MURRAY STATE UNIVERSITY  
DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC 

COURSE SYLLABUS

MUS 600  

I. **Title:** Historical and Philosophical Foundations of Music Education

II. **Catalog Description:** Historical and philosophical foundations of music education; lecture and discussion with attention to aesthetics, education and the relationship of music and art to these in forming a philosophy of music education. Prerequisite: Acceptance into the graduate music education degree program

III. **Purpose:** The purpose of this course is to assist the student in the investigation and understanding of the historical and philosophical foundations of music education and, thereby, to provide the tools for formulating a personal philosophy of music education. Attention is given to critical thinking approaches, implications of current educational reform and to the supportive disciplines of aesthetics, aesthetic education and the arts.

IV. **Course Objectives:** The MUS 600 student will:
   
   A. communicate in clear writing and in persuasive oral discussion a philosophical rationale for the role of music in education;

   B. discuss knowledgeably the sources of philosophy which collectively represent the intellectual foundations for music in education;

   C. demonstrate a thorough familiarity with the major symposia, events, ideas, and publications which have shaped contemporary thinking in the field of music education;

   D. describe the musical and aesthetic foundations upon which school music teachers may base instructional practice;

   E. identify and discuss the purposes and functions of music in American schools, choosing those which would appear to produce efficient and effective planning for curriculum and instruction;

   F. demonstrate an understanding of the sociological and psychological assumptions that shape current practices in American music education; and

   G. relate historical precedents to current issues in music education in order to propose innovative directions for the future of the profession.
V. **Content Outline:**  
A. History of Music Education  
   1. Time Line  
   2. Major Names, Dates, Events  
B. Philosophical Foundations  
   1. Leonhard, Meyer, Langer, Reimer, and others  
   2. Aesthetic Education  
C. "Musicing"  
   1. Making Music  
   2. Purpose of Music in Education  
D. Musical Values  
   1. What is "good music"?  
   2. How do you select repertoire?  
E. Music in Context  
F. Social Foundations of Music Education  
G. Psychological Foundations of Music Education  
H. Curriculum  
   1. Philosophical Basis  
   2. National Standards  
I. Assessment  
   1. On Demand, Portfolio  
   2. NAEP  
J. Teacher Education Reform  
K. Future Directions  

VI. **Instructional Activities:**  
Reading, lecture, discussion, writing, group and individual presentations, research, debate.  

VII. **Field and Clinical Experience:**  
None required  

VIII. **Resources:**  
Textbook, handouts, selected readings  

IX. **Grading Procedures:**  
Students will be graded on classroom participation and preparation, written assignments, projects, and written tests. Letter grades will be given.  

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<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>Written Critiques (5)</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<td>Philosophy</td>
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<td>Research Paper</td>
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<td>Exams</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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X. **Attendance Policy:**
Students are expected to attend all classes. All work is due on given dates; projects must be turned in during class or before 4:00 p.m. in the music department office. The final grade will be lowered for each absence after the first one. This course adheres to the university attendance policy as stated in the current Graduate Bulletin.

XI. **Academic Honesty Policy:**
Students are expected to do their own work on all projects, papers, and exams. Plagiarized work will count as failure. This course adheres to the university attendance policy as stated in the current Graduate Bulletin.

XII. **Text and References:**
**Required Texts:**


**Supplemental Texts:**


XIII. **Prerequisites:**
Acceptance into the graduate music education degree program