

Music Appreciation

Syllabus/Schedule — Spring 2024

Professor: Dr. Thomas Wininger

Office: C-1171 (music wing)

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Office Hours: M, W, F: 11:00 am–12:00 pm; T, H: 2:30–3:30 pm

Course Description

Perceptive listening and appreciation of musical elements, forms, and style periods, including composer's lives, individual styles and representative works. Emphasis on western classical music, jazz, and American popular music.

Learning Outcomes

SLO 1: Student demonstrates knowledge of music history, including pieces, composers, and events representative of how music has changed over time.

SLO 2: Student demonstrates knowledge of musical terminology and how elements of music have been approached differently over time.

SLO 3: Students will demonstrate the ability to critically analyze and discuss a musical performance.

Required Texts

There are no required texts for this class. All reading materials may be found in D2L.

Graded Content

Intro. Paper	50 points
Unit Assignments x5	250 points
Concert Review x 3	150 points
Unit Quizzes x5	250 points
Final Exam	150 points
Final Project	150 points
Total:	1000 points

Unit Assignments (250 pts, 50 pts per)

Assignments will be posted to D2L. The assignments will be linked to one of the 5 units of the course and provide a new perspective to the musical topic. Assignments are due at midnight of the last day of classes, but I highly suggest you do them along the way.

Introduction Paper (50 pts.)

Students will write a 2-page paper in size 12 font (double spaced) about their musical biography. Questions addressed may include how students first remember experiencing music, how they have participated in music throughout their lives, how music has made an impact on their lives, why they enjoy music, and/or a discussion about which song, bands, composers, etc. are their favorite and why, historical events or major life events with musical memories. Papers turned in on time in the proper format will receive full credit.

Concert Reviews (50 pts [x3] with potential of 50 pts extra credit)

Students will choose three concerts and/or plays to attend and write a review (a fourth may be chosen for extra credit). A calendar of MSU events will be provided, but students are able to review concerts and plays from off campus as well. Reviews must be turned in **with program from the event** no later than one week after the event. The review must be 2–3 pages in length with size 12 font, double spaced. The review must focus on the musical concepts of the performance using terms that have been discussed in class (melody, harmony, rhythm, timbre, context, etc.).

Unit Quizzes (50 pts [x5])

Unit quizzes will be posted to D2L at the time listed on the syllabus. There are 5 units throughout the class; rhythm, melody, harmony, timbre, and form. Quizzes will be open until the last day of classes at midnight, but I highly suggest you do them along the way.

Final Exam (150 pts)

The final exam is required. The final exam will be cumulative and cover musical concepts / terminology from the course. A study guide will be provided.

Final Presentation (150 pts)

The final presentation will consist of preparing a visual presentation and document about two pieces of music of the student's choosing. Students will be graded on their usage of terminology learned in class, critical analysis of the chosen piece, and audio/visual presentation. Presentations will be submitted digitally. A detailed rubric will be provided.

Grading Table

A = 900+ pts
B = 800–899 pts
C = 700–799 pts
D = 600–699 pts
F = 599 pts and below

Assignment Details

Universal Minimum Formatting Requirements:

- ∞ Digital submissions only please (email or D2L)
- ∞ Double Spaced
- ∞ 12-point standard font
- ∞ 1" margins

*Non-conforming documents may not be accepted **and may receive zero points** or penalty at instructor discretion.*

Late Work

Late assignments will not earn credit. Time management and prioritizing skills are part of what you develop in college. Plan ahead and manage your time with other classes and projects, communicate in advance if you are requesting an extension.

Important Information

Email Communication

Should the instructor need to communicate with an individual student outside of class or office hours, such communication will take place through the Midwestern State University email system, so **read your email daily**. If your laptop crashes, use a library or media lab PC.

Weekly Course Layout

This schedule is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor.

Intro:

Week 1, 2 Introductions. Syllabus. "Music and the Changing World"
Assignment: Introduction Paper — Due Monday, Jan 22 by midnight

Reading: Chapter 1, "Preliminaries"
Chapter 2, "How Do We Listen to Music?"

Unit 1: Rhythm

Week 3, 4 Reading: Chapter 4
Assignment: Rhythm specific, posted to D2L

Lectures: “Copland on Rhythm,” “Rhythm and Text,” “Syncopation Will Always Be Sexy”

Unit 2: Melody

Week 5, 6

Reading: Chapter 5

Assignment: Melody specific, posted to D2L

Lectures: “Copland on Melody,” “Building Blocks of Melody,” “Merry Melodies”

Unit 3: Harmony

Week 7, 8

Reading: Chapter 6

Assignment: Harmony specific, posted to D2L

Lectures: “Harmony and Physics,” “Power of the Dominant”

Unit 4: Form

Week 9, 10

Reading: Chapter 6,

Assignment: Form specific, posted to D2L

Lectures: “Form in Music,” “Musicians Breaking the Mould,” “Forms of the Enlightenment”

Unit 5: Timbre

Week 11, 12

Reading: Chapter 7

Mar 29

Lectures: “Timbre: Strings, Woodwinds,” “Timbre: Brass, Percussion,” “What Makes Music Scary?”

Finals / Presentations

Week 13–15 Finals presentation preparation / study guide review for final exam

