

# Music Literature, Listening, and Understanding (MUL 2010-xx)

## Florida State University

Instructor:  
Reader:  
Office Hours:

### Course Description

Music plays a very important role in our daily lives. What can we do to better appreciate the music that we listen to? This course is an introduction to music as a manifestation of human culture, as an expressive art form, and as an intellectual discipline. Uniting careful listening with historical and cultural context, you will gain a deeper understanding of various styles of music, including Western concert music (classical music), world music, jazz, and some popular music. Through readings, listening exercises, and concert attendance, you will develop critical listening skills and learn how to discuss and write about music using appropriate terminology. This course is designed for non-music majors, and no prior musical study is necessary.

### Course Objectives

Upon the successful completion of the course, you will be able to:

- Define terms in an appropriate vocabulary for discussion of musical works, and use those terms correctly and effectively in conversation and writing.
- Identify specific musical touchstone works by composer and title, and musical styles by their cultural times and places through listening.
- Explain different cultural functions and practices in different musics.
- Interpret and critique aspects of musical expression within particular musical works, as they arise from the use of elements of musical style.
- Apply critical thinking, writing, and listening skills to any type of music.

### Liberal Studies in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

This course has been approved to meet FSU's Liberal Studies **Humanities and Cultural Practice** requirements and is designed to help you become a thoughtful patron of and participant in cultural practices. By the end of the course, you will be able to:

- 1) Interpret intellectual or artistic works within a cultural context.
- 2) Use a cultural, artistic, or philosophical approach to analyze some aspect of human experience.

## Required Text

Cornelius, Steven, and Mary Natvig. *Music: A Social Experience*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. New York: Routledge, 2019.

There will also be music listening assignments to be completed outside the classroom that you will need to stream from Canvas.

## Assessments and Grading Policy

Quizzes (5)	50%
Group Discussions (3)	15%
Final Paper	25%
Attendance and Participation	10%

A=93-100; A-=90-92.99; B+=87-89.99; B=83-86.99; B-=80-82.99; C+=77-79.99; C=73-76.99; C-=70-72.99; D+=67-69.99; D=63-66.99; D-=60-62.99; F=Below 60

*\*\*\*Note: Final grades will follow the above grading scheme and will not be rounded up (so a 92.75% will be considered an A-, not an A).*

**Weekly Readings and Listening Assignments:** The Canvas course page is organized into fifteen modules organized by week, and within each module you will find that week's reading and listening assignments, as well as supplemental materials. Each week you will be required to study (and listen to) around five separate pieces of music and their composers/performers.

- **Listening:** Listen to each piece of music once before reading the chapter, and at least twice with the textbook's listening guide. This should be done away from any distractions (phone calls, texting, Facebook, etc.). In addition to these three focused listening sessions, you should try to listen to each piece as many times as possible (and you can do other tasks, such as washing the dishes or driving, as long as you can still pay attention to the music). You will need to be familiar with the pieces in order to identify them for the listening portion of the quizzes.

**Quizzes:** There will be five online quizzes throughout the semester. Each quiz will focus on the readings and vocabulary, and you must also be able to aurally recognize the pieces from the listening assignments and answer questions about them. Although the quizzes are open book, they are timed and cannot be paused, which means you will need to study just like for a closed-book quiz, as you will not really have time to look up answers. You must complete the quiz by 11:59 pm on the quiz due date. There are no make-up quizzes for any reason, including technology problems, so make sure you do not leave quizzes for the last minute.

**\*\*\*Honorlock:** Quizzes will make use of the Honorlock online proctoring service. You may not opt out of using Honorlock for any quiz. If you have any questions or concerns regarding Honorlock, please email me as soon as possible.

**Group Discussions:** You will be required to participate in three separate online group discussions and contribute a post of 250 words per discussion. In addition to your own initial post, you must also respond to two of your peers' posts. Your initial post must be submitted by the deadline (responses have a separate deadline). Late posts or responses will not be accepted.

**Final Paper:** For the final paper (1250 words), you will compare and contrast two different versions of the same piece/song by two different artists/groups in any music genre. Your paper should include 1) a description of the genre; 2) a description of the social and cultural significance of this music to the musicians who produce it and the people who listen to it; and 3) a detailed analysis and comparison of both pieces of music in which you apply the concepts learned throughout the semester. Further details will follow. Late assignments will only be accepted until one week after the due date, and will receive a deduction of 10%.

**Attendance and Participation:** Attendance will be taken with a sign-in sheet at the beginning of each class. Please make sure you use the same signature you used on the first day of class—other signatures will not receive attendance credit for that day. Please note that it is a violation of FSU's Academic Honor Policy (see statement below) to have someone else sign the attendance sheet for you.

*\*\*\*All work submitted in this course must be original and completed during the duration of this course. Submitting work completed for another course at FSU or elsewhere constitutes a violation of FSU's Academic Honor Policy (see below).*

### **Technology Requirements**

Course content is accessible through Canvas, where you will upload assignments, post to discussion boards, take quizzes, and view videos. You should have access to high-speed internet and updated software. Mobile devices can be used to view course content, but refrain from using them to upload assignments or take quizzes. Do not wait until the last minute to submit assignments or take quizzes—technology issues are not a valid excuse for late assignments.

### **Netiquette**

It is important to maintain proper etiquette in online interactions (group discussions) with students and instructors. Use language that is appropriate for our educational setting, as well as correct spelling, grammar, and complete sentences, avoiding the abbreviations common in texts and personal emails. Under no circumstances should you use offensive or threatening language.

### **University Attendance Policy**

Excused absences include documented illness, deaths in the family and other documented crises, call to active military duty or jury duty, religious holy days, and official University activities. These absences will be accommodated in a way that does not arbitrarily penalize students who

have a valid excuse. Consideration will also be given to students whose dependent children experience serious illness.

### **Academic Honor Policy**

The Florida State University Academic Honor Policy outlines the University's expectations for the integrity of students' academic work, the procedures for resolving alleged violations of those expectations, and the rights and responsibilities of students and faculty members throughout the process. Students are responsible for reading the Academic Honor Policy and for living up to their pledge to ". . . be honest and truthful and . . . [to] strive for personal and institutional integrity at Florida State University." See <http://fda.fsu.edu/Academics/Academic-Honor-Policy>.

### **Academic Success**

Your academic success is a top priority for Florida State University. University resources to help you succeed include tutoring centers, computer labs, counseling and health services, and services for designated groups, such as veterans and students with disabilities. The following information is not exhaustive, so please check with your advisor or the Department of Student Support and Transitions to learn more.

### **Americans With Disabilities Act**

FSU values diversity and inclusion; we are committed to a climate of mutual respect and full participation. Our goal is to create learning environments that are usable, equitable, inclusive, and welcoming. FSU is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities in a manner that is consistent with academic standards of the course while empowering the student to meet integral requirements of the course.

To receive academic accommodations, a student:

1. must register with and provide documentation to the Office of Accessibility Services (OAS);
2. must provide a letter from OAS to the instructor indicating the need for accommodation and what type; and,
3. should communicate with the instructor, as needed, to discuss recommended accommodations. A request for a meeting may be initiated by the student or the instructor.

Please note that instructors are not allowed to provide classroom accommodations to a student until appropriate verification from the Office of Accessibility Services has been provided.

This syllabus and other class materials are available in alternative format upon request. For more information about services available to FSU students with disabilities, contact the:

Office of Accessibility Services  
874 Traditions Way  
108 Student Services Building  
Florida State University  
Tallahassee, FL 32306-4167  
(850) 644-9566 (voice); (850) 644-8504 (TDD)  
oas@fsu.edu  
<https://dsst.fsu.edu/oas>

### **Confidential Campus Resources**

Various centers and programs are available to assist students with navigating stressors that might impact academic success. These include the following:

#### **Victim Advocate Program**

University Center A, Rm. 4100  
(850) 644-7161  
Available 24/7/365  
Office Hours: M-F 8-5  
<https://dsst.fsu.edu/vap>

#### **Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS)**

Florida State University's Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) primary mission is to address psychological needs and personal concerns, which may interfere with students' academic progress, social development, and emotional well-being. The following in-person and virtual (tele-mental health) services are available to all enrolled students residing in the state of Florida:

1. Individual therapy
  2. Group therapy
  3. Crisis Intervention
  4. Psychoeducational and outreach programming
  5. After hours crisis-hotline
  6. Access to community providers for specialized treatment
- Call 850-644-TALK (8255) for more information on how to initiate services.

Counseling and Psychological Services  
250 Askew Student Life Center  
942 Learning Way  
(850) 644-TALK (8255)  
Walk-in and Appointment Hours:  
M-F 8 am – 4 pm  
<https://counseling.fsu.edu/>

#### **Services at UHS are available to all enrolled students residing in Florida:**

The mission of University Health Services (UHS) is to promote and improve the overall health and well-being of FSU students. UHS provides a coordinated continuum of care through prevention, intervention, and treatment. Services include general medical care, priority care, gynecological services, physicals, allergy injection clinic, immunizations, diagnostic imaging, physical therapy, and a medical response unit. The Center for Health Advocacy and Wellness (CHAW) assists students in their academic success through individual, group, and population-based health and wellness initiatives. Topics include wellness, alcohol and other drugs, hazing prevention, nutrition and body image, sexual health, and power based personal violence

prevention. For more information, go to [uhs.fsu.edu](https://uhs.fsu.edu).

University Health Services  
Health and Wellness Center  
960 Learning Way  
Tallahassee, FL 32306  
Hours: M-F, 8 am – 4 pm  
(850) 644-6230  
<https://uhs.fsu.edu/>

### **Free Tutoring from FSU**

On-campus tutoring and writing assistance is available for many courses at Florida State University. For more information, visit the Academic Center for Excellence (ACE) Tutoring Services' comprehensive list of on-campus tutoring options (see <http://ace.fsu.edu/tutoring> or contact [tutor@fsu.edu](mailto:tutor@fsu.edu)). High-quality tutoring is available by appointment and on a walk-in basis. These services are offered by tutors trained to encourage the highest level of individual academic success while upholding personal academic integrity.

### **Statement for Classes Subject to HB233 Recording**

In this class, consistent with state law and university policy, students are permitted to make recordings of class lectures for personal use only. As noted, sharing, posting, or publishing classroom recordings may subject you to honor code violations and legal penalties associated with theft of intellectual property and violations of other state law. Moreover, students and educators have expressed concern that recording classroom activities may negatively impact the learning experience for others, especially in classes that involve questions, discussion, or participation. To protect a learning environment in which everyone feels free to experiment with ideas, we ask you refrain from recording in ways that could make others feel reluctant to ask questions, explore new ideas, or otherwise participate in class. Students must monitor their recording so that they do not include participation by other students without permission. Students

with disabilities will continue to have appropriate accommodations for recordings as established by the Office of Accessibility Services.

### **Syllabus Change Policy**

Except for changes that substantially affect implementation of the evaluation (grading) statement, this syllabus is a guide for the course and is subject to change with advance notice.