**PITTSBURG STATE UNIVERSITY**

**Department of Music**

MUSIC 120-08: **MUSIC APPRECIATION** (Classical)  **[WL] •**  Spring 2014

Instructor: Dr. Matthew G. Montague

Office Location: 209 McCray Hall

Office Hours: As posted or by appointment

Contact: 620-235-4482 (Office) E-mail: mmontague@pittstate.edu

620-719-9606 (Text)

**Class Schedule and Location**

MWF • 11:00 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. • 318 McCray Hall

**Description, Prerequisites, Credits, Course Delivery**

An overview of the art music of Western (European) civilization. Using the techniques of listening to recognize the various elements, forms, styles, and textures of music, this class will help you develop an understanding and appreciation of music. No previous music experience is necessary. Not open to students who have completed MUSIC 121 or its equivalent. Not open to music majors. (3 hours)

This is a hybrid course, a blend of face-to-face instruction coupled with computer-based (online) learning. As such, actual classroom desk time may be reduced, but you may need to increase mental exertion, self-discipline, and careful time management.

**Required Class Materials**

Machlis, J., & Forney, K. (2011). *The enjoyment of music* (Shorter

11th ed.). New York: W. W. Norton.

Active CANVAS account.

Active NAXOS account.

**Anticipated Student Learning Outcomes**

This course is designed to increase your knowledge and enhance your enjoyment of music through listening, lectures and discussions, textbook readings, and concert attendance. The class will begin with the basic elements and vocabulary of music, then will explore music through specific eras (Baroque, Classic, Romantic, and so forth).

As a result of instruction and meeting course requirements, students are expected to:

1. isolate and describe elements of musical form and style;

2. discuss music and composers from different historical periods;

3. identify musical compositions from various composers and style periods; and

4. conduct themselves in an appropriate manner at concerts of classical music.

Additionally, the course addresses the following General Education program goals and objectives:

**Goal #1:  Students should be able to communicate effectively.**  
Objective 2: Apply the principles of effective writing and other forms of communication.

**Goal #2:  Students should be able to think critically.**

Objective 4:  Demonstrate the ability to analyze and synthesize information.

**Goal #3:  Students should be able to function responsibly in the world in which they live.**Objective:  
  
*Part V:  Aesthetic Studies*  
1.  Demonstrate an understanding of the creative process, both practical and theoretical, and its relationship to an audience or viewers.

2.  Demonstrate the ability to make informed critical responses when exposed to artistic endeavors.

3.  Understand the relationship between the arts and society in a multicultural environment.

*Part VI:  Cultural Studies*  
1.  Demonstrate the ability to recognize the value of diverse cultural, national, and ethnic backgrounds.

2.  Demonstrate an awareness of the rights of individuals and groups from diverse cultural, national, and ethnic backgrounds.

3.  Demonstrate an understanding of the relationships of gender, race, and class within and across cultures.

*Part VIII:  Human Heritage*  
1.  Demonstrate an appreciation for the range and diversity of humankind’s wisdom, values, ideas, beliefs, and reasoning.

2.  Demonstrate an understanding of human behavior, the human condition, and human institutions in the context of historical, literary, or philosophical inquiry.

3.  Demonstrate recognition of the inter-relatedness of the past, present, and future.

**Statement of Intent**

Because this is a Writing to Learn course, you will frequently be writing in order to (1) expand your appreciation of classical music, and (2) improve your critical thinking skills. You will be expected to engage in a wide variety of writing activities including informal response papers, in-class short writes. I am confident that your exploration of classical music will uncover a treasure of profitable subject matter.

**Philosophy of Writing**

Unlike hair color and blood type, writing is a learned activity. Therefore, we improve our writing skills through diligent, thoughtful practice. Writing also more fully enables us to comprehend the complexities of a specific content area, such as music of Western culture (Classical). Furthermore, writing develops thinking skills. The philosophy behind the writing assignments for this class is that they will help you gain a greater appreciation for classical music. In addition, you will develop the ability to ponder and articulate your complex thoughts on the subject.

**Punctuality and Academic Honesty**

The majority of class time will be spent in exploring, explaining, and analyzing musical examples. Therefore, *regular, prompt* attendance is essential.

Any assignments or Observations (excluding exams, which may *not* be made up) turned in after their assigned due date—regardless of tardiness—will have 50% of their point totals deducted, unless cleared *ahead of time* with the instructor. It is expected that all course work will be original material. Obtaining input from your peers is encouraged; representing the work of others as your own will result in a failing grade.

The Department of Music and the University place high value upon academic integrity. Persons violating the University’s academic code of conduct will be subject to any of a number of sanctions. Please read the following from the Pittsburg State University 2013-2014 Catalog, “[Dishonesty in Academic Work](http://catalog.pittstate.edu/contentm/blueprints/blueprint_display.php?bp_listing_id=162&blueprint_id=124&sid=1&menu_id=7980),” for an explanation of the University’s policy on this matter.

**Methods of Assessment**

In addition to regular reading assignments, frequent writing activities, and four (4) exams, you are required to attend five (5) live concerts and write a Concert Observation paper (3-4 pages) for each event. Note: You cannot pass this course without passing the writing component. A list of approved concerts (see [PSU Music Events Calendar](http://www.pittstate.edu/calendar/?tag=Music&selectedView=monthly)) will be discussed in class; for other concerts, check with the instructor for approval *in advance* of the concert. Each Observation must be completed within seven (7) calendar days of the concert and turned in on—or before—the dates listed below. Electronic submissions will *not* be accepted for Observations 1-4.

Concert Observations need not be scholarly critiques; rather, you should record *your* observations of the event on the Concert Observation form. Observations should include terms and concepts discussed in class. In addition, you should use these assignments to demonstrate your ability to identify and discuss aesthetic elements of each concert.

The grading criterion for the papers (30 pts. possible per paper) will be the PSU Writing Rubric (see p. 7 of syllabus). The rubric categories and points possible are:

Focus (5pts.)

Development (5 pts.)

Organization (5 pts.)

~~Use of Sources~~ Format (5 pts.)

Style (5 pts.)

Editing (5 pts.)

Papers will be returned with instructor feedback. If you include citations in your paper, please follow the Chicago Manual of Style (16th edition).

Staple the concert program to your paper. Be sure to include your name and the Observation number (1, 2, 3, 4, or 5) on the program.

**Points Possible**

1. Random in-class writes (5%) …... 25 pts.
2. Assignments (5%) ……………… 25 pts.
3. 5 Observations (30%) ……….…. 150 pts.
4. 4 Exams (60%) ……….….…….. 300 pts. No make-up exams

500 pts.

**Grading Scale**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| *Final Grade* | *Required Points* | *Percentage* |
| A | 450 - 500 | 90 - 100 |
| B | 400 - 449 | 80 - 89 |
| C | 350 - 399 | 70 - 79 |
| D | 300 - 349 | 60 - 69 |

**IMPORTANT: No make-up tests or extra credit.**

**Please Note**

If you have a documented disability and anticipate needing accommodations in this course, please request that the Director of Equal Opportunity (ext. 4185) send a letter verifying your disability, then make arrangements to meet with the instructor soon. The Department of Music will make reasonable accommodations for persons with documented disabilities.

**Class Calendar**

As posted on Canvas. [Click here](http://www.pittstate.edu/calendar/?tag=Music&selectedView=monthly) for PSU Music events.

**Exam Dates**

Exam 1:Fri., Jan. 31

Exam 2: Fri., Feb. 28

Exam 3: Fri., Apr. 4

Exam 4: Fri., May 2 (concluding class meeting)

**Observation Due Dates** (No exceptions)

Observation 1: Wed., Feb. 26

Observation 2: Wed., Mar. 26

Observation 3: Fri., Apr. 18

Observation 4: Fri., May 2 (concluding class meeting)

Observation 5: Thurs., May 8 (submit electronically by 5:00 p.m.)

MUSIC 120

**Concert Observation *Guide***

Do not turn in this guide.

It is expected that the Observation assignment you turn in will follow this format:

* a separate, 3-4 page word processed essay
* size 12 font
* double spacing
* one inch (1”) margins all around
* first paragraph beginning no more than four inches (4”) from top of page
* page numbers at bottom, center

Additionally, provide the following information at the top, right-hand corner of your paper:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Course number and section: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Concert attended & date of concert: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Location of concert: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Observation number: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Attach ticket stub or concert program.**

Please be thoughtful, constructive and honest with your responses.

**NOTE**: Sections (1) and (4) deal with *general* concert observations; sections (2) and (3) center on *specific* musical selections.

1a) What was there, specifically, about the concert that was unexpected (either positive or

negative) to you?

1b) Describe the concert setting and ambiance (formal/informal, fun/boring, casual/stuffy, etc.).

1c) Describe the audience (i.e. old/young, male/female, etc).

2a) Of the works performed, which was your favorite (please list the title and

composer/arranger)?

2b) Why did you like it? What captured your attention and/or emotions?

2c) TEMPO – was it fast, medium or slow?

2d) MELODIC CONTOUR - was it gentle/smooth or angular/pointed?

2e) DYNAMICS – was it generally *piano, mezzo or forte (*soft, medium, loud)

2f) What particular instrument group/voice type captured your attention?

2g) What was the type of ensemble (i.e. orchestra, concert band, jazz ensemble, chamber,

voices) of that selection?

3a) What was your least favorite composition performed (please list the title and composer or

arranger)?

3b) Why did you not enjoy that piece?

3c) TEMPO – was it fast, medium or slow?

3d) MELODIC CONTOUR - was it gentle/smooth or conjunct/disjunct?

3e) DYNAMICS – was it generally *piano, mezzo or forte (*soft, medium, loud)?

3f) What particular instrument type/voice group captured your attention?

3g) What instrumentation/voice group(s) was utilized?

4a) Overall, how would you evaluate this concert?

4b) Was the type of music played enjoyable to you or a chore through which you had to sit?

Why?

4c) Why would you recommend—or not recommend—to others the music you heard at this

concert?

