



MUS 550

**Seminar in Music Education
Course Syllabus: Spring 2014**

Instructor Information

Instructor:	Dr. Eric Branscome; <i>Music Department Head</i>
Classroom Location:	Tuesdays, 4:30 to 6:50pm; Room 213
Office Location:	Music Building Rm. 188
Office Hours:	by appointment only, through the music office
Office Phone:	903-886-5327
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Preferred Form of Communication:	email
Communication Response Time:	24 hours

Course Information

Course Description

This course is designed to explore the philosophical, sociological and psychological foundations of music and the way in which it is taught and learned.

Required Texts and Materials

- Mark, M., & Madura, P. (1996). *Contemporary music education (4th ed.)*. Boston, MA. Thompson Schirmer. ISBN: 978-1-133-95630-3
- Access to the D2L shell for MUS 550

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of the course, students will:

- Compare and contrast the prominent philosophies of music education, and apply them appropriately to the profession.
- Identify and compare the traits of important philosophical perspectives and how they relate to historical and current societal, artistic and educational trends
- Describe relevant sociological and psychological perspectives of music and music education as they relate to current societal, artistic and educational trends

Course Requirements

Grading

Attendance	10% of final grade
Daily Reflection Essays	30% of final grade
Written Assignments	40% of final grade
Exams	20% of final grade

A = 100 - 90% B = 80 – 89% C = 70 – 79% D = 60 – 69% F = 59% & below

Assignments Overview

(additional details are available on the course D2L shell)

Chapter Discussion Questions: Students will read the assigned chapters and related articles, and come prepared to discuss/share reflections in class. Occasionally, written reflections will be requested (due in class).

Reflection Essay: At the conclusion of each day, students will submit a summary paragraph of the day's content as it relates to their individual teaching situation and experience.

Article Reviews: Students will submit one written review of a scholarly article of their choosing, related to one of the major course topics. Students will also give an informal presentation / overview of their article in class.

Philosophy of Music Education: Students will submit a one-page philosophy of music education that reflects course content and scholarly writing at the graduate level. Students will also informally present their philosophy statement in class.

Thesis Abstracts: Students will submit an abstract for 2 to 3 research topics that could be explored in future classes or as possibilities for a thesis or dissertation study.

Attendance and Engagement

Regular and prompt attendance and active engagement in the class is expected. The student's attendance grade is calculated by the number of times present divided by the total number of class meetings. Students who are present but not engage in the discussion may not receive attendance at the discretion of the instructor.

Late Assignments or Work

Late papers, assignments, and exams will not be accepted *unless prior arrangements have been made*. A student who is absent on the day of a quiz or exam will receive a "0" for that quiz/exam *unless prior arrangements have been made* (in the case of university-sponsored absences in accordance with campus policy).

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](#)

Course Calendar

Week	Topic	Assignment
January 30	Course Introduction & Overview	
February 6	History of American Music Education (ch. 1)	
February 13	History of American Music Education Cont'd	
February 20	Pivotal Events of Contemporary Era (ch. 2)	
February 27	Philosophy of Music (Education) (ch. 3)	
March 5	MIDTERM EXAM	
March 12	SPRING BREAK (NO CLASS)	
March 19	Psychology of Music (ch. 3)	Philosophy Statement Due
March 26	Advocacy for Music Education (ch. 4)	
April 2	Music Education Methods & Research (ch. 5 & 6)	
April 9	Music Education Methods & Research	
April 16	The Education of Music Teachers (ch. 8)	
April 23	The Education of Music Teachers (ch. 8 continued- Research)	
April 30	Assessment of Music Education (ch. 9) & Tying it All Together	Abstracts Due
May 7	Final Exam (Regular class time and Location)	

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, contact the Office of Student Disability Services at 903-886-5150, 903-886—5835; email studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu; online at [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](#); or in-person in Room 162 of the Velma K. Waters Library.

Tenets of Common Behavior

All students enrolled at the university shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. (See current Student Guidebook);

Campus Concealed Carry Statement

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/rulesProcedure/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.