Course Syllabus

Instructor: Prof. Michael Gerdes
Phone: (619) 594-4681
E-mail: mgerdes@mail.sdsu.edu

Office: Music 222
Office Hours: MW 1:00 and Appt.
Final Date: May 13

COURSE DESCRIPTION
Music is a complex phenomenon that offers a rich assortment of perspectives from which to examine the human condition. This is an Explorations course in the Humanities and Fine Arts. Completing this course will help you to do the following in greater depth: 1) analyze written, visual, or performed texts in the humanities and fine arts with sensitivity to their diverse cultural contexts and historical moments; 2) describe various aesthetic and other value systems and the ways they are communicated across time and cultures; 3) identify issues in the humanities that have personal and global relevance; 4) demonstrate the ability to approach complex problems and ask complex questions drawing upon knowledge of the humanities.

LEARNING OUTCOMES
Students who complete the course will:
• Develop awareness of a broad range of musical genres, styles, and traditions
• Develop and apply an appropriate vocabulary to describe musical elements
• Discuss cultural and historical factors that contribute to different musical practices
• Identify stylistic distinctions among works from different historical and cultural contexts
• Analyze the musical and extra-musical components of a wide-ranging repertoire
• Enhance critical listening skills
• Communicate critical interpretations of music in written, oral, and collaborative formats
• Enhance critical listening skills to evaluate music and communicate those values

GRADING
Final grades will be based on the following scale:
50% Blackboard Exams
10% Concert Report
20% Mid-Term Exam
20% Final Exam
GRADING SCALE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Range</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Range</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93-100</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>73-76.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90-92.9</td>
<td>C-</td>
<td>70-72.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87-89.9</td>
<td>D+</td>
<td>67-69.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>83-86.9</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>63-66.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80-82.9</td>
<td>D-</td>
<td>60-62.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77-79.9</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>-60</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

COURSE POLICIES

- Attendance is taken in the first five minutes of class. If a student arrives to class after attendance has been taken, it is the student’s responsibility to notify the instructor of their presence after class. Students arriving after attendance has been taken will be counted as tardy. Each unexcused tardy is counted as one half of an unexcused absence.
- Come to class on time and prepared. Bring your textbook and course reader every day.
- All electronic devices, including MP3 players, cellular telephones, and pagers, must be turned off or in silent mode during class.

CHEATING AND PLAGIARISM

I welcome and encourage you to discuss course materials and concepts with your colleagues. However, all evaluated work for this course (including homework, quizzes, and exams) is expected to be the sole production of each individual student, unless otherwise directed by me. If after due consideration, I am convinced that cheating or deliberate plagiarism has occurred on some homework, quiz, or exam, then the offending student will receive zero credit. Further, the student’s action will be referred to the proper administrator for consideration.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

If you are a student with a disability and believe you will need accommodations for this class, it is your responsibility to contact Student Disability Services at (619) 594-6473. To avoid any delay in the receipt of your accommodations, you should contact Student Disability Services as soon as possible. Please note that accommodations are not retroactive, and that I cannot provide accommodations based upon disability until I have received an accommodation letter from Student Disability Services. Your cooperation is appreciated.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS and MATERIALS

Due to the unique approach to this class, as well as the overall scope of this course, no single text (or even a set of resource recordings) can be utilized to cover everything that we will discuss. Much of the material will be brought together from a variety of sources. As such, you are required to purchase one text and one course reader packet for the class.

**BLACKBOARD EXAMS**

You have a time limit of 60 minutes to take the Blackboard Exams. You may take the exams two (2) times within the time window it is offered. Please make sure you have 60 minutes of free time to finish the exam. Exams will cover material from the assigned readings and class lectures. Once you click “Begin” to start an exam, you must click “Save and Submit” within the 60 minutes. Even if you decide to not take the exam at this time or answer just a few questions, you still must click “Save and Submit” within the 60 minutes or you will be locked out of system! This will also negate any previous attempts or later attempts and give you a grade of ZERO. You cannot pause the exam! It is also important that you have a strong Internet connection when taking the exams so you don’t fall off and get locked out of the system.

Exams will be made available at 12:15 pm on Thursdays before they are due (after that class) and close at 11:00 am on the Tuesday they are listed in the course schedule. Do not miss exams, as this will greatly affect your grade. There are no make-ups!

**REQUIRED CONCERT REPORT**

SDSU requires a writing component for all GE courses. Students in Music 151 will write a 350 - 420 word report (about one and a half pages at 12 point in a standard font) evaluating the SDSU Symphony. The date, time and location of this concert and the possible make-up are listed in the “Class Schedule.” IT IS IMPORTANT YOU PURCHASE YOUR TICKETS BEFORE THE CONCERT DATE TO AVOID A POSSIBLE SELL OUT AND LONG LINES!

**Online Purchase:** You can purchase tickets online at: http://music.sdsu.edu/
Follow the link on the home page under “Tickets and Calendar” and select “Buy Tickets”. You will be able to print your tickets at home on your own printer or you can pick them up at will-call. Only students with a Visa or MasterCard can purchase their tickets online. Smith Recital Hall Box Office will be open one hour before the performance. Reports will be evaluated for clarity, style, and grammatical correctness. Plagiarism of any sort will result in an “F” for the entire course and will be denied course forgiveness.

**CONCERT PROTOCOL**

-ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY – ALL ELECTRONIC DEVICES MUST BE TURNED OFF!!!
No cell phones, laptops, iPods, etc. can be used. Absolutely no text messaging. Noncompliance will result in the device being confiscated and no credit for the concert. No smoking, food or drinks are allowed.
-Attendance credit will be forfeited for talking or disruptive behavior during the concert (Section 41304 California Code of Regulations SDSU Catalogue). If you are late or leave early, you will not receive credit.
-Each student is personally responsible for filling out an attendance card obtained from an usher before the concert begins and turning it into an usher when the concert is completed. Cheating on this graded procedure will result in a grade of “F” in the class, denial of course forgiveness and the matter reported to the University Judicial Officer.
**M151 CONCERT REPORT REQUIREMENTS**

1. Typed (No credit given if not typed).
2. Offer objective observations on the program as defined in the terms of the text and lectures.
3. Offer subjective perceptions and opinions of those pieces. Did you like or dislike what you heard, and why.
4. The required length of the paper is a one and one half typewritten pages. Limit the maximum length to two pages. Font size should be 12 (Standard Font), double-spaced (350-420 words). Papers noticeably under the 350-420 word requirement will be penalized.
5. Grading will be based upon two factors. First, 5 points of the concert report will be evaluated on the basis of the accuracy of the objective observations. Second, the latter 5 points will be evaluated on the basis of correct spelling, proper grammar and proper application of punctuation.
6. This is an academic paper. Do not write in a conversational, text message or narrative manner or style. Avoid first and second person.
7. Plagiarism will result in a failing grade in the course in accordance with University policy.

If an unexpected medical or family emergency occurs on the day of the assigned concert date or alternate concert report performance date, the student may sign up for a new alternate concert report date (a medical emergency will require written verification from an attending physician on appropriate letterhead). An unexpected work conflict will require documentation from the student’s supervisor or employer on company letterhead.