FAR 103 – Introduction to Fine Arts: Music

Instructor – Randy Blair
Phone – (308) 380-4566
E-Mail – randy.blair@doane.edu
Office Hours – By Appointment

Course Description
An introduction to the art of music as an expression of the cultures of civilizations, both East and West, through selected examples of music literature. This course fulfills one of the Doane Plan course requirements in aesthetics.

Required Text
None. However, students will need to have an iPod, iPad, thumb drive, or CD burner upon which to bring music samples to class and for use in creating the term project. There is a $25.00 course fee required for this course.

Course Objectives
This is an overview course of the development of music from the Middle Ages through the 20th century and its influence on contemporary music. This is not a course in music theory. The course will review the chronological development of music over the past 10 centuries, the evolution of musical genres, and the impact historically relevant musical styles upon the music of today. The course will include a study of the use of music in movies and television, as well as the influence of music through pop culture mediums such as MTV, VH-1, iPod, iPad, iTunes and other on-line music sources, etc. Each class will consist of a brief historical context, listening to samples of music from the period, listening to samples of contemporary music influenced by the historic style, and discussion of the similarities and differences of the historic form and the contemporary form of the style.

During the course a combination of brief historical outline, audio listening exercises, video presentations and class projects will be utilized to provide the students with an appreciation of music throughout history, as well as its impact upon the contemporary music scene. Students will be given the opportunity to select and analyze a musical selection as an individual project to be presented to the class. In addition, there will be an occasional homework assignment requiring that samples of a variety of musical styles be analyzed and/or brought to class for discussion.

Course Grading
The final course grade will be composed of the following:

- Listening Exam on musical styles- 30 points
- Individual Musical Project 60 points
- Homework - 10 points

Projected Grade Distribution will be as follows:
- A 90 – 100 points
- B 80 – 89 points
- C 70 – 79 points
- D 60 – 69 points
Listening Exam:
The listening exam will require the students to identify time signatures, major and minor keys, and tempo, as well as musical selections by period, style, and/or composer by simply listening to samples of music.

Individual Course Project:
Each student will be required to present a project to the class on the final class meeting of the term. The project will include a single musical selection that the student will present, analyze musically, provide historical context, show additional renderings of the piece, and research composer and performers.

Homework:
Homework will consist primarily of analyses of samples of music that will be selected by the instructor.

Class Participation:
Discussion is an important part of this class and the students’ input is valuable to the entire class. Class participation is required. Students are expected to be present at each class session and to make constructive contributions to the class discussion on a regular basis. In order to involve students who might be hesitant to participate in class discussions, the instructor will randomly call on students to comment upon or give insight into issues being discussed by the class.

Attendance Policy:
Attendance at class is mandatory. Students missing class for any reason are not excused from completing all class assignments, including homework. Exams missed due to absence may not be made up unless prior arrangement has been made with the instructor or, at the sole discretion of the instructor, extraordinary circumstances forced missing of the exam. All exams must be completed prior to final grades being released. Because the term involves only seven (7) class sessions, missing a single class can make it difficult to stay up with assignments and lecture content. While no grade penalty will be assessed for one (1) absence, it is highly recommended that students attend all class sessions. A second absence will result in the lowering of one (1) letter grade. A third absence will result in failure of the course.

Course Outline:
**Session No. 1 – Musical Foundations**
- Course Introduction
- Personal Introductions
- The Impact of Music upon Societies
- Basic Tonal Notation
- Basic Rhythmic Notation
- Effective Listening Techniques
- The Music Project

**Session No. 2 – Music of the Middle Ages (500 A.D. – 1420 A.D.)**
- Music of the Church – Gregorian Chant and Ars Antigua
- Secular Music – The Trouvères and Troubadours, and the Motet
- Stylistic elements in today’s music
Session No. 3 - The Music of the Renaissance (1420 A.D. – 1600 A.D.)
Dance Music
Choral Polyphony
Madrigals
Stylistic elements in today’s music

Session No. 4 – The Baroque Period (1600 A.D. – 1750 A.D.)
Bach
Early Opera
The Concerto
Stylistic elements in today’s music

Session No. 5 - The Classical Period (1750 A.D. – 1820 A.D.)
The Viennese Style
The Symphony
The Big Three: Haydn, Mozart, and Beethoven
Stylistic elements in today’s music

Session No. 6 – The Romantic Era (1820 A.D. – 1900 A.D.)
The Emotion of Romanticism
The School of Italian Opera
Nationalism in Music
Stylistic elements in today’s music

Session No. 7 - The Twentieth Century
Schoenberg and the New Tonal Schemes
The Impressionism of Debussy and Bartók
The Avant-garde Style of Varèse and Cage
The Cross-over Applications of Today’s Music

Session No. 8 - The Continuing Evolution of Music
Jazz, Blues, R&B, Rock, and Country – American Contributions to the Mix
Music in Movies and Television
Stylistic elements of today’s music
Recap
Concert Evaluation & Analysis
Listening Examination
Class Presentations