



**MUSI-1306-05415**  
**Music Appreciation**  
**Summer 2 2025**  
**07/07/25-08/08/25**  
**Online**

**Instructor Information:** Ms. Melissa Dightman, mdightman@com.edu

**Student hours and location:** online by appointment

**Required Textbook/Materials:** Required reading will be on Brightspace as PDF's.

**Course Description:** This course is designed for students with no previous training in music that wish to explore the meaning and forms of music: classical, romantic, contemporary, jazz, folk, pop. The emphasis is on learning how to listen to and appreciate music. Attendance is based on your completion of course work. This is an academic class with specific assignments and goals, yet you may very well find it more fun than work – after all, who doesn't love music? This course will introduce the non-music major to (1) musical analysis, (2) a summary of the historical development of European musical heritage, (3) American music, and (4) the world's cultural diversity as seen through music.

**Course requirements:** Reading and quiz assignments will be due approximately daily/weekly. **Assignments will be due every Sunday.** Don't panic, you can get way ahead and many finish this course early. The chapters are short, and so are the quizzes. DO panic if you get behind and catch up! I am doing something that students told me worked well: if you notice the available dates of the assessments, you will see that they are all open until a specific time during the last few weeks, but please go by the Calendar, if you get behind there will be no extensions beyond that final date—and no incompletes for this course.

1. Read your textbook whether hard copy or online. If you are really in a hurry during part of the course, focus on underlined terms and major headings. Be sure to read the biographies along the way! Three hours per week or less is often more than sufficient for doing all the coursework, but naturally this varies according to your reading/writing levels and prior music experience.

2. When you are ready, take the graded Reading Quizzes by clicking on the Microsoft Forms and try to go by the Calendar schedule. If you get behind, catch up by the final week or you will forfeit grades.

**Determination of Course Grade/Detailed Grading Formula:** As described above, you will be evaluated on work by listening/reading quizzes, discussions, and reports.

100% Quizzes – over text and listening examples. Listening Quizzes are of course different from Reading Quizzes; a few chapters have no listening required and so you will have just one quiz then. Your semester quiz grade is calculated from a total of all points. (I will add points to compensate for any questions that everyone misses due to any mistakes made by the publisher or me, plus the entire class will be curved if necessary to create a perfect total by the top student or students.

**Late Work, Make-Up, and Extra-Credit Policy:** Late Work and Make-Up assignments are up to professor discretion and case by case.

### **Grading Scale**

**90-100=A, 80-89=B, 70-79=C, 60-69=D, 0-59=F**

**Attendance Policy:** Due to the nature of your class being asynchronous (online), attendance will be recorded on completion of assignments in a timely manner (the due dates).

**Communicating with your instructor:** ALL electronic communication with the instructor must be through your COM email. Due to FERPA restrictions, faculty cannot share any information about performance in the class through other electronic means.

### **Learning Outcomes**

This course is part of the core curriculum and therefore satisfies our Creative Arts requirement. The following competencies are part of the core, and are listed below with information on their inclusion and means of assessment in this course as mandated by the state's Coordinating Board:

1)Critical Thinking (CT): Required (SLO #1—see above section) Assessment of your creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation, and synthesis of information is done through our final Discussion project in which you are to sum up by giving your rationale for choosing a favorite and least favorite work from the style periods studied during the semester.

2)Teamwork: Required (SLO #2) Assessment of your ability to consider different points of view and to work with others effectively to support a shared purpose or goal will be made through our Discussion project on the elements of music in which the class members work together to create effective definitions of the art form.

3)Communication Skills: Required (SLO #3) Your ability to develop, interpret, and express ideas through written communication is assessed through three concert reports.

4)Social Responsibility: Required (SLO #4) Intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities is

assessed on a special Discussion in the Concerts area on concert decorum awareness and how it varies widely according to contexts.

**Academic Dishonesty:** Any incident of academic dishonesty will be dealt with in accordance with college policy and the Student Handbook. Academic dishonesty – such as cheating on exams is an extremely serious offense and will result in a grade of zero on that exam and the student will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct for the appropriate disciplinary action. **PLAGIARISM:** Plagiarism is using someone else’s words or ideas and claiming them as your own – including using AI programs to “create” documents for you.

Plagiarism is a very serious offense. Plagiarism includes paraphrasing someone else’s words without giving proper citation, copying directly from a website, and pasting it into your paper, using someone else’s words without quotation marks. I always encourage students to use grammar learning programs, (such as Turnitin – or Grammarly), to help you - this is not the same as using an AI program to create and/or write a document. Any assignment containing any plagiarized material will receive a grade of zero and the student will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct for the appropriate disciplinary action.

**Student Concerns:** If you have any questions or concerns about any aspect of this course, please contact me using the contact information previously provided. If, after discussing your concern with me, you continue to have questions, please contact Dr. Kristina Janz Fine Arts Department Chair, at [kjantz@com.edu](mailto:kjantz@com.edu) or 409-933-8255.

**Course outline:**

Week 1: Assignment and quizzes: Part I Musical Elements

Week 2: Assignment and quizzes: Part II and III Middle Ages and Renaissance Periods

Week 3: Assignment and quizzes: Part IV Baroque Periods

Week 4: Assignment and quizzes: Part V Classical and Romantic Periods

Week 5: Assignment and quizzes: Part VI Twentieth Century and Beyond

## Institutional Policies and Guidelines

**Grade Appeal Process:** Concerns about the accuracy of grades should first be discussed with the instructor. A request for a change of grade is a formal request and must be made within six months of the grade assignment. Directions for filing an appeal can be found in the student handbook [https://www.com.edu/student-services/docs/Student\\_Handbook\\_2024-2025\\_v2.pdf](https://www.com.edu/student-services/docs/Student_Handbook_2024-2025_v2.pdf). *An appeal will not be considered because of general dissatisfaction with a grade, penalty, or outcome of a course. Disagreement with the instructor's professional judgment of the quality of the student's work and performance is also not an admissible basis for a grade appeal.*

**Academic Success & Support Services:** College of the Mainland is committed to providing students the necessary support and tools for success in their college careers. Support is offered through our Tutoring Services, Library, Counseling, and through Student Services. Please discuss any concerns with your faculty or an advisor.

**ADA Statement:** Any student with a documented disability needing academic accommodations is requested to contact:

Kimberly Lachney, Student Accessibility Services Coordinator

Phone: 409-933-8919

Email: [AccessibilityServices@com.edu](mailto:AccessibilityServices@com.edu)

Location: COM Doyle Family Administration Building, Student Success Center

**Textbook Purchasing Statement:** A student attending College of the Mainland is not under any obligation to purchase a textbook from the college-affiliated bookstore. The same textbook may also be available from an independent retailer, including an online retailer.

**Withdrawal Policy:** Students may withdraw from this course for any reason prior to the last eligible day for a "W" grade. Before withdrawing students should speak with the instructor and consult an advisor. Students are permitted to withdraw only six times during their college career by state law. The last date to withdraw from the 1<sup>st</sup> 5-week session is June 30. The last date to withdraw from the 10-week session is July 29. The last date to withdraw for the 2<sup>nd</sup> 5-week session is August 1.

**FN Grading:** The FN grade is issued in cases of *failure due to a lack of attendance*, as determined by the instructor. The FN grade may be issued for cases in which the student ceases or fails to attend class, submit assignments, or participate in required capacities, and for which the student has failed to withdraw. The issuing of the FN grade is at the discretion of the instructor. The last date of attendance should be documented for submission of an FN grade.

**Early Alert Program:** The Student Success Center at College of the Mainland has implemented an Early Alert Program because student success and retention are very important to us. I have been asked to refer students to the program throughout the semester if they are having difficulty completing assignments or have poor attendance. If you are referred to the Early Alert Program you

will be contacted by someone in the Student Success Center who will schedule a meeting with you to see what assistance they can offer in order for you to meet your academic goals.

**Resources to Help with Stress:**

If you are experiencing stress or anxiety about your daily living needs including food, housing or just feel you could benefit from free resources to help you through a difficult time, please click here <https://www.com.edu/community-resource-center/>. College of the Mainland has partnered with free community resources to help you stay on track with your schoolwork, by addressing life issues that get in the way of doing your best in school. All services are private and confidential. You may also contact the Dean of Students office at [deanofstudents@com.edu](mailto:deanofstudents@com.edu) or [communityresources@com.edu](mailto:communityresources@com.edu).

**Nondiscrimination Statement:**

The College District prohibits discrimination, including harassment, against any individual on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, age, veteran status, disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender (including gender identity and gender expression), or any other basis prohibited by law. Retaliation against anyone involved in the complaint process is a violation of College District policy.