MURRAY STATE UNIVERSITY  
DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC  

COURSE SYLLABUS

Course: MUS 381  
Credit hours: 3

I. TITLE: Music History and Literature I

II. CATALOGUE DESCRIPTION: The study of musical styles and literature from the fifth century B.C. through 1750. A survey of the musical heritage of western music and cultures including such topics as early Christian church music, Middle Ages secular song, Renaissance vocal and instrumental music and Baroque opera, keyboard and instrumental music.

III. PURPOSE: To study and to experience musical styles and traditions as represented in the works and writings of prominent theorists, journalists and composers to 1750.

IV. COURSE OBJECTIVES: To demonstrate proficient knowledge of the musical structures, compositional processes, thematic patterns and essential calendar dates of major composers and historical dates associated with this time period.

V. CONTENT OUTLINE: There will be a careful study of the music of the early Greeks, early Christian church, Medieval secular song, thirteenth-century polyphonic compositions, fourteenth-century French and Italian Trecento, Renaissance English secular forms and Baroque operatic, keyboard and instrumental genres.

VI. INSTRUCTIONAL ACTIVITIES: Information will be transmitted through: lecture, class discussion, outside readings of primary source materials (e.g., letters, diary entries, etc.) and listening to recorded musical examples. In addition, on-campus recitals and concerts will be discussed in relation to course materials.

VII. FIELD AND CLINICAL EXPERIENCES: On- and off-campus concerts and recitals by music department ensembles, faculty and guest artists will add another dimension to the course through first-hand experience for class members.

VIII. RESOURCES: Research and listening assignments utilize Waterfield library books, musical scores, audio-visual materials and the Waterfield Library Media Center.

IX. ACADEMIC HONESTY POLICY: Cheating, doing another person’s work for another person and submitting another person’s material as your own are all impermissible. Disciplinary action may be taken beyond the academic discipline administered by the instructor for copying of examinations or assignments. The instructor will invalidate any examination or other materials if evidence exists that the integrity of an exam or assignment in question has been compromised. The instructor may drop any student from the class roll who has exhibited plagiarism as described above after discussion with the student and Department Chair.
X. GRADING PROCEDURES:

Examinations 300 points (3 @ 100 each)
Quizzes 182 (26 @ 7 each)
Research Project 75
Post Test 20 (extra credit)

Final Grade:  
A = 577-519  B = 518-460  C = 459-401;  D = 400-342;  E = 341-0.

* Each student must complete the Research Project successfully or will fail the course.
*** MUS 381 must be completed with a grade of C or above to enroll in MUS 382.

There will be no make-up exams. An excused absence from a scheduled exam will entitle
the student to substitute a 10-page paper (topic given by the instructor) for that exam to be
completed in the presence of the instructor with a time limit of 4 hours; a zero will be given for
any exam missed by an unexcused absence. For illness to be considered an excused absence, a
doctor-signed statement must be submitted by the student or a representative for that student to
the instructor within 24 hours of the exam missed.

The format for Examinations I, II, and III is described in detail on the attached Study
Guide. The exams will cover materials from lectures, reading assignments, quizzes and listening
assignments.

Quizzes will be given on nearly every class day. The purpose of these quizzes is to inspire
students to complete a closer-reading of each reading assignment. Questions will focus on terms,
styless, composer names featured in the blue boxes in the left-hand margins. Students should
also focus on the descriptions of specific compositions, form and mini-stories in the larger green
boxes that span one or more pages in the text. There are NO make-up quizzes. The lowest 6
quiz grades are dropped.

The Post Test will consist of 40 multiple-choice questions. This exam also serves as
another opportunity to prepare for NTE, GRE, and other broader placement exams you will have
in the near future. There is a special review project for this task at the back of the syllabus.
This project is the only extra credit opportunity provided for each student in the class; the exam
serves both as a review of the entire course and as a way to boost any borderline final grades into
the next higher category. Please do not telephone the instructor asking for further points at the
end of the term.

Study Tips. Do not give up in this course. If you feel you need extra help with HOW to
study for exams and written projects in a history-based course such as this, please see me or
contact Loetta Sills (ph. 762-4340) or Cindy Clemson (ph. 762-6888). Their offices are in the
Learning Center in Wells Hall, Room 423. Send them an email or call them to arrange an
appointment: loetta.sills@murraystate.edu; cindy.clemson@murraystate.edu. They are both
experts with all types of special learning needs.

XI. ATTENDANCE POLICY: Class sessions will include illumination of the text assignments
by the instructor, further terms and definitions will be given out as added material, an
introduction and a review of each listening project, and the opportunity for students to ask
questions about any materials. It is inappropriate to use class sessions to conduct personal
business, to sleep or to disrupt the educational setting. Copies of the class overhead
transparencies as well as a copy of the Course Syllabus are on reserve at the Circulation Desk at
Waterfield Library. There are no points associated with attendance. Since you or your
scholarships, loan or grant has paid for this course, you should take advantage of the opportunity to ask questions, to learn from others’ questions, and experience more fully the topics throughout the course. The course is designed to make you more aware of what music is, why it is so and how it has progressed throughout the ages.

XII. TEXTS:


XIII. PREREQUISITE:

(a) for music majors: none; however, preferred successful completion of: CIV 101, CIV 102, MUS 270 (Theory III), MUS 271 (Aural Skills III);

(b) for music minors, successful completion of MUS 105 with a minimum grade of C is a required prerequisite; in addition preferred successful completion of: CIV 101, CIV 102, MUS 173 (Theory II) and MUS 174 (Aural Skills II);

(c) for Liberal Arts majors, successful completion of MUS 105 with a minimum grade of C is a required prerequisite; in addition preferred successful completion of: CIV 101, CIV 102, MUS 173 (Theory II) and MUS 174 (Aural Skills II).

XIV. STATEMENT OF AFFIRMATIVE ACTION AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITY: Murray State University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, marital status, age or disability in employment, admission, or the provision of services, educational programs and activities, and provides, upon request, reasonable accommodation including auxiliary aids and services necessary to afford individuals with disabilities and equal opportunity to participate in all programs and activities. For information regarding nondiscrimination policies contact the Office of Equal Opportunity, ph. 270-809-3155.