Instructor: Sarah Farr
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Classroom:

Time: Wednesdays 6 p.m.

Office Hours: By appointment

Text: No required text, materials available online via Blackboard

Course Objectives: This course is designed to work within the Doane Plan for returning students and within the Doane Core for new students. We will examine the history and development of formal Western music through the centuries to current practices. We will also examine the relationship between formal Western (classical) music and popular culture, including popular music genres, film, and television.

Grading: Grading for the course will comprise of your work in four categories and will be weighted as follows:
Exam: 50%
Course Project: 25%
Attendance, Assignments & Quizzes: 25%

Exams
An exam will be given at the end of the course. The exam will be divided into two portions: a listening exam and a written exam. The listening exam will involve identifying selections of music studied in class. The written portion will test your knowledge of material covered in class and in assigned readings.

Course Project
You will complete one project for this course. This is an individual project, not a group project. This project can take various forms, based on your interest and preferences in approaching our musical material. The following are some sample projects, but feel free to think outside of the box. All projects must have a one page, written proposal submitted for approval. The proposal will include the type of
project you intend to complete and the musical topic or material you will use in your project.

Sample Project Topics:

Commercial
Classical music is often used to sell or promote products. Create a commercial for a product of your choice and choose the classical selection you feel best promotes the product you chose. Remember that few commercials last longer than two minutes. With your commercial should be a one to two page explanation of why you chose the music you did and why it best promotes the product you are trying to sell.

Movie/Theatrical Scene
Movie soundtracks are full of examples of classical music. Classical composers have also written music for the theatrical stage for centuries. Choose a movie scene to rescore with classical music of your choice. Or, choose a scene from the theatre repertoire, film a performance of this scene and use a classical music selection that you believe best suits the scene. This scene should be accompanied by a 1 to 2 page paper explaining your music choice.

Descriptive Program/Creative Writing
Many composers created works with detailed imagery and even plots in mind. Some went so far as to write programs to guide listeners through the dramatic motion of their composition. Choose a piece of music and create a dramatic program or work of fiction that specifically correlates to the piece of music you chose. Your writing should be detailed, 5 pages minimum typed length, and should include time stamps to alert the reader how the written action correlates to the progression of the piece of music.

Paper
Chose a composer or performer not covered in this course. Write a scholarly paper covering the life, work, and significance of the individual you chose. You should utilize at least 5 scholarly sources and your paper should be at least 6 pages long. All information must be properly cited using either MLA or Chicago/Turabian citing techniques.
Attendance, Assignments & Quizzes
Attendance at class is required. Absences may be excused with prior notice with a legitimate reason to be gone. Assignments will be given in class and will also be posted on Blackboard for your reference. Quizzes will be given at the beginning of each class and may cover material from in class discussion, assigned readings, or both, usually focused on the material covered the previous week.

Extra Credit
Extra credit opportunities will be available throughout the course. These will take the form of extra credit projects and in-class opportunities.

Disabilities:  As per school policy:
Students with disabilities substantially limiting a major life activity are eligible for reasonable accommodations in college programs, including this course. Accommodations provide equal opportunity to obtain the same level of achievement while maintaining the standards of excellence of the college. If you have a disability that may interfere with your participation or performance in this course, please meet with me to discuss disability related accommodations and other special learning needs.

If you have questions about the contents of this syllabus or any aspect of the course, please feel free to contact me either in person or via email.
Schedule

The readings listed are to be completed prior to the course date with which they are associated. Please listen to the CD tracks that are mentioned in each reading prior to class. This Schedule may be subject to change as the course progresses.

Day 1, March 11
   Introduction, Syllabus Review, Overview
   Terminology & Elements of Music

Day 2, March 18
   The Middle Ages,
   The Renaissance
   The Early Baroque

Day 3, March 25
   The Late Baroque, Vivaldi
   Johann Sebastian Bach
   George Frideric Handel

Day 4, April 1
   The Classical Period
   Franz Joseph Haydn
   Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
   Chapter 8, Beethoven

Day 5, April 8
   Project Proposal Due
   Beethoven
   Romanticism: Schubert, Berlioz, Mendelssohn

Day 6, April 15
   Chopin
   Robert & Clara Schumann
   The Virtuosi
   Brahms

Day 7, April 22
   Opera: Verdi, Wagner, Puccini
   Tchaikovsky
Day 8, April 28
The Twentieth Century:
Claude Debussy
Igor Stravinsky
Schoenberg, Berg, Webern
American Songwriters

Day 9, May 6
Project Due
Listening & Written Exam