

This is a sample syllabus for MUL2010. Students should reference the section syllabus provided at the beginning of the semester for specifics regarding assignments and grade assignments.

Music Literature, Listening, and Understanding (MUL 2010)
Florida State University
(Day/Time/Room TBA)

Instructor:
Reader:
Office Hours:

Course Description

Music plays a very important role in our daily lives. What can we do to better appreciate the music that we listen to? This course is an introduction to music as a manifestation of human culture, as an expressive art form, and as an intellectual discipline. Uniting careful listening with historical and cultural context, you will gain a deeper understanding of various styles of music, including Western concert music (classical music), world music, jazz, and some popular music. Through readings, listening exercises, and concert attendance, you will develop critical listening skills and learn how to discuss and write about music using appropriate terminology. This course is designed for non-music majors, and no prior musical study is necessary.

Course Objectives

Upon the successful completion of the course, you will be able to:

- Define terms in an appropriate vocabulary for discussion of musical works, and use those terms correctly and effectively in conversation and writing.
- In listening to music, identify specific musical touchstone works by composer and title, and musical styles by their cultural times and places.
- Explain different cultural functions and practices in different musics.
- Interpret and critique aspects of musical expression within particular musical works, as they arise from the use of elements of musical style.
- Apply critical thinking, writing, and listening skills to any type of music.

Liberal Studies in the 21st Century

This course has been approved to meet FSU's Liberal Studies **Humanities and Cultural Practice** requirements and is designed to help you become a thoughtful patron of and participant in cultural practices. By the end of the course, you will be able to:

- 1) Interpret intellectual or artistic works within a cultural context.
- 2) Use a cultural, artistic, or philosophical approach to analyze some aspect of human experience.

Required Text

Required readings will be assigned from a textbook such as the following:

Bonds, Mark Evan. *Listen to This*, 2nd ed. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall, 2011.
Cornelius, Steven, and Mary Natvig. *Music: A Social Experience*. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall, 2012.

There will also be music listening assignments to be completed outside the classroom. Because a textbook alone does not meet the needs of a music course, digital media will form part of your text material, including streaming audio and/or CD recordings, as well as other resources. You should make sure that you have appropriate access to standard equipment in order to access such media (e.g., desktop, laptop, or tablet computer).

Assessments and Grading Policy

Quizzes (4)	30%
Final Exam	20%
Group Discussions (2)	10%
Concert Review	10%
Final Paper	20%
Attendance/Participation	10%

A=93-100; A-=90-92.99; B+=87-89.99; B=83-86.99; B-=80-82.99; C+=77-79.99;
C=73-76.99; C-=70-72.99; D+=67-69.99; D=63-66.99; D-=60-62.99; F=Below 60

Weekly Readings and Listening Assignments: The course is organized into fifteen modules organized by week, and within each module you will find that week's reading and listening assignments, as well as supplemental videos related to the course material. After the introductory material on musical elements in the first week, each subsequent week you will be required to study (and listen to) approximately three separate pieces of music and their composers/performers.

- **Listening:** Listen to each piece of music once before reading the chapter, and at least twice with the textbook's listening guide. This should be done away from any distractions (phone calls, texting, facebook, etc.). In addition to these three focused listening sessions, you should try to listen to each piece as many times as possible (and you can do other tasks, such as washing the dishes or driving, as long as you can still pay attention to the music). You will need to be familiar with the pieces in order to identify them for the listening portion of the quizzes.

Quizzes: There will be four online quizzes throughout the semester, once every three weeks. Each quiz will focus on the readings and vocabulary, and you must also be able to aurally recognize the pieces from the listening assignments and answer questions about them. Although the quizzes are open book, they are timed and cannot be paused, which means you will need to study just like for a closed-book quiz, as you will not really have time to look up answers. You

must complete the quiz by 11:59 pm on the quiz due date. There are no make-up quizzes for any reason, including technology problems, so make sure you do not leave quizzes for the last minute.

Final Exam: A cumulative final exam will be given during finals week. It will be in the same format as the quizzes but will include more questions.

Group Discussions: You will be required to participate in two separate online group discussions and contribute a post of 250 words per discussion. You will be put into groups of six, and in addition to your own post, you must also respond to two of your peers' posts. Your post must be submitted by the deadline (responses have a separate deadline)—late posts or responses will not be accepted.

Concert Review: You will be required to attend one concert and write a review of it (750 words, 3 pages). Your paper should include 1) a description of the event and the environment; 2) a description of the musicians, their musical and social relationship to each other and to the audience; and 3) a detailed discussion of the music, applying musical vocabulary and concepts learned throughout the course. More specific details regarding this assignment will follow. Along with your paper, you will need to provide proof of concert attendance, such as a concert program or ticket stub. Late assignments will only be accepted up to one week after the due date, and will receive a deduction of one letter grade, or 10%.

- If you live in Tallahassee, you should attend one of the many wonderful concerts given by the faculty and students of the FSU College of Music. Most of these concerts are free with your FSU student ID. For a list of concerts and venues, go to <http://www.music.fsu.edu/> and look at the “Upcoming Events” (you can also click on “View All Events” to see future options).
- If you live outside Tallahassee, you may attend any concert of your choice.

Final Paper: For the final paper (1250 words, 5 pages), you will compare and contrast two different versions of the same piece/song by two different artists/groups in any music genre. Your paper should include 1) a description of the genre; 2) a description of the social and cultural significance of this music to the musicians who produce it and the people who listen to it; and 3) a detailed analysis and comparison of both pieces of music in which you apply the concepts learned throughout the semester. Further details will follow. Late assignments will only be accepted until one week after the due date, and will receive a deduction of one letter grade, or 10%.

Technology Requirements

Course content is accessible through Canvas, where you will upload assignments, post to discussion boards, take quizzes, and view videos. You should have access to high-speed internet and updated software. Mobile devices can be used to view course content, but refrain from using them to upload assignments or take quizzes. Do not wait until the last minute to submit assignments or take quizzes—technology issues are not a valid excuse for late assignments.

University Attendance Policy

Excused absences include documented illness, deaths in the family and other documented crises, call to active military duty or jury duty, religious holy days, and official University activities. These absences will be accommodated in a way that does not arbitrarily penalize students who have a valid excuse. Consideration will also be given to students whose dependent children experience serious illness.

Netiquette

It is important to maintain proper etiquette in online interactions (group discussions) with students and instructors. Use language that is appropriate for our educational setting, as well as correct spelling, grammar, and complete sentences, avoiding the abbreviations common in texts and personal emails. Under no circumstances should you use offensive or threatening language.

Academic Honor Policy

The Florida State University Academic Honor Policy outlines the University's expectations for the integrity of students' academic work, the procedures for resolving alleged violations of those expectations, and the rights and responsibilities of students and faculty members throughout the process. Students are responsible for reading the Academic Honor Policy and for living up to their pledge to "... be honest and truthful and ... [to] strive for personal and institutional integrity at Florida State University." See <http://fda.fsu.edu/Academics/Academic-Honor-Policy>.

Americans With Disabilities Act

Students with disabilities needing academic accommodation should:

1. register with and provide documentation to the Student Disability Resource Center; and
2. bring a letter to the instructor indicating the need for accommodation and what type.

Please note that instructors are not allowed to provide classroom accommodation to a student until appropriate verification from the Student Disability Resource Center has been provided.

This syllabus and other class materials are available in alternative format upon request. For more information about services available to FSU students with disabilities, contact the:

Student Disability Resource Center
874 Traditions Way
108 Student Services Building
Florida State University
Tallahassee, FL 32306-4167
(850) 644-9566 (voice); (850) 644-8504 (TDD)
SDRC@admin.fsu.edu
<http://www.disabilitycenter.fsu.edu/>

Free Tutoring from FSU

On-campus tutoring and writing assistance is available for many courses at Florida State University. For more information, visit the Academic Center for Excellence (ACE) Tutoring Services' comprehensive list of on-campus tutoring options (see <http://ace.fsu.edu/tutoring> or contact tutor@fsu.edu). High-quality tutoring is available by appointment and on a walk-in basis. These services are offered by tutors trained to encourage the highest level of individual academic success while upholding personal academic integrity.

Syllabus Change Policy

Except for changes that substantially affect implementation of the evaluation (grading) statement, this syllabus is a guide for the course and is subject to change with advance notice.

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