



Critical Thinking – Freshman Success Seminar

COH 111 – Fall 2016

Section 001 - Rm. 113 (Band Hall) - MW – 11:00-11:50

Section 002 - Rm. 113 (Band Hall) - TR – 11:00-11:50

Stuart Shulman – Adjunct Professor

Office: Music Bldg. 194. Email: Stuart.Shulman@tamuc.edu

Office Hours: Friday-11am-12pm and by appointment

COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings:

Textbooks *The Inner Game of Music*, Barry Green

Other Academic planner/calendar
 Notebook for note taking and organization of class materials

Course Description:

This course 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 be able to:

1. To gain an overview of the customs, organization, and academic disciplines within an institution of higher education.
2. To increase one's effectiveness in practical matters such as time management, organization, and planning.
3. To develop general skills in critical thinking, creative problem solving, and other necessary tools/habits for success in college and beyond.
4. To learn and employ sound practices in research, study and practice.
5. To gain a specific understanding of the conceptual and practical demands of the study of music.
6. To 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, and 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

It is imperative that students stay up-to-date on their assigned readings. Topics covered in the readings will often frame the activities/discussion in class. Please do not ignore this important component of the course.

2. ATTENDANCE

Students may risk passing this course if they accrue more than 3 unexcused absences. Please consult *The Student Guidebook* for the differences between excused and unexcused absences, as well as the heading in this syllabus entitled, "Course and University Procedures/Policies."

3. PARTICIPATION AND INVOLVEMENT IN ALL ACTIVITIES OF THIS CLASS

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, fieldtrips 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. ACADEMIC PLANNING AND TIME MANAGEMENT ASSIGNMENTS

Students must turn in all assignments at the designated time to receive credit.

- **Academic planning assignment**

Purchase or otherwise obtain an academic planner, preferably a planner with an academic year schedule (2017-2018) rather than a calendar year. Study carefully each of the syllabi and handouts that you have received in your classes (music courses and other classes alike) and enter all assignments, exams, quizzes, term and research papers, final examinations, and deadlines for all your classes. *Do not forget to put your name and contact information in the planner.*

- **"How do I spend my time?" assignment (5 points)**

Discover how you spend your time by recording all of your activities for one week. You will receive handouts for this assignment.

- **Practice Log**

Students will log and document their practice sessions over the course of a week to evaluate their individual positive and negative habits and discuss methods for improvement.

- **Rehearsal Video Observations**

Students will be asked to give a critique of a music rehearsal.

5. FINAL EXAMINATION

Wednesday December 13 th	Final Examination	COH Section 001 @ 10:30-12:30
Tuesday December 12 th	Final Examination	COH Section 002 @ 10:30-12:30

CALCULATION OF FINAL GRADE

All assignments, essays and the final exam must be completed if the student is to pass the course.

100 – 90 points	A
89 – 80 points	B
79 – 70 points	C
69 – 60 points	D
59 – 00 points	F

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

Students must have access to the Internet, word processing software, and a printer. Texas A&M University-Commerce provides several computer labs for these purposes. Students should possess basic skills in conducting research through library and Internet sources, and they should be especially conversant with myLEO.

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 the 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, email is usually the best means of getting in touch with me.

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 provides a personal educational experience for a diverse community of life-long learners. Our purpose is to discover and disseminate knowledge for leadership and service in an interconnected and dynamic world. Our challenge is to nurture partnerships for the intellectual, cultural, social, and economic vitality of Texas and beyond.

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.

Conduct

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment (Student's Guide Handbook, Policies and Procedures, Conduct). A&M-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

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: Dr. David Scott-Music Department Head (903) 886-5327 or Office of Student Disability Resources and Services-Texas A&M University-Commerce, Gee Library Room 132 - Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835 – Fax (903) 468-8148- EM StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu

**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**

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

Campus Concealed Carry-Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations. For a list of locations, please refer to

(<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>) and/or consult your event organizer). Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

Please understand that violations of these protocols are taken seriously and may result in expulsion from the class and/or a final grade of an 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.

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

Week	Date	Class Description
1	8/28-29	Greetings and introduction to the course
	8/30-31	Department, Culture, History
2	9/4-5	NO CLASS
	9/6-7	Academic Planner / Time Management
3	9/11-12	Music Technology - Software, Apps & Websites
	9/13-14	Faculty Presenter - Practicing Efficiently
4	9/18-19	How are we doing so far?
	9/20-21	Implications of your Practice Log
5	9/25-26	Rehearsal Observation #1
	9/27-28	Rehearsal Discussion/Communication Essentials
6	10/2-3	Counseling Center
	10/4-5	Why teach and Perform Music?
7	10/9-10	How to prepare for Mid-Terms Exams
	10/11-12	Finding Success through Failure
8	10/16-17	Learning Styles - What's Yours?
	10/18-19	Having the end in mind - Steve Andre
9	10/23-24	Police Department Presentation
	10/25-26	Elementary Music Ed Presenter
10	10/30-31	Financial Aid – How do I get more \$?
	11/1-2	Band and Choir Directors In The Field
11	11/6-7	Registration/Degree Works
	11/8-9	NO CLASS
12	11/13-14	Rehearsal Observation #2
	11/15-16	Rehearsal Discussion
13	11/20-21	Library Exporation
	11/22-23	NO CLASS
14	11/27-28	Juries – How to prepare
	11/29-30	How to survive Finals!
15	12/4-5	Senior Presenter
	12/6-7	Review for Final
16	12/11-15	Final Exams