



Syllabus
MUSI 1306 - 053I5 Music Appreciation
Instructor: Aaron Vierkant
Semester: Summer 2
Email: avierkant@com.edu

Course Title	Music Appreciation (Online)
Course Schedule	Fully Online, Asynchronous Instruction, Summer 2025: July 7 – August 8
Course Description	Understanding music through the study of cultural periods, major composers, and musical elements, illustrated with audio recordings and live performances. This lecture course is entirely online with asynchronous instruction.
Learning Outcomes	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Identify musical works and elements in a variety of styles.2. Analyze the elements and structures of music using appropriate terminology.3. Critically evaluate the influence of social, political, technological, and/or cultural ideas on music.4. Articulate the significance of music as an art form within historical, cultural and social contexts.
Prerequisite Corequisite	Core Category Creative Arts [50] College Level Readiness in Reading AND Writing None required
Credit Hours	3 Credit Hours (Lecture)
Required Materials	<i>Students will NOT be required to purchase any materials for this course. Any and all notes, videos, lectures, etc. will be provided by the instructor.</i>

Instructor's Office Hours	Please contact me via email to set up a virtual meeting via Zoom. I will respond within 36 hours to any student email or D2L Brightspace message. Students, it is required that you use your com.edu email address or D2L email for communication in this class. Personal email addresses are frequently blocked or sent to spam, delaying my receipt of your email and my response back to you. I prefer D2L email for correspondence.
Instructor's Contact Information	Aaron Vierkant, Adjunct Professor of Music Email: avierkant@com.edu
Department chair contact information	Dr. Kristina Jantz, Fine Arts Department Chair 409-933-8255 kjantz@com.edu
Evaluation	<p>Students will be graded upon the following criteria: The final total grade will consist of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unit Written Assignments: 50% • Discussion Board Posts: 40% • Final Essay: 10%
Course Schedule	<p>This course will operate slightly differently from some of you may be used to. Although there are no set times where we will meet as a class, EVERY assignment has a strictly enforced deadline. Please do not wait until the last week of the course to submit all of your assignments, as work turned in that late will not be accepted for credit.</p> <p>I would recommend, if your schedule permits, to work as far ahead as early as possible. It is very likely that you could finish this course in a matter of a week or 2 if you build that time into your schedule.</p>
Assignments	<p>This course is conducted entirely online, using asynchronous communications. You are not required to be online at specific times. You are, however, required to keep up with strictly enforced deadlines that reasonably accommodate students' schedules.</p> <p>You are required to login and remain active in this course throughout the semester. In addition to meeting all posted deadlines, you are expected to login and check for email and/or announcements on a <u>daily basis</u> during the week. Deadlines are outlined in the Course Calendar document, found under the CONTENT tab on the D2L Course Page.</p>

The assignment due dates are as follows:

Weeks 1 - 4: Sunday at 11:59pm

Week 5: Friday at 11:59pm

Week 1: 7/7 - 7/13

- Discussion Post 1
- Musical Reflection 1, Pop

Week 2: 7/14 - 7/20

- Discussion Post 2
- Musical Reflection 2, Jazz & Rock N' Roll
- Discussion Post 3
- Musical Reflection 3, Blues

Week 3: 7/21 - 7/27

- Discuss Post 4
- Musical Reflection 4, Rap/Hip Hop
- Discussion Post 5
- Musical Reflection 5, Heavy Metal

Week 4: 7/28 - 8/3

- Discussion Post 6
- Musical Reflection 6, Punk Rock
- Discussion Post 7
- Musical Reflection 7, Country

Week 5: 8/4 - 8/8 (DUE ON FRIDAY)

- Discussion Post 8
- Final Musical Reflection, Your Choice!

Assignments/Exams Policies:

Late work is generally not accepted, and exams cannot be made up except under extenuating circumstances (i.e., death of a family member, hospitalization, communicable illness). **Documentation is required for these considerations, and it will be the instructor's prerogative to allow makeup work or not.** You are expected to keep pace with the syllabus schedule. *Get in the habit of turning in assignments at least 24 hours before they are due in case you run into technical problems.* * **You must communicate with me via email BEFORE the deadline if you are dealing with an issue and require an extension. ***

Letter Grade Assignment

Final letter grades will be assigned in the following manner:

100 – 90 **(A)**

89 – 80 **(B)**

79 – 70 **(C)**

69 – 60 **(D)**

59 and below **(F)**

While every effort will be made to keep your current grade in the class viewable to you and accurately updated on D2L at any given time, your patience is appreciated, as keeping such records current is time-consuming.

FN Grading**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. *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

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 1st 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 2nd 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 or 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.

**Other
Information**

Check your D2L email and D2L News Announcements EVERY DAY!

All course-related notices from the instructor, including assignment updates, assessment, and other course-related business, will be delivered through the Announcements section in D2L and through the D2L email system. Students should communicate with the instructor through D2L email.

For assistance with D2L email, check out this help sheet:

[D2L Email for Students](#)

Be professional and respectful!

Treat your fellow learners and your instructors with respect, particularly when responding with an opposing viewpoint to ideas or comments made on class discussion board posts. Every student is expected to be respectful of his/her/their classmates' culture, opinions and beliefs. Your thoughtful comments and relevant questions are enthusiastically welcome!

Emails in professional and educational settings are not the same as text or social media messages!

- *Begin* with a greeting (Dear Mr. History Professor; Good morning, Ms. Math Professor; Hello Dr. Dean of My Division).
- *Identify yourself* and the class you are enrolled in - especially if your email address doesn't contain your name. Offer your preferred pronouns.
- *State your question* or request - and then proofread it for clarity and tone.
- *Thank the recipient* for their time and close with a respectful signoff and your first and last name (Sincerely, Student Name).

Unless you are specifically given instructions to do so, avoid addressing faculty and staff members by their first name. When in doubt, Mr./Ms./Mx. Professor is just fine!

Please remember that this syllabus is subject to change. All changes will be documented by the instructor.

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