



## **Critical Thinking: Freshman Success Seminar MUS 110 – Fall 2021**

Section 002 (83155) - Rm. 158 – M/W – 11:00-11:50

Section 001 (83154) - Rm. 113 – T/R – 11:00-11:50

Instructor: Ryan M. Yahl  
Office: 194  
Email: ryan.yahl@tamuc.edu  
Office Hours: Friday 11:00-12:00, or by appointment

### **COURSE INFORMATION**

#### **Materials:**

Textbooks: *Majoring In Music; All the Stuff You Need to Know* – Rich Holly

Other materials:

- A three-ring binder to organize class materials
- Notebook paper for taking notes during class
- A writing utensil
- Access to a computer and printer in order to complete assignments and submit them to the instructor
- A mobile device when given authorization to use in class

#### **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 familiarize oneself with the history, faculty, and programs of study within the university and the Department of Music at Texas A&M University-Commerce.
3. To increase one's effectiveness in practical matters such as time management, organization, and planning.
4. To develop general skills in critical thinking, creative problem solving, and other necessary tools/habits for success in college and beyond.

5. To learn and employ sound practices in research, study, and practice.
6. To gain a specific understanding of the conceptual and practical demands of the study of music.

**Modality:**

This course will be presented in a face-to-face, in-person format. Classes will sometimes meet in locations other than the regular classroom. The instructor will provide advance notice of those class meetings.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

**Instructional Methods:**

Instruction will include lectures by the instructor, class discussions, 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. Participation and involvement in all class activities

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 discussions, presentations, and fieldtrips, 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.

2. 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.

3. Completion of written assignments

Students must turn in all written assignments at the designated time in order to receive credit. Written assignments must follow the format given by the instructor in order to be accepted.

4. Final Examination

A cumulative written final exam will be administered at the end of the semester. Content for the exam will be taken from readings and discussions throughout the course of the semester.

## **CALCULATION OF FINAL GRADE**

Final grades in this course will be based on the following scale:

A = 90% - 100%  
B = 80% - 89%  
C = 70% - 79%  
D = 60% - 69%  
F = 59% or Below

## **TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS**

### **LMS**

All course sections offered by Texas A&M University-Commerce have a corresponding course shell in the myLeo Online Learning Management System (LMS). Below are technical requirements

LMS Requirements:

<https://community.brightspace.com/s/article/Brightspace-Platform-Requirements>

LMS Browser Support:

[https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser\\_support.htm](https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_support.htm)

YouSeeU Virtual Classroom Requirements: <https://support.youseeu.com/hc/en-us/articles/115007031107-Basic-System-Requirements>

## **ACCESS AND NAVIGATION**

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or [helpdesk@tamuc.edu](mailto:helpdesk@tamuc.edu).

**Note:** Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, a TAMUC campus open computer lab, etc.

## **COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT**

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your Instructor.

### **Technical Support**

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please

contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778. Other support options can be found here:

<https://community.brightspace.com/support/s/contactsupport>

### **Interaction with Instructor Statement**

I encourage students to communicate with me as much as possible, especially if a student has questions, feels challenged by the academic content of the course, or has missed classes. I also encourage students to communicate with me prior to a known absence. My office hours are indicated at the top of the syllabus. If you cannot see me during my regular office hours, please email me 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, as well as the official form of communication for the university. Please do not try and contact me through any kind of social media platform.

## **COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES**

### **Course Specific Procedures/Policies**

#### **Attendance Policy**

Students are expected to be present at each class meeting and to participate fully in each class regardless of modality unless the absence falls under the excused absence policy.

Communication with the instructor of any absences is of the utmost importance. Excused absences are defined as illness (with a note from a physician), family emergency, or a University related event or activity (with prior approval). Courtesy dictates informing the instructor in advance of an absence whenever possible. Potential absences, other than those listed above, should be discussed directly with the instructor at the beginning of the semester, or as early as possible. Final classification of absences will be at the sole discretion of the instructor.

Note: Excused absences are defined as illness (with note from a physician), family emergency (with release from the Dean of Students), or a University related event or activity (with prior approval).

#### **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.

### **Syllabus Change Policy**

The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance.

## **UNIVERSITY SPECIFIC PROCEDURES**

### **Student Conduct**

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. The Code of Student Conduct is described in detail in the [Student Guidebook](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/Admissions/oneStopShop/undergraduateAdmissions/studentGuidebook.aspx>

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum: <https://www.britannica.com/topic/netiquette>

### **TAMUC Attendance**

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the [Attendance Procedure 13.99.99.R0.01](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx>

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/academic/13.99.99.R0.01.pdf>

### **Academic Integrity**

Students at Texas A&M University-Commerce are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

[Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.10](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/graduate/13.99.99.R0.10GraduateStudentAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

### **Students with Disabilities-- ADA Statement**

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

Waters Library- Room 162

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: [studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu](mailto:studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu)

Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/>

### **Nondiscrimination Notice**

Texas A&M University-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.

### **Campus Concealed Carry Statement**

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 the [Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus](#) document and/or consult your event organizer.

Web url: <http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>

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.

### **A&M Commerce Supports Students' Mental Health**

The Counseling Center at A&M-Commerce, located in the Halladay Building, Room 203, offers counseling services, educational programming, and connection to community resources for students. Students have 24/7 access to the Counseling Center's crisis assessment services by calling 903-886-5145. For more information regarding Counseling Center events and confidential services, please visit [www.tamuc.edu/counsel](http://www.tamuc.edu/counsel)