



## **COH 111: CRITICAL THINKING**

**COURSE SYLLABUS: FALL 2014**  
**AUGUST 25, 2014 – DECEMBER 12, 2014**

**INSTRUCTOR:** T.J. Emsley, BM/MM  
**LOCATION:** MUS 214  
**TIME:** MW 8:00-8:50; 11:00-11:50  
**OFFICE LOCATION:** Music Building, 221  
**OFFICE HOURS:** By Appointment  
**EMAIL:** Timothy.Emsley@tamuc.edu

### **COURSE INFORMATION**

#### **MATERIALS – TEXTBOOKS, READINGS, SUPPLEMENTARY READINGS:**

**REQUIRED TEXTBOOK:** - *An autobiography will be assigned to each student separately after the semester begins.*

**RECOMMENDED TEXTBOOKS:** - *The Talent Code* – by Daniel Coyle

**TECHNOLOGY:** - *<http://www.TED.com>*

**SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS:** - Academic planner/calendar  
- Three ring binder for notes and handouts.

#### **COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

COH 111 prepares students for optimal success at the university and beyond by motivating them to develop skills, knowledge, and behaviors that will create confident, self-sufficient learners.

#### **STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

Upon completion of the course, students will:

- gain an overview of the customs, organization, and academic disciplines within an institution of higher education.
- increase one's effectiveness in practical matters such as time management, organization, and planning.
- develop general skills in critical thinking, creative problem solving, and other necessary tools/habits for success in college and beyond.
- learn and employ sound practices in research, study, and practice.
- gain a specific understanding of the conceptual and practical demands of the study of music.
- familiarize oneself with the faculty and programs of study within the Department of Music at Texas A&M University-Commerce.

# COURSE REQUIREMENTS

## INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS:

Instruction will include lectures by the instructor, class discussions, field trips, along with a series of guest speakers representing the music faculty and other divisions of the university.

## ASSIGNMENTS, GRADING POLICIES, AND CALCULATION OF FINAL AVERAGE:

### 1. READING THE TEXTBOOKS/HANDOUTS AS ASSIGNED ON THE COURSE SCHEDULE

It is imperative that students read the textbook or class handouts in accordance with the assigned dates. Topics covered in the readings will often frame the activities/discussion in class. It is of the utmost importance that students do not ignore this important component of the class.

### 2. ATTENDANCE (10 POINTS)

The University attendance policy states that students “are expected to be present for all class meetings.” Refer to “Attendance” in the Course and University Procedures/Policies Section below. **For each unexcused absence, 3 percentage points will be deducted from the student’s final grade.**

The instructor will close the door at the designated starting time. Attendance will be taken at that time. NO ONE will be admitted after the door has been closed.

### 3. PARTICIPATION/HOMEWORK (10 POINTS)

Engagement, participation, and a positive attitude are important in a course of this kind, as they are in any area of college and life. Students will participate in classroom activities, field trips, and written work, the details of which will be announced by the instructor. It is especially important that first-year students begin the process of integrating into both the university and department’s community of scholar/musicians.

### 4. CRITICAL THINKING ESSAYS RESPONDING TO UNIVERSITY-SPONSORED ACTIVITIES (30 POINTS)

Students in COH 111 are expected to attend on-campus university events or activities\* as part of their first-year experience. They will write three (3) critical essays on each, explaining what they learned from these events and how attending each event contributed to their being a more successful and educated college student. These papers are expected to demonstrate critical and analytical thought expressed in clear and proper language. The essays must be in “Word Format,” double-spaced in a font size of 12, and 3-4 pages in length.

- **Cultural event outside the musical arts**, including visual, literary, or performance arts.
- **Athletic events**, such as varsity or organized intramural activities.
- **University-wide academic events**, including guest speakers at university events, presentations at honor or learned societies, breakout entertainment, colloquia, symposia, etc. If you choose a university-sponsored social event, gathering, or club activity, it must be an organization that has open registration and enrollment.

## CALCULATION OF FINAL GRADE

All quizzes, exams and assignments must be completed if the student is to pass the course.

Participation/Homework (15%)	100 – 90%	A
2 Dictation Exams (24%)	89 – 80%	B
4 Sight-Singing Exams (25%)	79 – 70%	C
1 Midterm (17%)	69 – 60%	D
1 Final (23%)	59 – 0%	F

## COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

I encourage classes to interact with me as much as possible, especially if a student feels challenged by the academic content of a course or has missed classes. My office and conference hours are indicated at the top of the syllabus. If you cannot see me during my regular office hours, I will make every effort to set up an appointment at a time that is mutually convenient. Apart from speaking to me before or after class, e-mail is usually the best means of getting in touch with me.

Additional resources: [www.musictheory.net](http://www.musictheory.net)  
[www.musictheoryresources.com](http://www.musictheoryresources.com)  
[www.tonalcentre.org](http://www.tonalcentre.org)  
[www.gmajormusictheory.org](http://www.gmajormusictheory.org)

## COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

### ATTENDANCE

Students are expected to attend classes regularly and to stay abreast, without prompting, of all readings, assignments and exams. Participation in class meetings will provide an opportunity for explanation of difficult concepts, discussion of solutions to homework assignments, and answering of questions. University guidelines on attendance are outlined in *The Student Guidebook*, available through the Office of the Dean of Students and by searching the University's web site, but the specific policies for this course are as follows.

Each student in this course is allowed unexcused absences amounting to **two** class periods. Unexcused absences require no explanation.

Excused absences are defined in *The Student Guidebook* and various university policies, but the policy employed in this class is confined to the following: (1) Participation in pre-approved University activities such as athletic events, sponsored field trips, and travel for specific University related academic reasons; (2) Verifiable legal proceedings; (3) Documented cases of illness, injury, or emergencies.

All such excuses must be provided in original, written, documentary form within 5 days of the absence(s). In lieu of documentation, the absences become unexcused and counted as such. **When a student accrues more than four unexcused absences the instructor has the prerogatives (1) to reduce the final letter grade for each additional absence, and, for excessive absences, (2) to expel the student from class, drop the student from class, or assign the student a final grade of F.**

## **ACADEMIC DISHONESTY**

Academic dishonesty has zero tolerance in this class. Be sure that you understand what constitutes academic dishonesty (e.g., plagiarism, cheating on exams, theft of instructional material or exams, representing the work of someone else as one's own, misrepresenting absences or tardiness on sign-in sheets or roll calls, etc.).

Academic dishonesty is a severe transgression in college and may result in referral to the Dean of Students, expulsion from class, and /or the University, and a failing grade.

## **UNIVERSITY MISSION STATEMENT**

Texas A&M University-Commerce nurtures and educates for success through access to academic, research, and service programs of high quality.

## **MUSIC DEPARTMENT MISSION STATEMENT**

The Music Department of Texas A&M University-Commerce promotes excellence in music through the rigorous study of music history, literature, theory, composition, pedagogy, and the preparation of music performance in applied study and ensembles to meet the highest standards of aesthetic expression.

## **STUDENT BEHAVIOR**

All students enrolled at the Texas A&M University-Commerce shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment (*Student's Guide Handbook, Policies and Procedures, Conduct*).

## **CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR AND PROTOCOL**

Our classroom is a forum for learning, a place where all of us should feel safe, comfortable, and enlivened. Each of us should look forward not only to coming to class but to learning more about music. Towards this end, all are expected to be courteous and respectful of each other. Common sense, professionalism, and the Golden Rule should prevail, but let it be known that the following activities will not be tolerated under any circumstance:

- sleeping during class
- use of cell phones, computers, pagers, and other personal electronic devices – or in sight – while class is in session
- backpacks, pouches, purses and other items from your desks when class is in session; permissible items are pens, pencils, the textbook, notes, water, sodas, and similar beverages.
- engaging in disruptive or distracting behavior of any sort
- aggression, threatening behavior (whether implied or physical), disrespect, and needless argumentation directed at anyone in the classroom
- consumption of food when the class is in session
- entering or exiting the classroom after class has begun; no one may exit the classroom without prior permission or polite notification of the instructor
- whispering, talking to each other, or otherwise engaging in distracting behavior while the instructor is lecturing, answering questions, or involved in dialogue with students

*Please understand that violations of these protocols are taken seriously and may result in expulsion from the class and/or a final grade of F. Please also understand that the instructor will not hesitate to summon the University Police when student conduct is deemed threatening or belligerent to the instructor or other students.*

## STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services  
Texas A&M University-Commerce, Gee Library 132  
Phone 903.886.5150 or 903.886.5835 or Fax 903.468.8148  
[StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu](mailto:StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu)

## COURSE OUTLINE/CALENDAR

WEEK	WEEK'S TOPIC/ASSIGNMENT
1	Transition to Higher Ed. How you spend your time / Time Management
2	Studying/Practicing Effectively Processes QEP SESSION WEDNESDAY IN ED. SOUTH RM. 125
3	Memory; QEP SESSION WEDNESDAY IN ED. SOUTH RM. 125
4	What is music? <i>"Harmony, nature vs. nurture"</i>
5	What is music? Cont... <i>"Emotion of Classical Music"...</i> <i>"How to listen"</i>
6	Behavioral Domains – Cognitive, psychomotor, affective
7	Critical Thinking – Why theory, history, piano, etc... Active Listening
8	Applying Behavioral Domains to the study of music
9	Stage Presence, Looking glass-self: Body Language, Concert Etiquette
10	Careers in Music /Resume building
11	Autobiography assignments
12	
13	Degree plans
14	Student organizations/L.E.A.D. Dept. /Importance of programs
15	Research/Library
16	