

CUYAMACA COLLEGE
COURSE OUTLINE OF RECORD

Music 117 – Introduction to Music History and Literature

3 hours lecture, 3 units

Catalog Description

Survey of art music in Western civilization from the ancient period to the present. Musical styles will be studied within the context of concurrent developments in society, politics and other arts.

Prerequisite

None

Recommended Preparation

“C” grade or higher or “Pass” in MUS 001 or equivalent

Entrance Skills

Without the following skills, competencies and/or knowledge, students entering this course will be highly unlikely to succeed:

- 1) Recognize and analyze the elements of musical notation.
- 2) Construct, notate and analyze intervals, triads and 7th chords.
- 3) Construct, notate and analyze major and minor scales and key signatures.
- 4) Analyze rhythmic patterns in simple and compound meter.

Course Content

- 1) Music of Ancient Greece and the Roman Empire
- 2) Music in the Middle Ages: plainchant, early polyphony, Ars antiqua and Ars nova, minstrels, and representative composers
- 3) Music of the Renaissance: polyphony, motet, the reformation, madrigals, popular music, and representative composers
- 4) Music of the Baroque: monody, opera, the rise of instrumental music, Italy, Germany, France, American colonies, and representative composers
- 5) Music of the Classical period: style, forms, opera, and representative composers
- 6) Music in the Romantic period: the piano, the orchestra, program music, grand opera, the minstrel show, religious music, and representative composers
- 7) Music of the 20th Century: influence of science and industry, atonality, musicology, electronic music, computer music, jazz and representative composers

Course Objectives

Students will be able to:

- 1) Describe and compare significant figures, works, places, styles, and forms of Western music from the Ancient through the 20th century periods.
- 2) Identify and analyze the notation, performance practice, harmonic and non-harmonic language, compositional form, and theoretical treatises that characterize Western art music from the Ancient through the 20th century periods.
- 3) Correlate developments in Western art music with trends in society, politics, and the other arts from the Ancient through 20th century periods.
- 4) Compare and contrast music compositional styles on both micro and macro levels within each musico-historical period.
- 5) Differentiate genre and style based on aural and visual presentation.

Method of Evaluation

A grading system will be established by the instructor and implemented uniformly. Grades will be based on demonstrated proficiency in subject matter determined by multiple measurements for evaluation, one of which must be essay exams, skills demonstration or, where appropriate, the symbol system.

- 1) Written tests and quizzes that measure the student's ability to identify significant figures, works, styles and forms in Western music.
- 2) Listening tests and quizzes that measure the student's ability to aurally recognize and identify specific musical genres and style features.
- 3) Homework assignments that measure the student's ability to integrate musical style developments with larger social, political and artistic trends.
- 4) Analysis exercises of musical compositions that measure the student's ability to observe, describe and apply musical structures such as notation, performance practice, form and harmonic language at both the micro and macro levels.

Special Materials Required of Student

None

Minimum Instructional Facilities

Smart classroom equipped with piano, whiteboard with music staves, stereo audio system

Method of Instruction

- 1) Lecture
- 2) Class discussion
- 3) Discussion of textbook assignments
- 4) Analysis of compositions

Out-of-Class Assignments

- 1) **Reading:** assigned course content on major musical periods, composers, stylistic features, and historical context, review articles or primary sources connecting musical developments to broader cultural, political, and artistic movements.
- 2) **Writing:** short written responses or worksheets summarizing key stylistic traits, forms, and representative works from historical periods; prepare concert or listening reports evaluation performance practice, genre, and stylistic characteristics.
- 3) **Other:** assigned listening activities identifying genre, period, instrumentation, and stylistic features; take structured listening notes for class discussion; attend and/or observe a live or recorded concert and prepare reflections for upcoming assignments.

Texts and References

- 1) Required (representative example): Comprehensive history of Western music text combining musical analysis with a broader historical and cultural context such as: Hanning, Barbara Russano. *Concise History of Western Music*, 5th ed. Norton, 2020.
- 2) Supplemental:
 - a. Burkholder, J. Peter and Claude V. Palisca. *The Norton Anthology of Western Music: Vol. 1*, 8th ed., Norton, 2020.
 - b. Burkholder, J. Peter and Claude V. Palisca. *The Norton Anthology of Western Music: Vol. 2*, 8th ed., Norton, 2020.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- 1) Observe and identify musical elements in recorded or live performances.
- 2) Identify the features, important figures, and significant works of the major style periods in the Western classical music tradition.