

Music History Syllabus

Course Description: This course explores the history of music from ancient times to the present day, focusing on major periods, styles, and composers. Students will develop an understanding of the evolution of music and its cultural impact. The course includes listening exercises, analyses of musical works, and class discussions.

Course Objectives:

- Understand the basic elements of music.
- Identify key characteristics of major musical periods.
- Recognize significant composers and their contributions.
- Analyze and compare different genres of music.
- Appreciate the cultural and historical context of music.

Materials:

- Textbook: [Title and Edition]
- Notebook and writing utensils
- Access to music streaming service (e.g., Spotify, YouTube)
- Access to a computer or device for research and presentations

Grading Policy

- **Daily Work:** 400 points total
 - **Daily Assignments:** 10 points each
- **Tests:** 600 points total
 - Tests are worth 150 Points each.
- **Projects:** 500 points total
 - Projects are worth 100 points each

Total Points Possible: 1500 points

Your Final exam and Midterm are 15% of your grade and are calculated separately.

Classroom Policies:

- It is your responsibility to get work for days you have missed
- Respectful behavior and active participation are expected.
- Late assignments due to absence will be accepted up to one week past the due date.
- Academic integrity is crucial. Cheating and plagiarism will result in disciplinary action.

Course Outline:

Week 1 (August 5 - August 9): Introduction to Music and Basic Elements

- Overview of Music
- Importance of studying music history
- Key terms and concepts
- Basic Elements of Music (Melody, Harmony, Rhythm, Dynamics, Texture, Form, Timbre)

Week 2 (August 12 - August 16): Basic Elements of Music Continued

- Examples and listening exercises to illustrate each element
- Introduction to musical notation
- **Test on Basic Elements of Music** (August 16)

Week 3 (August 19 - August 23): Medieval Music (500-1400)

- Gregorian Chant
- Development of Polyphony
- Key Composers: Hildegard von Bingen, Guillaume de Machaut

Week 4 (August 26 - August 30): Renaissance Music (1400-1600)

- Secular Music
- Characteristics of Renaissance Music
- Key Composers: Josquin des Prez, Giovanni Palestrina, Thomas Tallis

Week 5 (September 2 - September 6): Baroque Music (1600-1750)

- Characteristics
- Development of Opera
- Key Composers: Johann Sebastian Bach, George Frideric Handel, Antonio Vivaldi

Week 6 (September 9 - September 13): Classical Music (1750-1820)

- Characteristics
- Development of Symphony and Sonata
- Key Composers: Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Ludwig van Beethoven, Franz Joseph Haydn

Week 7 (September 16 - September 20): Romantic Music (1820-1900)

- Characteristics
- Rise of Program Music and Nationalism

- Key Composers: Franz Schubert, Robert Schumann, Johannes Brahms, Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky

Week 8 (September 23 - September 27): Early 20th Century Music (1900-1950)

- Characteristics
- New Musical Languages
- Key Composers: Igor Stravinsky, Arnold Schoenberg, Béla Bartók

Week 9 (September 30 - October 4): Modern Music (1950-2000)

- Characteristics
- Key Figures and Movements

Week 10 (October 7 - October 11): Break

Week 11 (October 14 - October 18): Contemporary Music (2000-Present)

- Characteristics
- Key Figures and Movements

Week 12 (October 21 - October 25): Non-Western Music Traditions

- Overview of Non-Western Music Traditions
- Key Musical Styles and Genres
- Influence on Western Music

Week 13 (October 28 - November 1): Opera

- Introduction to Opera
- Example Analysis

Week 14 (November 4 - November 8): Operetta

- Introduction to Operetta
- Key Works and Example Analysis

Week 15 (November 11 - November 15): Musicals

- Introduction to Musicals
- Key Works and Example Analysis

Week 16 (November 18 - November 22): Comparative Analysis and Review

- Comparative Analysis of Opera, Operetta, and Musical
- Comprehensive Review of all Periods and Genres

- Class Discussion and Summary of Key Concepts

Week 17 (November 25 - November 26): Final Presentation Preparation

- Student Preparation for Final Presentations
- Group Work and Refinement of Presentations

Week 18 (November 27 - November 29): Thanksgiving Break

Week 19 (December 2 - December 6): Final Presentations

- Student Presentations on Comparative Analysis of Genres
- Class Discussion and Feedback

Week 20 (December 9 - December 13): Ballet and Final Reflection

- **Ballet:** Introduction, Key Works, and Example Analysis
- Reflection on the Course
- Summary of Key Learnings and Final Q&A