

Northeastern Illinois University
The Department of Music and Dance Program
MUS 101 – The Musical Experience
Section L18

Instructor: Dr. Lucia Marchi
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Class times: Friday, 6:10-8:50 in ELC 106
Office hours: Friday, 5:10-6:10, or by appointment

Required Materials

Kerman – Tomlinson, *Listen*, 6th ed + 6CD set (optional)

Purpose:

This course is designed to increase the listener's understanding, and enjoyment of music. For future teachers, such increased knowledge and awareness will also be applicable to the sharing of music in the classroom.

Course Objectives

By the end of the semester the student will demonstrate knowledge/skills in the following areas to the satisfaction of the instructor:

Music Fundamentals

Basic understanding of rhythm, pitch, form and style

Musical Context

An understanding of musical periods

Concert Observation

An increased awareness and understanding of the procedures and context of a musical performance

Course Requirements

1. Class attendance and participation
2. Attendance at a concert of classical music and report on it (5 pages, double-space)
3. One paper on a singer/group/songwriter from the last 30 years (5 pages, double-space)
4. Midterm and final exam

PAPER (5 pages – double spaced)

Choose a group/singer/songwriter of the last 30 years that you like and know well. Include in your paper:

1. a short biography/history of him/her/them
2. an analysis of their public (i.e. fans; their age, ethnicity, etc...)
3. a description of their music. This is the most important part of your paper. Use the appropriate musical terms and try to place the music in the historical development studied in class.
4. your personal reaction to their music. Why do you like them?

CONCERT REPORT (5 pages – double spaced)

Attend a concert of classical music (attach the ticket). Include in your paper:

1. a brief description of the setting: concert hall, stage set-up, type of audience, audience reaction
2. a discussion of the music you heard. This is the main body of your paper. Include titles and composers, instrumentation; what periods of music are represented by each piece; if there are program notes, describe how they helped or hindered your appreciation of the music; describe the pieces, including tempo, texture, meter, rhythm, dynamics. Use the appropriate musical terms. You may want to focus on one section only or draw comparisons between several works.
3. **briefly** state your personal reactions to the concert and to the music and state your reasons for enjoying or not enjoying the concert.

FREE (or almost free) CONCERTS:

1. NEIU Music Department
(http://www.neiu.edu/Academics/College%20of%20Arts_Sciences/Departments_Programs/Music/Concerts/eventschedule.html)
2. Chicago Cultural Center
(http://www.explorechicago.org/city/en/things_see_do/event_landing/special_events/dca_tourism/Classical_Music.html)
3. Civic Orchestra of Chicago (<http://www.cso.org/main.taf?p=3,11,6&CategoryID=civic&SeasonID=0910>)
4. Chicago Symphony Orchestra - \$10 student tickets (<http://www.cso.org/>)

Attendance

Attendance is mandatory. More than **one** missed class will lower your attendance grade.

Class preparation and participation

To prepare for class, you have to do the readings and the listenings assigned for the day and be prepared to discuss them in class. Students will be evaluated for preparedness for each class, and you demonstrate this by participating in class discussions and asking appropriate questions.

To access Naxos Music Library: NEIU website / Library / Databases A-Z / Naxos Music Library or Naxos Music Library Jazz

Evaluation and grading

Class attendance and participation	20 points
Paper (due Oct 2)	15 points
Concert report (due Nov 20)	15 points
Midterm exam (Oct 23)	25 points
Final exam (Dec 18)	25 points

Final grades will be calculated as follows:

100-90	A
89-80	B
79-70	C
69-60	D
59 and less	F

Midterm and final should be taken on the scheduled day. NO make-ups!

Late assignment policy: points will be deducted from late assignments

Syllabus

Friday, January 15

Fundamentals of music: pitch, rhythm, dynamics, tone color. Form in music.

Readings: Listen, Ch. 1 and 2

Friday, January 22

Structure of music: Melody, Harmony, Keys. The orchestra. Non-Western music ensembles and instruments

Readings: Listen, Ch.3 and pp. 217-223

Listening: Britten, *The Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra* (DVD, 20-25) – follow with chart at p. 55

Friday, January 29

Twentieth-century American music. Jazz and Blues

Readings: Listen pp. 391-410

Listenings: Thomas, *If you ever been down*; Ellington (CD 6, 22 / on Blackboard), *Conga brava* (CD 6, 23/ Naxos Music Library Jazz); Parker, *Out of Nowhere* (CD 6, 24/ Naxos Music Library Jazz); Davis, *Bitches Brew* (CD 6, 25/ on Blackboard)

Friday, February 5

Rock and beyond

Readings: Listen pp. 415-424

Bring the recording of your favorite jazz/rock/indie/hip-hop/rap etc.... song to class, and be prepared to present it.

Friday, February 12 NO CLASS

Friday, February 19

PAPER DUE

Classical style: Haydn and Mozart

Readings: Listen pp. 169-189 and 195

Listenings: Mozart, *Symphony n. 40, first movement* (CD 2, 16-21) and Haydn, *Symphony no. 95* (CD 2 22-36)

Friday, February 26

Classicism and Romanticism

Readings: Listen pp. 227-246

Listening: Beethoven, *Symphony N. 5* (CD 3, 5-19)

Friday, March 5

The Romantic Piano

Readings: Listen, pp. 254-268

Listenings: Schubert, *Erlkönig* (CD 3, 21); R. Schumann, *Im wunderschönen Monat Mai* (CD 3, 22); Chopin, *Nocturne in F-Sharp* (CD 3, 28)

Friday, March 12

MIDTERM EXAM

Meaning and narrativity in 19th-century music

Readings: Listen, p. 249 (Program music) and 268--75

Listenings: Berlioz, *Fantastic Symphony*, 5th movement (CD 4, 2-8)

Friday, March 19

Meaning and narrativity in 19th-century music/2

Readings: Listen Ch. 18

Listenings: Mahler, *Symphony n.1, 3rd movement* (CD 5, 7-14); Tchaikovsky, *Romeo and Juliet, Overture* (CD 4, 19-30)

Friday, April 2

Musical theater: Opera and Musical

Readings: Listen, Ch 17 and pp. 410-15 (from The American Musical)

Listenings: Verdi, Aida, Act IV, Tomb Scene (CD 4, 9-12 / Naxos 8.554706 nn.18-19); Bernstein, West Side Story, Meeting Scene and *Cool* (CD 6, 27-8 / Naxos 8.559126 track 10)

Friday, April 9

Different ways to Modernism: Debussy, Stravinsky and Schoenberg

Readings: Listen Ch, 19 and 331-343

Listenings: Debussy, Clouds (CD 5, 15-20); Stravinsky, The rite of Spring, Part I (CD 5, 21-27); Schoenberg, from *Pierrot lunaire*, N. 8 *Nacht* (CD 5, 28)

Friday, April 16

CONCERT REPORT DUE

Music after World War I

Readings: Listen Ch. 21

Listening: Ravel, Piano concerto in G, first movement (CD 5, 37-41); Copland, Appalachian Spring (CD 5, 42-5)

Friday, April 23

The late twentieth century: electronic music, chance music and Minimalism

Readings: Listen Ch 22

Listenings: Varèse, Poème électronique (CD 6, 16 / not on Naxos, but on youtube); Reich, Music for 18 Musicians (CD 6, 17-18)

Friday, April 30

Listening to film music.

Readings: TBA

FINAL EXAM: Friday, May 7, 6:10-8:50PM

Other important dates:

1. The last day to add courses is January 25.
2. The last day to drop a course is Friday, April 2.