

Core 103-002 MUSIC AND CULTURE

Spring, 2015

Dr. Brent Runnels, professor

Culture is memory.....

Musical training is a more potent instrument than any other, because rhythm and harmony find their way into the inward places of the soul, on which they mightily fasten, imparting grace, and making the soul of him who is rightly educated graceful....

Plato, Republic, Book III, 401e-402a

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Use Moodle for all class assignments and submissions

GENERAL

Music, like all art, has been a universal element in the human experience from time immemorial, and as such has been a primary component in the life fully lived. In the hierarchy of human needs, the experience of beauty (i.e. aesthetic sensitivity) and expression through creativity has always been near the top.

With music so much a part of human life, musical art is at the core of a truly liberal education – and has been for centuries. Music enables us to know others and ourselves from a unique vantage point – one of sound and the inner mind. That knowledge comes through not just word-based language or ambiguous aural stimulation, but rather through the culture-specific yet trans-cultural organization of sound and silence.

By considering music as a cultural signature, we may gain insight into the way methods of understanding one another evolve; and also how we determine, set and express value, and how we choose to live our lives.

OBJECTIVES

- (1) To learn to listen to music objectively and subjectively, using the intellect, the emotions and the soul
- (2) To initiate a broad understanding of music in the western world in addition to music of other cultures
- (3) To gain insight into artistic expression through familiarization with a broad range of music
- (4) To recognize the depth and importance of varied cultures, as well as the development of cultural directions through the musical arts
- (5) To synthesize all the above objectives into an ability to write about and otherwise express opinions and understanding about MUSIC.

PROCEDURES

- (1) Examining primary sources through focused listening in and out of class
- (2) Readings in the text and related sources
- (3) Presentations, discussions, and demonstrations
- (4) Writing about music experiences, both objectively and subjectively, using standard

research protocols and individual syntheses.

ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION

COR 103-002 meets Mondays and Wednesdays 4:00-5:30 pm. Since attendance is positively correlated with performance, participation in class is an essential element in learning. The cumulative nature of the material requires consistent involvement; consequently, attendance will be recorded and lateness will be noted.

Excessive absences (four or more) will lower the grade; **six or more will result in automatic failure (FA)**. No excuses will be asked for or considered except in the case of prolonged illness or family crisis; these will require signed documentation. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class. If you arrive later than 4:00 pm, you need to notify the professor after class, otherwise you are considered absent.

WRITING FOR CLASS

All written materials are to be considered formal in style and content, are to be word processed and submitted to me via Moodle, where they will be reviewed by *Turnitin*, Oglethorpe's plagiarism software. Papers should be written in 12-point Times Roman type font and double spaced. The cover sheet needs to contain the title of the paper, your name and date, the specific class for which it has been prepared, and your signed pledge.

When documentation is required, several types of sources must be consulted and included (books, periodicals, recording covers or pamphlets, and internet). Such documentation also requires proper citations in the form of footnotes, a bibliography, and if recordings are used, a discography. Depth and brevity are highly considered in the grading of all written materials. The preferred resource for questions of style is the MLA Style Guide, available in the bookstore. Please also see the Honor Code Pledge and notations regarding academic honesty and plagiarism found below under the heading Honor Code.

USE OF E-MAIL

Face-to-face communication is greatly preferred over electronic correspondence for this class, and should be used whenever possible. Nevertheless, it is important that each student check one's electronic mail and Moodle site on a daily or regular basis. All official correspondence from the university and for this class will come to the Oglethorpe.edu student account address. Important classroom information, changes in assignments, occasional "pop" quizzes, reminders, and personal correspondence will utilize this method for communication. The student may also use the same for clarifying assignments, professor's notes and questions when personal contact is not feasible.

PREPARATION

Preparation for each class is an important element in your success. The average student should expect to spend an average of eight hours per week in order to earn an average grade. Much of this will be needed in repeated, concentrated listening experiences and preparation for writing.

EXAMINATIONS

There are three primary written exams and four listening exams. The written exams will be prepared out-of-class and the aural portion completed in-class. The aural exam will occur promptly at 4:00 pm on the scheduled date; the written portion also is due at the beginning of class on the scheduled date. Exams will be comprehensive and drawn from all lectures, discussions, presentations, readings, concerts, listening and ancillary assignments. There will be no make-up exams; late submissions incur an academic penalty.

CONCERT ATTENDANCE AND REPORTS

There are three concerts at which attendance is required. Each will be documented by a written report based on concentrated listening and background information. Each is due at 4:00 pm on the date indicated in the calendar. The report must be submitted with the printed program and your concert ticket attached.

GRADING

Late submissions incur a significant academic penalty. As indicated earlier, thoroughness and conciseness are considered virtues in written assignments. The grade earned in the course will be based on the following proportions:

Three exams @ 15% each = 45%

Four listening exams @ 10% each = 40%

Three concert reports @ 15% each = 15%

Class participation, quizzes and attendance will also be considered when calculating the final grade. Final grades of A, B, C, D, or F may have a plus or minus added in accordance with University policy set by the faculty. (See The Oglethorpe University Bulletin, pp.96-97) The University's policy on incomplete grades also may be found there.

HONOR CODE

The University's honor code will be strictly observed and each student is expected to be thoroughly familiar with the policy as detailed in The Oglethorpe University Bulletin (pp.103-112). This constitutes a mutual pledge to uphold a high standard of academic honesty – a pledge to which you commit yourself each time written work is submitted. With out-of-class exams, you must work independently. With concert reports you may confer with one another concerning content or theoretical nature of sources, but you may not read other student's papers or ask what will be written. Your compliance with the code is verified on all written work by your writing out (in full) and signing the Honor Code Pledge.

In all cases of reference or research, the work of others (books, articles, recording liner notes, internet sources, and especially recordings, etc.) must be fully and accurately cited with author's or composer's/arranger's or performer's name, source (publisher, etc.) and location information so it may be verified and credit for intellectual properties given. Copyrighted material used or downloaded illegally from the internet and/or materials used without full citation will be considered theft of intellectual property and plagiarism – a significant violation of the Honor Code. The following provides basic definitions:

Cheating is: (a) the unauthorized possession or use of notes, texts, or other such materials during an examination; (b) copying another person's work or participation in such an effort; (c) an attempt or participation in an attempt to fulfill the requirements of a course with work other than one's original work for that course.

Plagiarism includes representing someone else's words, ideas, data, or original research as one's own, and in general failing to footnote or otherwise acknowledge the source of such work. One has the responsibility of avoiding plagiarism by taking adequate notes on reference materials, including material taken off the internet or other electronic sources, used in the preparation of reports, papers, and other coursework.

CIVILITY STATEMENT

The University's policy on Civility will also be honored and observed at all times; please see the Oglethorpe University Bulletin (p.61) for the complete statement. This includes rules specific to this class: no food, beverages, cell phones, PDA's, etc. will be allowed in the classroom. Electronic devices must be switched off and placed out-of-sight.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK

Jean Ferris: Music: The Art of Listening. Ninth Edition

REQUIRED LISTENING MATERIAL available for purchase, download or library use

Designated music selections discussed in the text

GENERAL INFORMATION

The professor is generally available for phone or personal consultation on Mondays 3:00 pm-4:00 pm and Tuesdays and Thursdays 4:00-5:00 pm; Individual appointments can always be made via email, please use the subject line wisely! Phone- 404.364.8397 / E-Mail- brunnels@oglethorpe.edu

Special Note: If the University is closed, or the class does not meet for any reason, all assignments will be due at the next class period.