



MUSC 1033 Section 201 – Appreciation of Music

Spring 2021

MWF 11:00-11:50 AM

Fain Fine Arts Building C111

Contact Information

Instructor: Dr. Matthew D. Luttrell

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Course Description

Appreciation of Music is designed to enhance the student's appreciation and understanding of music already known, as well as introduce less familiar styles and genres through the use of **FILM MUSIC**. Students will develop a better understanding of the basics of music composition, music literacy, and music elements by analyzing classical, pop, and film scores used in motion pictures from the end of silent films to current blockbuster movies. Students will be able to hear a particular soundtrack and be able to identify it by style and time period, become more aware of how film music is developed and recorded, and how the understanding of the elements of music affects composing techniques and creates "atmosphere" or "mood" in a particular situation. Students will develop critical listening skills and become more informed aficionados of film music, exploring several recurring themes throughout the course:

1. What makes a great piece of music?
2. What elements of music help define style and genre?
3. How did the composer/director use music to enhance the visual element of a film?
4. Why is music so effective in conveying emotion and/or events?
5. How has film music changed through the years?

Assignments for this class reflect each of the five main areas mentioned above, broken down into the following categories:

1. Listening and Viewing Analysis
2. Group Discussion
3. Individual Analysis
4. Music Design

Please note: If you are a musician, and/or have experience in music, great! If you do not, welcome to what will hopefully be an informative learning experience. You don't need to be a trained musician to appreciate music.

Disclaimer

Mature Subject Matter: Some of the films we study this semester MAY contain material that students may find offensive (inappropriate language, violence, sexual situations, nudity, drug use); some films also deal with issues of race and gender in ways that are no longer socially acceptable. If you are uncomfortable viewing such material, there are other music appreciation course options available for your degree plan. Please note that the inclusion of a particular film for study in no way endorses the themes or content they contain. Films are selected based on historical significance and their use of music to convey.

Overview of Student Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of MUSC 1033-201 the student will be able to:

- Discuss the elements of music in thoughtful, informed terms using musical examples.
- Clearly describe the different styles and genres of music, using correct terminology and concepts.
- Possess and discuss a clearer understanding of how music in film affects the overall production.
- Possess a higher appreciation for musical composition.

Learning Methods

1. Online Recordings—listening and analysis through Spotify, YouTube, Netflix, etc. (any method for viewing and listening to the music in context)
2. Online readings and listening assignments
3. Online Learning Modules – PowerPoint lectures, videos, etc.
4. Web site—announcements, course material, links, assigned reading/listening.

There are ___ lessons for this semester which including readings, listening assignments and homework quizzes that must be prepared before each class.

***Note – Teaching music through film is a little tricky, as different genres and styles don't always coincide with the ORIGINAL TIME PERIOD in which they were popularized.

Required Materials

- A good set of earphones or earbuds, specifically to block out ambient sound. The more you can focus on JUST the sounds coming from the film, the better.
- A computer in which to complete the coursework located in D2L.
- An open mind.

Student Assessment

Students will be assessed on their ability to effectively answer numeric and discussion-based questions, discuss the various elements of film music in individual and group settings, and analyze what they hear in thoughtful and insightful manners.

Grading

The grading will be represented by the following formula:

- 20%** Class Discussion Assignments & Listening Assignments
- 30%** Exams (with listening section)
 - Midterm Examination at 15% of total grade
 - Final Exam at 15% of total grade
- 30%** Quizzes (given throughout the semester – please see online calendar or syllabus)
- 10%** Journal Entries
- 10%** Group Project

Grading Scale: Refer to University Code regarding + and – grading scale.

A = 90 – 100

B = 80 – 89

C = 70 – 79

D = 60 – 69

F = 0 – 59

Attendance/Active Discussion/Participation

Students are expected to attend the class sessions and participate actively in discussions and presentations based on the course design as provided on the first day of classes. Regardless of the format, **YOU ARE SUPPOSED TO ATTEND CLASS.** That's why you're here, correct? As for Class Participation, there will be times in which we will have discussion during Zoom classes, as well as quick response actions that you need to participate in. This subject matter should be something you'll enjoy; be a part of it.

COVID-19 Disclaimer regarding Attendance

This course is designed for flexibility and adaptive to instructional requirements due to abrupt calendar changes. Online instruction will be a necessary component throughout the semester; there will be **NO** interruption of instruction in the event of a shutdown. If you require any technology accommodations due to financial or technological restrictions, please notify the instructor immediately for an appointment.

Listening Assignments

Students are expected to turn in all assignments by the time given on the syllabus. Late assignments will only be accepted in the event of an **extreme** circumstance. The HyFlex design of this course allows for all assignments to be turned in online. Assignments are all located in the syllabus and in the D2L site.

There are 5 listening assignments for the semester. Each of these assignments will be provided in class. All of the videos needed for these listening assignments can be found (quite easily) on YouTube. The list includes film music of exceptional value. Each listening assignment shall include a short form (provided by the instructor) on the piece, describing in full detail the sounds that you hear. These assignments are due by the times listed on the syllabus course schedule.

Examinations

There are two exams for this class, each counting fifteen (15%) percent towards your total grade. The three exam dates are (in order):

Friday, March 5th, 2021 – Midterm Exam (online until Friday, March 12th @ 11:59 PM)

Friday, April 23rd, 2021 – Final Exam (online until Friday, April 30th @ 11:59 PM)

Both exams will be held online, and students will have a certain time given for completion of the exam. If you choose to ignore these exams or do not know how to complete them online, please ask. I cannot answer questions for exams after the fact; please be responsible for your own grade.

Special Needs

If a student needs class accommodation(s) because of a documented disability, (2) has an emergency medical condition that may interfere with class performance, or (3) requires special handling in case the building must be evacuated, he/she is encouraged to contact the office of Disability Support Services in room 168 Clark Student Center (940) 397-4140 and make an appointment with the professor as soon as possible.

Student Conduct

Behavior that interferes with either the instructor's ability to conduct the class or the ability of other students to benefit from the instruction will result in the instructor removing the disruptive student(s) from the class, either temporarily or permanently (instructor drop), and assigning a final lower grade, up to and including an F. In addition and depending on the nature of the behavior or conduct, the student(s) may be subject to further disciplinary actions as per MSU policies.

Academic Dishonesty

Academic dishonesty including plagiarism and giving or receiving unauthorized assistance is prohibited. 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 the individuals to whom credit is given. If a student in the class plagiarizes material, appropriate disciplinary action will be taken. The Student Honor 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 do so." Plagiarism is lying, cheating, and stealing.

To be clear, academic dishonesty is regarded as an offense, which is disciplinary in nature although its control is essential to the academic enterprise. The list that follows includes examples, although not all-inclusive, of academic dishonesty.

- Copying from another student's exam
- Purchase of term papers turned in as one's own
- "Padding" items on a bibliography
- Feigned illness to avoid an exam

- Submission of same term paper to another class without permission
- Study of a copy of an exam prior to taking a make-up exam
- Providing another student answers during an exam
- Use of notes or book during the exam when prohibited
- Turning in a “dry lab” without doing the experiment
- Sabotage of someone else’s work (on disk, in lab, etc.)
- Collaboration on homework or take-home exams when instruction called for independent work
- Providing test questions to student(s) in another section of the class
- Sharing of answers during an exam by using a system of signals
- Plagiarism: appropriating or passing off as one’s own work the writings, ideas, etc. of another, i.e., copying without giving credit due, forgery, literary theft, or expropriation of some other’s work
- Writing a term paper(s) for another student
- Alteration or forging of official college document
- Submission of tutor or other resource work assignments as one’s own
- Violation of copyright(s)
- Cheating on exams, papers, assignments, etc.

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 a students’ academic progress or other matters with his/her 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.

Social Justice

Social justice is one of Midwestern State University’s stated core values, and the professor considers the classroom a place where students are treated with respect as human beings, regardless of gender, race, ethnicity, national origin, religious affiliation, sexual orientation, political beliefs, age, or ability. Moreover, diversity of thought is appreciated and encouraged, provided the students can agree to disagree. The professor’s expectation is that ALL students consider the classroom a safe environment.

Campus Carry

Senate Bill 11 passed by the 84th Texas Legislature allows licensed handgun holders to carry concealed handguns on campus, effective August 1, 2016. Areas excluded from concealed carry are appropriately marked, in accordance with state law. For more information regarding campus carry, please refer to the University’s webpage at MSU Campus Carry Policy.

COVID-19 Statements

Seating arrangements – This class will have assigned seats (unless otherwise designated) in a predetermined setup (to be provided on the second day).

Face coverings –MSU policy for indoor and outdoor classes applies. Students will be expected to use face coverings at all times.

Flexibility – At any time, we may transfer Music Appreciation to an online (adapted) course. In this instance, the class will continue until the overall work is commensurate with the credit amount. Accommodations will be provided. Illness and accommodations will be done on a person-to-person basis.

Attendance – Attendance is expected at all times, and absence from a class needs to be communicated as quickly as possible. Attendance will be taken every class.

D2L – D2L is an official means of communication and repository of class records, music, and materials for marching band.

Cleaning protocols – Please wipe off your seat and area after each attended class.

Office hours – All inquiries/questions regarding this class should be done via email and/or online meeting (only in exceptional instances). Office hours are also posted outside my office door.

Social distancing – All music courses will adhere to the minimum 6-ft. rule, and will also begin with further distancing, depending on the activity.