San José State University  
School of Music and Dance  
MUSC 10A - 87 Music Appreciation, Sec. 87, Fall 2018

Instructor: Steven Lin  
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Office Hours: N/A For Online course. Contact through Canvas.  
Class Days/Time: Online Course  
Classroom: Online Course  
Prerequisites: (If none, delete this row)  
GE/SJSU Studies Category: C1  
Course Fees: N/A

**Course Description**

In this course significant works of human imagination and intellect are studied as students encounter a wide range of music from the European Baroque to American music of the 20th and 21st centuries, including American jazz and music of diverse cultural groups. This course is designed to enable students to understand music as an art form within its historical context, primarily in Western Europe and the United States. Students will approach music as a form of expression that reflects personal creativity as well as social, political, religious, and cultural change. Further study includes the relationship of music to other forms of human expression, including art, architecture, philosophy, religion, and politics. Students will experience music through recordings, online video performances, and attendance at two approved concerts.

**Course Goals and Student Learning Objectives**

- Examine music as a form of expression that reflects personal creativity as well as social, historical, political, religious and cultural changes and influences;
- Recognize the various roles or functions of musical arts in a society;
- Examine music as a process and component of culture from several points of view—that of composer, performer and listener;
- Examine and discuss music in relationship to other forms of human expression, including art, architecture, philosophy, religion, and politics;
- Be able to attend a concert of almost any kind with an appreciation of its context and cultural origins;
- Write about music analytically and effectively using language and style appropriate to the
discipline while expressing ideas clearly using good grammar, syntax, and organization.

Course Content Learning Outcomes

- Analyze and aurally learn to recognize the processes of composition, improvisation, performance, and listening;
- Be able to hear and verbally identify technical components (cognitive response) of those processes;
- Hear, discuss, and/or write about elements of sound (melody, harmony, sonic resources, volume) time, (as the canvas, rhythmic characteristics), structures (form, growth), textures (foreground, background, density);
- Be able visually to understand and discuss or identify systems of written notation (where appropriate) and relate, on a very basic level, what they see on paper with what they hear in performance;
- Be able to communicate orally or on paper affective responses to music and whether those responses change with more intellectual knowledge about the process or for any other reason that might spark a change in attitude;
- Identify style periods in the western European musical canon and/or country or cultural origin of works studied or similar works.

Required Texts/Readings and Concerts

“Outliers: The Story of Success” by Malcolm Gladwell
“Grit: The Power of Passion and Perseverance” by Angela Duckworth
“Talent is Overrated” by Geoff Colvin

Attending live events as noted in Canvas assignments. There are many free concerts, but some events are ticketed.

Assignments using online lectures/performances

There will be several assignments throughout the semester that will require you to view online videos of lectures and performances and related questions. Information will be distributed through e-mail and made available on Canvas.

Course Requirements and Assignments (Required)

This syllabus is the official administrative document for this course. Success in this course is based on the expectation that students will spend, for each unit of credit, a minimum of 45 hours over the length of the course (normally 3 hours per unit per week with 1 of the hours used for lecture) for instruction or preparation/studying or course related activities including but not limited to internships, labs, clinical practica. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus.
Final Examination or Evaluation
Final paper, details on Canvas.

Grading Information (Required)
Canvas assignments and final paper. Details on Canvas.

Grading is based on a fixed percentage scale, with plus/minus subdivisions:

- A+ = 99-100%
- A = 93-98%
- A- = 90-92%
- B+ = 88-89%
- B = 84-87%
- B- = 80-83%
- C+ = 78-79%
- C = 74-77%
- C- = 70-73%
- D+ = 68-69%
- D = 64-67%
- D- = 60-63%
- F = 0-59%

No late work will be accepted.

University Policies (Required)
Per University Policy S16-9, university-wide policy information relevant to all courses, such as academic integrity, accommodations, etc. will be available on Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs' Syllabus Information web page at http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/

MUSC 10A Music Appreciation Course Schedule
List the agenda for the semester including when and where the final exam will be held. Indicate the schedule is subject to change with fair notice and how the notice will be made available.
Course Schedule

A detailed course schedule is laid out in Canvas.