Instructor:  Sarah Farr
sarah.farr@doane.edu

Time:  Online Course

Office Hours:  TBA & by appointment (email for text or video consultation)

Text:  No Required Text, Materials 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:
Exams:  50%
Semester Project:  25%
Discussion Posts, Assignments & Quizzes:  25%

Timeline
All course material will be available immediately as the course begins.  This course is structured with flexibility in mind.  You may complete materials, assignments, projects and exams at your own pace.  All materials are due by midnight, March 1.

Exams
Two exams will be given over the course.  They will test your knowledge of material covered in the course.  Study materials and guides will be provided via Blackboard.  Each exam covers half of the material of the course (there is no cumulative final exam).  Exams will be taken through Blackboard.  Each exam may only be taken once.  Once you start an exam you will be forced to complete it (no save and return).  120 minutes is allowed for each exam (although I anticipate you won’t need more than 25 minutes to complete each).
Semester 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. If you would like help choosing a piece or topic, contact me for suggestions.

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.

Performance Review
Review a performance of a major classical work (30+ minutes). The performance may be recorded, live, or available online. Your review should address both the work of the composer (your evaluation of the piece itself) and the work of the performers (how well you think they executed the piece). Reviews should be 3-5 pages in length. Be sure to mention the specific piece and the performers involved in it.
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.

Discussions, Assignments & Quizzes
Online discussions covering ideas or responses to music will be conducted via Blackboard. Assignments will be posted on Blackboard for your reference.

Extra Credit
Extra credit opportunities will be available throughout the semester. These will take the form of extra credit projects and will be posted in the corresponding link on Blackboard. Extra credit opportunities are all due by the end of the course period.

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 speak 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. I respond to all student emails within 2 days of receiving them. If you have tried to contact me and that time period has passed, try again- I either misplaced your email or it didn’t reach me.