



Syllabus
MUSI 1306 - 05412 Music Appreciation
Instructor: Aaron Vierkant
Semester: Spring 2025
Email: avierkant@com.edu

Course Title	Music Appreciation (Online)
Course Schedule	Fully Online, Asynchronous Instruction, Spring 2025: March 10 – May 4
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	Core Category Creative Arts [50]
Corequisite	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

Students will be graded upon the following criteria:

The final total grade will consist of the following:

- Unit Written Assignments : **50%**
- Discussion Board Posts: **40%**
- Final Essay: **10%**

**Course
Schedule**

This course will operate slightly differently than 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.

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.

Assignments

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.

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 **daily basis** during the week. Deadlines are outlined in the Course Calendar document, found under the CONTENT tab on the D2L Course Page.

The assignment due dates are as follows:

Week 1: 3/10 - 3/16

- Discussion Post 1
- Musical Reflection 1, Pop

Week 2: 3/17 - 3/23

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

Week 3: 3/24 - 3/30

- Discussion Post 3
- Musical Reflection 3, Blues

Week 4: 3/31 - 4/6

- Discuss Post 4
- Musical Reflection 4, Rap/Hip Hop

Week 5: 4/7 - 4/13

- Discussion Post 5
- Musical Reflection 5, Heavy Metal

Week 6: 4/14 - 4/20

- Discussion Post 6
- Musical Reflection 6, Punk Rock

Week 7: 4/21 - 4/27

- Discussion Post 7
- Musical Reflection 7, Country

Week 8: 4/28 - 5/4

EVERYTHING IS DUE ON 5/4!!!!

- 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. *

Final letter grades will be assigned in the following manner:

Letter Grade Assignment	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 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.

Technology Assistance For general help with D2L issues, visit [D2L Resources for Students](#) or connect with VTAC Chat from the D2L Course Page under “Support.”

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 8-week session is April 30th.

A faculty-initiated withdrawal of a student for non-attendance will be at the discretion of the faculty, must have instructional lead or dean approval, and be done in accordance with the attendance section in their syllabus (see attendance policy above). This action is in accordance with the Academic Catalog, both for Class Attendance and Course Withdrawal Policy. The faculty member must communicate via email to any students notifying them of their withdrawal from the course.

If you feel overwhelmed by this or any other course, read this before taking any action:

It is important that you are successful in this course. If you are having difficulties that might impact your ability to complete the course, it is vital that you contact me to discuss your options. After our discussion, if you feel that you need to withdraw from the course, it is your responsibility to do so before the final day to withdraw.

Withdrawal from the course should be your *last* option. Ask for help sooner rather than later, and we can work together to find the solution that is best for your situation.

**Syllabus
Change**

While every attempt has been made to prepare this syllabus and class schedule in final form, it will be the instructor's prerogative to make any changes as may be deemed necessary to meet the learning outcomes of the course. Students will be notified in writing of any change.

**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.

**Code for
Academic
Honesty**

College of the Mainland upholds the core values of learning: honesty, respect, fairness, and accountability. CoM promotes the importance of personal and academic honesty. CoM embraces the belief that all learners - students, faculty, staff, and administrators - will act with integrity and honesty and must produce their own work and give appropriate credit to the work of others. Fabrication of sources, cheating, or unauthorized collaboration is not permitted on any work submitted within the system.

The consequences for academic dishonesty are determined by the professor, or the professor and academic dean, or the professor and chief student services officer and can include but are not limited to:

1. Having additional class requirements imposed,
2. Receiving a grade of zero or "F" for an exam or assignment,
3. Receiving a grade of "F" for the course,
4. Being withdrawn from the course or program,
5. Being expelled from the college system.

Professors should clearly document how the student's actions violated the academic integrity policy, how a grade was calculated, and the actions taken.

In general, plagiarism means passing off others ideas as your own or writings of another without giving proper credit by documenting sources. This includes submitting a paper, report, or project that someone else has prepared, in whole or in part. It also includes inappropriately collaborating on assignments or tests designed to be completed independently.

**Equal
Opportunity
Statement**

Check the Catalog for the statement concerning the equal opportunity principle or go to [Equal Opportunity Statement](#).

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

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.*

Emergency Procedures Click on the following link for information on [Emergency procedures](#)

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.

**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.

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.