper is supposed to be centered on the analysis of a piece or pieces of music, not around a composer.
- Other specific instructions and guidelines for these projects may be provided during class and on D2L.

Chapter Quizzes: There will be 10 Chapter quizzes throughout the semester

- Quizzes will be taken through D2L.
- Each Chapter Quiz must be completed by the first day of the following chapter. See schedule for further information.

Attendance at Scheduled Meetings and Office Hours:

- Lectures go hand-in-hand with assignments and will expand your understanding of the historical and cultural contexts of music. These will be provided on D2L weekly. You are responsible for viewing each lecture before the accompanying quizzes or listening exercises are completed.
- Students who are more than 20 minutes late for scheduled meetings will be counted as absent.
- The instructor may drop a student any time during the semester for consistently failing to meet class requirements and/or scheduled meetings or for disruptive conduct.
- **If you skip or miss a scheduled appointment with the instructor, a listening exercise or exam, it cannot be made up unless you: a) call/email before the meeting time and b) present written documentation for absence.**

Communication: All email communication should include MUSC 2733 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.

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.

Date	Topic	Reading	Assignment Due
8/26	Course Overview and Syllabus Chapter 19	Syllabus	
8/28-9/4	Chapter 19: The Early Romantics	Chapter 19	
9/9-9/16	Chapter 20: Opera and Music Drama in the 19 th Century Listening Exercise 1 9/16	Chapter 20	Chapter 19 Quiz Due 9/9
9/18-9/25	Chapter 21: The Later Romantics	Chapter 21	Chapter 20 Quiz Due 9/18 Reflection 1 Due 9/25
9/30-10/7	Chapter 22: Music in the late 19 th Century: Nationalism, Romanticism and Beyond Listening Exercise 2: 10/7	Chapter 22	Chapter 21 Quiz Due 9/30
10/9	Exam 1		
10/14-10/21	Chapter 23: Classical Modernism	Chapter 23	Reflection 2 Due 10/16
10/23	Chapter 24: Vernacular Music in America	Chapter 24	Chapter 23 Quiz Due
10/28-11/4	Chapter 25: Radical Modernism Listening Exercise 3: 11/4	Chapter 25	Chapter 24 Quiz Due
11/6	Exam 2		Chapter 25 Quiz Due
11/11-11/13	Chapter 26: Music Between the Two World Wars	Chapter 26	Reflection 3 Due 11/13
11/18-11/20	Chapter 27: The Changing World and Postwar Music Listening Exercise 4: 11/20	Chapter 27	Chapter 26 Quiz Due
11/25	Listening Day		Chapter 27 Quiz Due
12/2-12/4	Chapter 28: Into the 21 st Century Listening Exercise 5: 12/4	Chapter 28	Research Paper Due 12/2
12/9	Final Exam 1-3pm		Chapter 28 Outline Due

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.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI) USE POLICY FOR MUSC 3753: You are permitted to use ChatGPT and other artificial intelligence (AI) tools to assist you in gathering information and brainstorming ideas but you may not copy and paste information directly from the AI tool and present it as your own without citation **in the paper only**. You are responsible for the information you submit based on an AI query and for assuring that it does not contain misinformation or unethical content and that it does not violate intellectual property laws. You are expected to include a disclosure statement at the end of your assignment describing which AI tool you used and how you used it. For example, "ChatGPT was used to draft about 50% of this paper and to provide revision assistance. AI-produced content was edited for accuracy and style." Your use of AI tools must be properly documented and cited for academic integrity.

MOFFETT LIBRARY: Moffett Library provides resources and services to support student's studies and assignments, including books, peer-reviewed journals, databases, and multimedia materials accessible both on campus and remotely. The library offers media equipment checkout, reservable study rooms, and research assistance from librarians to help students effectively find, evaluate, and use information. Get started on the Moffett Library webpage to explore these resources and learn how to best utilize the library.

INCLEMENT WEATHER: In the event the university is closed, all classes will be canceled, and assigned material/exams/quizzes, etc. will be postponed to the following scheduled class meeting.

CELLPHONES AND OTHER RECORDING DEVICES POLICY: The use of cell phones and other recording or electronic devices is strictly prohibited during class. The instructor may direct, from time to time, on the possible use of cell phones for legitimate class reasons. Recording the class is prohibited, unless it is part of a reasonable accommodation under ADA, or by obtaining written consent by the instructor.

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