

Music Appreciation

MUSI 1306 (Online)

Mr. Ben May, instructor
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MPC 109 | office hours 9:30am-10:30am MTWR, or by appointment
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Course Description

Making music is a universal human endeavor. This course provides an introduction to the art of music through listening and participation. Students will learn how and why people create music in a variety of situations and how basic musical elements may communicate artistic intent. By the end of the course, students will possess the requisite skills to appreciate music more fully in live and recorded settings, and they will be able to describe how music operates in their own lives as human beings.

About the Instructor

I am the choir director at Brazosport College, but I grew up in the mountains of East Tennessee. I have studied music at Vanderbilt University, Westminster Choir College, and the University of Houston. I maintain an active career of teaching, singing, and conducting music in the Houston area. Before that, I taught high school choir and music theory classes in Austin, Texas. My hobbies include doing home improvement projects, playing board games, and doing nearly anything related to Star Wars (or sci-fi in general)!

Materials & Tools

Required Textbook:

Clark, Alan, Heflin, Thomas, Kluball, Jeffery, Kramer, and Kramer, Elizabeth. *Understanding Music: Past and Present*. Dahlonega, GA: University of North Georgia Press, 2015.
[ISBN: 978-1-940771-33-5]

Note: This textbook is available as a free download under CC By-SA 4.0 International Share-Alike license at the following URL: <https://ung.edu/university-press/books/understanding-music-past-and-present.php>

Other Required Materials & Tools

- Metropolitan Opera version of *Carmen* (\$4.99 rental or 7-day free trial subscription)
- Computer with internet access, microphone, and webcam or video recorder that can be uploaded
- Access to a scanner (or a scanner app for your smart device) and a printer
- An active and current email address

Suggested Materials & Tools

- high-quality over-the-ear headphones or speakers with a subwoofer
- Skype account

- General knowledge of (view Distance Learning website for manuals and tutorials):
 - Internet browser setting and configuration
 - Email and file attachments
 - Uploading and downloading files
 - Using a word processing program such as Microsoft Word

Required course materials are available at the Brazosport College bookstore, on campus or online at <http://www.brazosport.edu/bookstore>. A student of this institution is not under any obligation to purchase a textbook from the college bookstore. The same textbook is/may also be available from an independent retailer, including an online retailer.

Course Content

This course will begin with a focus on the basic elements common to all music, but with a particular emphasis toward those found in Western art music. The course will proceed by studying music in detail from various eras and places. As students advance, they will develop opinions and express preferences for different types of music based on their understanding of musical elements, the contexts surrounding the music, and their individual musical journeys.

Course Objectives

- 1) Students will identify musical works and elements in a variety of styles
- 2) Students will analyze the elements and structures of music using appropriate terminology.
- 3) Students will critically evaluate the influence of social, political, technological, and/or cultural ideas on music.
- 4) Students will articulate the significance of music as an art form within historical, cultural, and social contexts.

Essential Questions

- 1) Why is music important for society and individuals (including me)?
- 2) How and what does music communicate?
- 3) What traditions influence and are influenced by music?

Student Expectations

You will or need to:

- Log in often.
- Use this syllabus as your guide.
- Ask questions – don't wait.
- View online lectures.
- Read course materials.
- Actively participate in discussions.
- Think critically.
- Use proper "netiquette" ([view netiquette page](#)).
- Meet all assignment and testing criteria.
- Be self-motivated and disciplined.
- Show increased knowledge and demonstrate it during class activities.
- Work with other in a fair and kindly manner.

- Review the various assignments and develop your own plan for completing them in a timely fashion.

What It Takes

- Plan to spend 6 to 9 hours each week (12 to 18 for a summer term) on this course.
- Make those hours a part of your regular schedule.
- Don't try to do your assignments in one day. Look ahead at what is coming up.
- This course is part of your college academic core curriculum. Treat it as such.

Course Overview

This course has two parts:

- In **part 1**, you will be studying musical elements. You will discover how composers use various musical elements to create art, as well as learning about and memorizing a variety of musical terms that you'll need to be successful in the rest of the class. There are two summative assessments for part 1: one midterm vocabulary exam and one essay. The essay will be an analytical essay where you will describe music of your choice using appropriate terminology.
- In **part 2**, you will be studying music history and the relationships between music and society. You will discover how Western composers of the past shaped European society through music and how, in turn, their surroundings and circumstances shaped their music. Using your knowledge of musical elements and historical traditions, we will consider special topics, such as how musicians have contributed to our understanding of societal constructs like love and death, as well as events like war. There are two summative assessments for part 2: one essay, and one project. The essay is a research-based essay where you will describe a musical tradition in detail using acceptable scholarly sources and citation practices. For your project, you will design a concert experience that illuminates an issue of your choice that impacts society today.

Course Schedule

This is an approximate list of when you will complete modules and assignments. **For exact dates, please refer to the D2L calendar.** This schedule is subject to change.

Week	Modules/Topics/Major Assignments Due
Week 1	Syllabus & Expectations, "What Is Music?"
Week 2	Basic Definitions, Rhythm & Articulation
Week 3	Melody, Harmony
Week 4	Timbre & Dynamics, Texture & Form
Week 5	Midterm Exam, Essay #1 Prewriting
Week 6	Folk Music, Jazz
Week 7	Modernism & Postmodernism, Essay 1, Concert Report 1
Week 8	Music and War (2 modules)
Week 9	Romanticism, Romantic Music & Love
Week 10	Romantic Music and Death, Carmen, Essay 2 Outline
Week 11	Classical Era Overview, Classical Music and Form
Week 12	Beethoven's 9 th Symphony, Baroque Era Overview, Essay 2
Week 13	Renaissance and Medieval Music
Week 14	Final Exam, Music & Society Project, Concert Report 2

Course Assignments and Assessments

Essays (2): Two standard, 5-paragraph college essays. The first asks you to compare and contrast two pieces of music. The second asks you to research a musical tradition and how it relates to society. You must cite your research. The prewriting/outline stage is graded and required to move on to the final draft. In addition, I will need time to read and send you feedback on your optional (but highly recommended) rough draft. Please complete all of these items in a timely manner!

Midterm Exam (Required): This exam is largely based on your understanding of musical vocabulary and ability to write A-level comments. You may take these at any time after you have completed the module quizzes. You have the option of using BC's Learning Center (E-wing) or taking this at home. You may use your guided notes for the exam, but you will not have time to look up every answer, since the test is timed!

Final Exam: **If you complete all quizzes AND your overall quiz average is at least 70%, you are exempt from taking the final exam.** If you are exempt from the exam, you may choose to take this exam at the end of the semester and average its result with your midterm score. If you miss one or more quizzes, you must take the final exam. If your quiz average is below 70%, you must take the final exam.

Reading and Listening Assignments: Readings and listenings are organized in D2L. In many cases, you only need to skim articles for the most important information or jump to a particular point in a recording. Always check the assignment directions!

Guided Notes: You will receive guided notes pages within modules. There are two ways to complete these assignments: (1) print the blank guided notes pages, write in them, and then upload LEGIBLE scans or photos of your completed guided notes pages to D2L dropbox, or (2) use a PDF annotation program like Mac Preview or Adobe Acrobat to type into the blank guided notes pages, and then upload these into the D2L dropbox.

Discussion Posts: You will complete discussion posts on D2L. These are under the Communication or Content areas. Please provide thoughtful responses that demonstrate a superior awareness and understanding of the material.

Quizzes: Most modules have quizzes at the end to determine whether you have learned. You may use your notes or your textbook as you complete these quizzes. Note that quizzes will disappear one week after the due date, and you will no longer be able to take them at that point. You will receive a score of zero for any incomplete quizzes, and missing a quiz means that you are required to take the final exam.

Concert Reports: You must attend live performances (one for summer or mini-mester students; two for regular fall or spring semester students) of **Classical** or **Jazz** music, stay for the whole performance, and submit a concert report. Information about performances at BC, including free concerts, can be found on the Clarion website. Many local area schools also offer performances. **KEEP YOUR PROGRAM.** You'll need to submit it, too. You should take notes during the performance and comment on each piece performed. Your review should focus on the art created, through the lens of what you learn in this class about the elements and history of music. Each report should include at least ten "A-level" comments.

Course Materials

Course materials (syllabus, required readings, lectures, listening links, and resources) will be available in the Content area of D2L.

Grading

Midterm Exam and Final Exam	20%
Essay 1 (Musical Elements Analysis)	10%
Essay 2 (Musical Traditions)	10%
Music and Society Project	10%
Concert reports	10%
Quizzes	20%
Discussion posts, guided notes, and homework assignments	20%

A: 90-100% B: 80-89% C: 70-79% D: 60-69% F: 59% or below

Deadlines and Late Work

- Most assignments will be due by **11:59pm** on the date listed on D2L.
- Be sure to check the due dates in your D2L calendar, as they will help you determine what is due each week.
- Discussion posts will often have different deadlines for replies, to give you and your classmates time to create meaningful replies.
- **The final deadline for ALL work is 5:00pm on Wednesday, December 9.**

Most ordinary work (quizzes, discussion posts, guided notes) will be accepted up to one week late for a 20% penalty. Summative assessments (tests, essay final drafts, concert reports, and project) will not be accepted later than the due date without specific prior approval from the instructor.

Communication

Communication will take place using various interactive tools (Discussion, Chat, Email, Dropbox) and may include both real and virtual time (Skype or in-course Web Rooms are real time and may be used for online office hours).

Instructor Response Times

Because I am an active, working musician, my schedule is sometimes irregular based on rehearsals, performances, and other events that I am obligated to be present for.

In general, though, my office hours are 9:30am to 10:30am each day, Monday-Thursday. I will usually have my browser open during this time, so this would be a good time to use online office hours in the virtual classroom or reach me by phone or on the D2L/Virtual Campus chat function. Because of my schedule, though, it is always best to check with me in advance if you need to chat!

I will do my best to respond to critical questions within 24 hours while the college is open (Monday through noon Friday). If a question is extremely urgent, my personal email is best (Benjamin.p.may@gmail.com), since that will show up on my phone. Otherwise, please use either the D2L email system (ben.may@online.brazosport.edu) or my campus email (ben.may@brazosport.edu). I will typically be responding to and grading regular discussion posts and assignments on Monday through Thursday between 9am and noon. However, this sometimes changes based on my rehearsal and performance schedule.

Testing

The midterm exam in this course is required for all students. The final exam in this course might be optional for you (see Course Assignments for details). You may make an appointment with the BC Learning Center or take the exam at home. You may use your guided notes pages for the exams, but you will not have time to look up every single answer, since the tests are timed.

Single-module quizzes do not need to be proctored or monitored. You normally have three attempts at these, and you may use your notes, textbook, or online resources as you complete them.

Assignment Submissions

Submit assignments via the Dropbox. In some cases, Discussions will be used. You can find most assignments in the Content area, and due dates will be listed in your calendar on the right side of the course home screen.

Student Support

- **Help Desk**
 - [Chat with a Helpdesk representative](#)
 - helpdesk@brazosport.edu
 - 979-230-3366
 - [Helpdesk website](#)
 - Campus Location: K.100
- **Online Tutors**
 - Email to set up an online Writing tutor session: writingcenter@brazosport.edu
 - Email to set up an online Math tutor session: mathcenter@brazosport.edu
 - [Student Success Center/Tutoring website](#)
 - 979-230-3184
 - Campus Location: E.200
- **Online Academic Advisor**
 - [Chat with an Academic Advisor](#)
 - 979-230-3238 or contact the department secretary at 979-230-3237
 - [Online Counseling Services](#) website
 - Campus Location: E-Wing
- **Learning Services**
 - [Chat live with a Learning Service Representative](#)
 - [Proctor Testing](#)
 - 979-230-3253
 - [Learning Services website](#)
 - Campus Location: [view map](#)
- **Library**
 - [Chat live with a Librarian](#)
 - 979-230-3310
 - [Library website](#)

- Campus Location: F.134
- **Campus Bookstore**
 - [Bookstore website](#)
 - 979-230-3410
 - Campus Location: [view map](#)
- **Distance Learning**
 - [Virtual Campus Manuals & Tutorials](#)
 - [Success Tips](#)
 - [Student Guide & Calendar](#) website
 - [Virtual Campus Tour Reservation](#) form
 - [Distance Learning website](#)
 - 979-230-3436

Additional [support service information](#), including Virtual Campus Accessibility information is detailed on the Distance Learning website.

When Taking an Online Course

You are currently enrolled in an online college course and will be asked to show a professional and mature attitude through the semester. The following shows what it takes to be successful in learning while taking a course that has little if no face-to-face contact with either your instructor or fellow students:

- Class time ~ 360 total hours
- Study time ~ 6 to 9 hours of study time per week (12-18 for summer terms)
- Tests ~
 - weekly modules and exercises
 - be aware of quiz dates via Syllabus/Calendar/Announcements
 - if applicable, form independent study groups with peers
 - ask questions
 - quizzes may be timed
- Grades ~
 - attendance/effort does NOT count toward a grade, **LACK** of attendance will HURT you though
 - keep track of your own grades using the grad book
 - calculate your own grades to keep track of grade requirements
 - have questions about your grade ASK immediately via email (don't wait till the mid or end of the course)
- Instructors ~
 - DO not remind you of incomplete work or assignment dates
 - DO not keep attendance
- Accountability ~
 - monitor your own time
 - make your own decisions about extracurricular activities
 - practice good time management strategies
 - understand YOUR responsibilities and expectations of college
 - BE prepared
 - DON'T procrastinate

Course Policies

Attendance: As per college policy, you are expected to attend classes regularly, whether they are face-to-face or online. In this course, this means devoting time to viewing lecture videos and listening.

Make-ups: If the late submission has been requested and approved in advance of the due date, there will be no deduction of points from the grade. An **email to the instructor** requesting an extension of the due date should be sufficient. All summative assessments (essays, tests, portfolio) must be completed to pass the course.

Late Policy: Prompt submission of assignments and timely feedback to classmates via the discussion area is vital to this class. Early submission allows the instructor to give you the guidance and grades you deserve. Due dates for the course are published on the course calendar at the start of the class. **Work turned in by 11:59pm on the due date will be considered on time and will receive full credit.** Non-summative assessments may be accepted up to one week late for 80% credit, at the instructor's discretion. **Summative assessments that not been submitted by 11:59pm will receive a zero.**

Course Disclaimer: Every attempt is made to provide a complete syllabus that provides an accurate overview of the courses. However, circumstances and events may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. This may depend, in part, on the progress, needs and experiences of the students.

College Policies

View Student Guide & Calendar (includes Student Conduct and Honor Codes) for detailed College Policy information: <http://www.brazosport.edu/StudentServices/Pages/default.aspx>

Online Student Conduct

- Students are expected to abide by Brazosport College's code of student conduct, including the rules applicable to online courses and student conduct in general.
- Students enrolled in distance education courses are expected to perform with the highest level of academic honesty and integrity.
- Breaches of conduct include:
 - Misconduct
 - Cheating on a Test
 - Plagiarism
 - Collusion

Required Textbooks and Resources

Required course materials are available at the Brazosport College bookstore, on campus or online at <http://www.brazosport.edu/bookstore>. A student of this institution is not under any obligation to purchase a textbook from the college bookstore. The same textbook is/may also be available from an independent retailer, including an online retailer.

Academic Honesty Policy

Brazosport College assumes that students eligible to perform on the college level are familiar with the ordinary rules governing proper conduct including academic honesty. The principle of academic honesty is that all work presented by you is yours alone. Academic

dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, and collusion shall be treated appropriately. Please refer to the Brazosport College Student Guide for more information. This is available online at <http://www.brazosport.edu>. Academic dishonesty violates both the policies of this course and the Student Code of Conduct. In this class, any occurrence of academic dishonesty will be referred to the Dean of Student Services for prompt adjudication, and may, at a minimum, result in failing the assignment or this course. Sanctions may be imposed beyond your grade in this course by the Dean of Student Services.

Title IX Statement

Brazosport College faculty and staff are committed to supporting students and upholding the College District's non-discrimination policy. Under Title IX and Brazosport College's policy FFDA (Local), discrimination based on sex, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression is prohibited. If you experience an incident of discrimination, we encourage you to report it. While you may talk to a faculty or staff member at BC, please understand that they are "Responsible Employees" and must report what you tell them to college officials. You can also contact the Title IX Coordinators directly by using the contact information below. Additional information is found on the Sexual Misconduct webpage at www.brazosport.edu/sexualmisconduct.

Kelli Forde Spiers, Director, Student Life and Title IX Coordinator
Office J-117D; 979-230-3355; kelli.fordespiers@brazosport.edu

Mareille Rolon, HR Coordinator and Deputy Title IX Coordinator
Office C-114; 979-230-3303; mareille.rolon@brazosport.edu

Students with Disabilities

Brazosport College is committed to providing equal education opportunities to every student. BC offers services for individuals with special needs and capabilities including counseling, tutoring, equipment, and software to assist students with special needs. For student to receive any accommodation, documentation must be completed in the Office of Disability Services. Please contact Phil Robertson, Special Populations Counselor at 979-230-3236 for further information.

Student Privacy

Brazosport College is committed to providing services and support to meet your needs and achieve your educational goals. We are equally committed to protecting your privacy. For information regarding the confidentiality of student records please view the [Brazosport College Distant Learning Student Privacy Statement](#). For additional information related to Student Privacy contact the Registrar (979-230-3010).

Withdrawals

Withdrawal from a course is, first and foremost, the student's responsibility. An instructor may process an "administrative withdrawal" on a student for excessive absences. *However, it is the student's responsibility to ensure, prior to the deadline for withdrawal, that he/she has been officially withdrawn.* Because you stop attending a class, does not mean that you have officially withdrawn from the class.