



**MUSI 1306-154CL  
Music Appreciation  
Spring Semester, 2024**

**CLASS MEETINGS:** Monday and Wednesday, 12:30 p.m.- 1:50 p.m. Fine Arts Building, Room F-117

**INSTRUCTOR:** Dr. James Heffel, Professor; [jheffel@com.edu](mailto:jheffel@com.edu), 409-933-8200, (from Houston Metro) 1- 888-258-8859 Ext. 8200

Please leave a callback number if I do not answer in person.

The Fine Arts Administrative Assistant is usually available during business hours at extension 8943 to take messages.

**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.

Generally, I answer all inquiries within 48 hours or sooner, but if you email or call on Friday-Sunday, I may be occasionally out of town performing or teaching a workshop in the real world (and away from the virtual one) until Monday.

**OFFICE:** Fine Arts F-112

**STUDENT (OFFICE) HOURS:** Appointments during scheduled hours (or at other times) are encouraged so that time can be devoted to each student individually. Office hours are posted on the door of F-112.

**TEXT (Required):** *Listen*, 10<sup>th</sup> Edition, Joseph Kerman and Gary Tomlinson, published by W. W. Norton (**Note:** previous editions of this text are by another publisher and will no longer give you access to the course site.)

**IMPORTANT:** You will need the **student set number** I provide in the Read Me First and my introductory lecture, along with a **code from Norton** to get to the online quizzes!

You can choose your option; no matter what you will need access to the publisher's Inquizitive site to do the majority of the coursework, especially the quizzes.

1. Paperback with access to Inquizitive
2. 3-hole punch with access to Inquizitive
3. Ebook with access to Inquizitive: purchased at <https://digital.wwnorton.com/Listen10>

There are bound to be a few mistakes here and there in the text. Please let me know of any problems you encounter so I can try to correct them and/or compensate your grades.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION/BENEFITS:** 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 at two out-of-class concerts required. Out-of-class listening required. May be used for fine art credit.

Benefits: We will be listening to a variety of great music while developing listening skills and vocabulary for increased understanding and enjoyment. 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 twice weekly. 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 do not count off for being late, 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! Also, you will really need to *listen* (hey, that's the title of your book!) since even some of the reading quiz questions will make no sense to you otherwise. Three hours per week 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 Listening/Reading Quizzes by clicking on the Inquizitive icon at Norton digital (these are like games you play and you can keep going until your score is what you want!!), and try to go by the Calendar schedule. If you get behind, catch up by the final week or you will forfeit grades!

3. Participate in classroom discussions.

4. Attend two concerts and write reports on them. You'll find a section devoted to this project below in your syllabus.

**SPECIAL NOTE:** The instructor reserves the right to make changes to the syllabus during the semester to make things clearer or to add additional opportunities for points but will notify the class in such cases.

**CONCERT REPORTS:** **Two** are required, and from concerts that actually take place during the semester. You can still possibly make an A if you only attend one, so there are no exceptions granted. You can often find free holiday concerts throughout the year if you look, and it shouldn't be difficult to find ones that match your own interests. Concert report forms will be provided in hard copy. If you are absolutely unable to attend, you might still get a B. But you can go enjoy yourself and potentially get an A for it—what a bargain!

**GUIDLINES:** The reports should be 1-2 pages double-spaced with a font of 12-13, and should be turned in on the calendar due date. Refer to at least two selections by title/composer, time and place, names of venue/performers, your reaction, and description of audience (dress, behavior, reaction, etc.). You may submit reports to me online as attachments, but if I cannot open the file, I cannot grade your report, so please send as Word attachments or else just paste into your email text. Doing both to be double sure is best.

Your reports will be scanned for originality, so do not copy/paste or you'll get an F! (Credited quotes are fine.) For assistance in researching your reports, you may find the Virtual Librarian very helpful in finding resources in the COM Library and beyond. You'll find a link to the COM Library's Virtual Librarian page under Web Resources in the COM Resources folder. Remember that plagiarized reports (very easy to catch and prove) are grounds for serious action!

**The Speaking, Reading and Writing Center** provides free tutoring services to students, staff and faculty seeking assistance for writing, reading and oral presentations for academic and non-academic assignments/projects. The center provides face-to-face and online tutoring sessions in a welcoming environment.

**EXTRA CREDIT:** I am often asked if there is extra credit given. In response to student demand, I have redesigned the grading formula to allow the opportunity to gain extra quiz points! There are sections interspersed throughout your e-book called "Global Perspectives." The GP Inquizitives are now built-in, so if you get a 100 on the chapters where these are included you automatically get some extra points.

Those students wishing to receive Honors Program credit may consult with me to fill out an honors contract.

**METHODS OF EVALUATION:** A variety of means to evaluate student performance is employed, such as discussion participation, written reports, and quizzes/exams on both reading and listening materials.

**GRADING FORMULA/SCALE:** As described above, you will be evaluated on work in listening/reading quizzes, discussions, and reports.

50% 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.)

35% Attendance, discussion and class participation.

15% Concert reports - 2 live concerts, at least one of which must be "art music." I will inform the class from time to time of on-campus performances, which are always free. Each report receives 7.5 points.

**NO FINAL EXAM!!**

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

**GRADING SCALE**

- A Superior achievement of course objectives.
- B Outstanding achievement of course objectives.
- C Achievement of minimum course objectives. (Not recommended in your major!)
- D Marginal achievement of course objectives.
- F Failure to achieve course objectives.
- W Withdrawal on or before the “W” date as specified in the College Calendar.\*

NOTE: This instructor regrettably does not award incompletes. You will have to enroll again and start over if you don’t finish.

\*For more information, go to this semester’s college schedule. It is your responsibility to withdraw from the course officially by contacting Admissions and completing the necessary paperwork. The withdraw date for the spring semester of 2024 is April 22, 2024

**MAKE-UP/LATE WORK:** The final due date is exactly that: final. Incompletes are not given in this course. Work completed after the final deadline will not count. Do not wait until late in the semester to “catch up” since you may encounter difficulties that we will not have enough time to work through together.

### **COURSE OUTLINE:**

Note: The following is a general outline of the schedule as planned. Some adjustments may be made during the course of each semester according to needs of the class, weather closings, holidays, etc.

#### **Fall course schedule**

Week 1: Course Navigation, Introduction to Listening Resources  
Discussion on Musical Preferences

Week 2: Readings and quizzes on basic elements/vocabulary

Week 3: Assignment and quiz: melody, harmony, tonality/modality, instrumentation,  
Assignment and quiz: form  
Listening quiz on all elements

Week 4: Assignment and quizzes: Middle Ages  
Assignment and quizzes: Renaissance

Week 5: Assignment and quizzes: Baroque (early)  
Assignment and quizzes: Baroque (late)

Week 6: Assignment and quizzes: Baroque Instrumental Music  
Assignment and quizzes: Baroque Vocal Music

Week 7: Assignment and quizzes: Background: the Enlightenment  
Assignment and quizzes: The Classical Symphony

Week 8: Assignment and quizzes: Other Genres of the Classic Era  
Assignment and quizzes: Beethoven

Week 9: Assignment and quizzes: Background: Romanticism  
Assignment and quizzes: Early Romantic Composers

Week 10: Assignment and quizzes: Opera in the 1800’s  
Assignment and quizzes: Late Romantic Composers

Week 11: Assignment and quizzes: Background: Modernism  
Assignment and quizzes: Early Modern Composers  
Week 12: Assignment and quizzes: Other styles after 1900  
Discussion on Meaning of Music  
Week 13: Assignment and quizzes: Music of the late 1900's  
Week 14: Assignment and quizzes: Music in the U.S.  
Discussion on musical selections heard during the semester  
Week 15: Readings, Listening, and Quizzes: Global (Multicultural) Perspectives  
Week 16: Concert Reports (2) due May 8 at end of class period

**ATTENDANCE POLICY:** As this is a structured, face to face lecture format, attendance is considerably important! The instructor reserves the right to drop or fail any student who has not attended 4 class sessions. However, do not assume that you will be automatically dropped. Most likely you will not, and it is up to you to contact Dr. Heffel and/or drop *before* "W" day if you are concerned about your grade. **You will need to fill out the drop form and turn it in yourself.**

**TARDINESS:** Please do not be late for class! You may miss some important information that is shared at the beginning of class time.

## **STUDENT LEARNER OUTCOMES:**

Upon successful completion, you will be able to:

- 1) Identify musical works and elements in a variety of styles. (See Critical Thinking objective below.)
- 2) Analyze the elements and structures of music using appropriate terminology - especially genres, melody, rhythm, harmony, form, and expression. (See Teamwork objective below.)
- 3) Critically evaluate the influence of social, political, technological, and/or cultural ideas on music. (See Communication Skills objective below.)
- 4) Articulate the significance of music as an art form within historical, cultural and social contexts. (See Social Responsibility objective below.)

## **CORE OBJECTIVES**

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.

<b>Student Learner Outcome</b>	<b>Maps to Core Objective</b>	<b>Assessed via this Assignment</b>
1. Identify styles of historic musical periods and current musical trends.	Critical Thinking Skills (CT)	Discussion Project
2. Show effective teamwork through participatory group activity.	Teamwork (TW)	Discussion Project
3. Demonstrate through written communication your ability to analyze elements of music, especially genres, melody, rhythm, harmony, form, and expression.	Communication Skills (CS1)	Concert Reports
4. Demonstrate awareness of concert decorum appropriate to the venue/occasion/culture.	Social Responsibility	Discussion Project

**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. 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. 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.

**Avoiding Plagiarism-resources:**

<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/589/01/>

<http://cmsw.mit.edu/writing-and-communication-center/avoiding-plagiarism/>

**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 Paul Boyd at 409-933-8342 or [pboyd@com.edu](mailto:pboyd@com.edu)

## 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\\_2023-2024\\_v2.pdf](https://www.com.edu/student-services/docs/Student_Handbook_2023-2024_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 at 409-933-8919 or [klachney@com.edu](mailto:klachney@com.edu). The Office of Services for Students with Disabilities is located in the 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> 8-week session is February 28. The last date to withdraw from the 16-week session is April 22. The last date to withdraw for the 2<sup>nd</sup> 8-week session is May 1. The last date to withdraw for spring mini session is May 29.

**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).