

COURSE SYLLABUS
Music Section
Hon275W
Honors Seminar in Fine Arts
Music

Spring 2008
Sam Houston State University
Music Building, Room 218
Tuesdays and Thursdays

February 19- March 20
8 to 9:20 am

Assistant Professor: S. K. Murphy-Manley, Ph.D.
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◆ **Office Hours**

I will be available to you every day, at any time, by phone or email. You might be required to leave a message and a phone number at which you can be reached. I am almost always in my office working during the day. Because of the great amount of preparation needed for my classes and the requirements of research placed upon me, you will need to call me to make an appointment if you would like to meet with me in my office. I have most times available except for when I am teaching classes on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8 am to 12:30 pm and MWF from 10 am to 12 noon. If you need to meet with me, you can be sure that we will find a time that will work for you. More details concerning my office hours are posted on my office door.

◆ **Course Description and Objectives**

This section of the Fine Arts Seminar is designed to enhance your understanding and appreciation of music and our approach to the topic today.

1. We will examine the various fields of study within the discipline of music.
2. We will learn the fundamentals about the elements of music and how they are used to create music.
3. We will learn some of the terminology used in the study and discussion of music and practice applying it appropriately when writing about music.
4. We will discuss the traditional divisions of music history and consider representative composers and genres from each. We will hear examples of some of these pieces and make stylistic conclusions.
5. We will look at the various trends that the 20th century experienced and ponder the future of music as we now know it.
6. We will learn the most judicious method of research for on-going scholarship on your part.

7. We will examine what makes our European-heritage music culture different from that of non-Western music cultures.
8. You will learn to combine pitches on a piano to compose or improvise a piece using the pentatonic scale.

◆ **Supplies**

Your supplies for this course will include all items necessary to take notes, study, turn in reports, and to take tests. It will be your responsibility to obtain all materials at the beginning of the semester and to come to class prepared to take notes, to complete writing assignments, and to take tests. I will give you copies of any outside reading assignments. In the case of your absence, it will be your responsibility to obtain these handouts from another class member before the next class meeting. Failure, on your part to do so, will not excuse any ignorance or missed assignment.

◆ **Course Requirements**

◆ **Attendance**

You will be expected to attend every class. If you miss more than one class period, then your final grade in this music section will be lowered one point for each absence beginning with the second. Should a medical emergency or severe illness occur, your absence will be evaluated by me on a case-by-case basis.

Important Note: Make-up exams will not be given under any circumstance of absence.

◆ **Grading**

The following grading scale will be used:

No extra credit will be allowed.

A = 90-100

B = 80-89

C = 70-79

D = 60-69

F = 59 and below

The Grading percentages are as follows:

1 concert review	20%	You may turn this in to me on our last class day or anytime before that
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1 research biography	30%	Due March 18th
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1 Exam	30%	Given on our last class day
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1 participatory composition	20%	Probably March 6th
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NOTE: Attending a concert is optional. If you prefer to not complete the concert review, then your research biography will account for 50% of your grade instead of 30%.

Another Important Note: Late assignments will be accepted with the penalty of a 30-point deduction for each 24-hour period following its due date and time. For instance, if your assignment is due during class on March 2nd and you get it to me after your class has ended, rather than during the class, you will receive a 30-point deduction. The next day, on March 3rd at 9:30 am, a 60-point deduction will be implemented.

◆ **Academic Honesty**

You will be held accountable for honest behavior in this class. Likewise, honest test-taking and homework procedures will be enforced.

◆ **Concerning Plagiarism**

You are guilty of plagiarism when you present someone else's words or ideas as if they were your own.

There is often some misunderstanding about the nature of presenting historical facts in your music-history research project and in the statements concerning the music that you are studying. Presenting the common facts (not opinions) of a composer's education, career, repertoire, and whereabouts is, for the most part, common knowledge. As a writer you must assimilate the **facts in words of your own**, not resembling the original source **in any way**, including, but not limited to, your order of presentation and emphasis on details. You **must give credit** to your source by listing it as a reference in your bibliography. You may incorporate just the facts without footnoting if you have used words that were **entirely your own**. *It is important that you take care to not interject any borrowed opinions from your sources unless you plan to footnote.* Watch for interjected opinions that the original author has communicated by using various adjectives. Make sure you omit these if you are not footnoting.

The Musical Style and Significance of a Composer:

If you use another person's words, ideas, opinions, statistics, or conclusions about a composer's importance, style, musical composition, etc., then you **must document** your source in a footnote (then and there) in your text. If you do not do this you are guilty of plagiarism and will receive an **automatic F** on the assignment. It does not matter if you have reworded the information, it still is not based on your original thought and needs documentation. Documentation includes framing the borrowed information in quotation marks and footnoting the source immediately after the closed quotation mark.¹ You also will need to list the source a second time in your bibliography. If you fail to follow this procedure the consequences will be the aforementioned F.

Help from Others:

¹ The footnote will appear at the bottom of your page like this one if you choose "Insert" and then "Footnote". Don't choose "Endnote." For my classes, you will need to place your footnotes at the bottom of the relevant page.

If you receive assistance from someone (let's say they offer their opinion on the importance of Mozart's *Requiem*) then you must also footnote their opinion as borrowed information. If you receive assistance in the editing or typing of your work you must include an acknowledgement page acknowledging their assistance.

Dishonesty:

1. It is dishonest to present your own previously written material as a new assignment in this or in any other class.
2. It is dishonest to copy another student's work, research, or writing, even in part.
3. It is dishonest to allow your work to be used by someone else.
4. It is dishonest in these music history classes to use internet articles or sites as information sources of biographical, stylistic, or historical significance issues.

☞ All dishonesty will result in an automatic F. An F in the course could result depending on the severity of the offense as determined by the instructor.

Don't Do It

I realize that there are degrees of plagiarism. Total plagiarism (turning in someone else's work as your own—including copying or buying program notes or a biography from an internet site—will result in an **F in the class** and recommendation to the University for disciplinary action. Partial plagiarism will result, as mentioned before, in an F for the project. The temptations today are great. You are busy, stressed, and trying to do your best. Do not give in to a quick research solution on the internet. This is dishonest to do for your projects in this class. Resist the temptation and choose the proper way. If you cannot find the proper way, come talk to me as soon as you are aware of your difficulty.

Reasons Behind the “No Internet Rule”

First, the sites on the internet concerning musical topics vary tremendously in accuracy. Second, the authors of the websites that display biographies of our composers have used the same sources in the library that you are supposed to use. If you do not do the original research yourself from those library sources, then you are cheating. So, by using someone else's assimilated facts from library sources, rather than performing the entire research exercise yourself, you are failing to do what was assigned.



◆ Proper Classroom Demeanor

According to university policy, students are expected to assist in maintaining a classroom environment that is conducive to learning. In order to assure classroom order and etiquette, please raise your hand during discussions when you have comments or questions. Additionally, please “refrain from behavior in the classroom that is intentionally or unintentionally disruptive of the learning process. Students are prohibited from eating in class, using tobacco products, making offensive remarks, reading newspapers, sleeping, talking among each other at inappropriate times, wearing inappropriate clothing, or engaging in any other form of distraction. Inappropriate

behavior in the classroom shall result in, minimally, a directive to leave class or being reported to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action in accordance with university policy.” (Reproduced here as directed from the College of Arts & Sciences)

◆ **Visitors in the Classroom:** Only registered students may attend class. Exceptions can be made on a case-by-case basis by the professor. In all cases, visitors must not present a disruption to the class by their attendance. Students wishing to audit a class must apply to do so through the Registrar’s Office.

◆ **Disabilities**

Accommodations for disabilities must be initiated by the student by going to the Counseling Center and the Services for Students with Disabilities in a timely manner. Every semester that a student desires accommodation, it is the student’s responsibility to complete a Classroom Accommodation Request Form at the Students with Disabilities Office and follow the stated procedure in notifying the faculty.

◆ **Religious Holy Days**

If you must miss a class because it is your religious Holy day I must be notified of your intended absence not later than the 15th calendar day after the first day of the semester.

Projected Class Plan

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| February 19 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">☐ Introduction to the fields of study in the discipline of music☐ A field trip to the music section of the Newton Gresham Library (The music librarian is Mr. Bruce Hall should you ever need his assistance.) |
| February 21 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">☐ The fundamentals of music☐ The research project will be assigned |
| February 26 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">☐ The use of terminology in the study of music and in the discussion of the fundamentals of music☐ An Introduction to the Historical Periods of Music and stylistic distinctions☐ The composition project will be assigned |
| February 28
and March 4-6 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">☐ Discussion of the Historical Periods of Music<ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ The Middle Ages (The Medieval Period)◆ The Renaissance◆ The Baroque◆ The 19th Century (The Romantic Period)◆ The 20th Century<ul style="list-style-type: none">Impressionism, Expressionism, Neo-Tonality |
| March 18 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">☐ Improvisation, concert cultures, world music☐ Your paper is due on this penultimate class day |
| March 20 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">☐ Exam☐ And, your concert review is due today if you haven’t turned it in already |