MUS 520 – Intro to Graduate Music Syllabus

Dr. Eric Giles

School of Music
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Office: School of Music, Room TBC
Office Hours: By appointment
Semester: Fall 2025

Course Description and Student Learning Outcomes

Introduction to Graduate Study in Music - Two semester hours Description : The purpose of the course is to prepare students for advanced, in-depth study of music history and theory. The student learning objectives are, "Upon the conclusion of the course, the student will:

     a. List and explain the dates, important geo-political events, aesthetic philosophies, and critical attributes of each stylistic period, from the Middle Ages to the present;
     b. List and define major genre of music literature and cite significant composers and compositions in each; c. Analyze and describe the structure of music in terms of form, harmony, rhythm, etc. during the Common Practice Period and subsequent 20th Century techniques of composition (i.e. octatonicsm, serialism, etc.).

Attendance Expectations

Students are expected to attend all scheduled class sessions, arrive on time, and remain for the full duration of the class. Attendance will be recorded at the beginning of each session.

Absence Allowance

You are permitted up to **2 unexcused absences** during the semester without penalty. These absences do not require documentation and are intended to cover minor illnesses, personal obligations, or emergencies. If you have a musical opportunity that you need to miss class for, please let me know in advance.

Grading Criteria

Attendance: 10%

Presentations: 50%

Comprehensive Notebook: 20%

Paper: 20%

Schedule

Classes will be held on Monday and Friday at 9am. Some Friday meetings may be held in an asynchronous manner. These dates will be announced on the first day of classes as I am still finalizing some dates.

Dates to Note:

Sept. 1st: No Class (Labor Day)

Sept. 5th: No Class

Sept. 19th: No Class

Oct 17th: Online Class

Oct 24th: Online Class

Nov 21st: Online Class

Nov. 28th: No Class (Thanksgiving Break)

Dec. 5th: Last Day of Class

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Presentations

Each student will be responsible for three presentations throughout the semester. These presentations will be based around composers assigned on the first day of class. These presentations need to be 25 minutes in length and highlight the following:

- Composer name
- Dates
- Country of origin
- Period in which the composer is a part of
- Biographic information
- Notable historical events for this composer
- Notable works by this composer (At least 3 w/ links)
- One notable recording for the class to listen to
    - Notable characteristics of their music
- Background and history to one of the most recognizable works by the composer

Each student will also have a meeting with me at least one week before their presentation date to go over main talking points and to make sure you are set up for success for your presentations.

Comprehensive Notebook

Each student will be responsible for creating and maintaining a notebook. As a large component of this class will be student presentations, each student will be tasked with taking notes on each presentation. These notebooks will be a great reference for you going into other graduate courses and throughout your careers.

For each composer presented your notebook must contain the following components:
- Composer name
- Dates
- Country of origin
- Period in which the composer is a part of
- Biographic information
- Notable historical events for the composer
- Notable works by this composer
    - Notable characteristics of their music

This notebook will be checked during the middle of the term(October 20th) and on December 1st.

Term Paper

Each student will be responsible for writing a research paper which will be due on our last meeting of class(December 5th). This paper will be on a composer of your choice which will need to be approved by October 1st. This paper must use at least 5 reputable sources and be 1,500 words total excluding your bibliography.

In a similar fashion to the presentations, your paper must include:
- Dates
- Country of origin
- Period in which the composer is a part of
- Biographic information
- Notable historical events for this composer
- Notable works by this composer
    - Notable characteristics of their music
- Background and history to one of the most recognizable works by the composer

A rubric will be provided for the term paper as well on October 1st.

UNIVERSITY POLICIES AND STATEMENTS

School of Music Mission Statement:

The School of Music at East Texas A&M University 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.

University Mission Statement:

East Texas A&M University 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.

ETAMU Attendance

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the Attendance webpage and 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 East Texas A&M University 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 POLICIES

Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03

Undergraduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form

http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/documents/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyForm.pdf

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

East Texas A&M University

Velma K. Waters Library Room 162

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

Email: studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu
Website: Office of Student Disability Resources and Services
http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/

East Texas A&M University Supports Students' Mental Health
The Counseling Center at East Texas A&M, 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 visitwww.tamuc.edu/counsel

Student Conduct and 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.
The Code of Student Conduct is described in detail in the Current University Student Guidebook
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

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.

Nondiscrimination Notice
East Texas A&M University 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.

Technology Requirements

LMS
All course sections offered by East Texas A&M University 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_suppo rt.htm
Zoom Video Conferencing Tool
https://inside.tamuc.edu/campuslife/CampusServices/CITESupportCenter/Zoom_Account.aspx?source=universalmenu

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@etamu.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 ETAMU 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

Health and Wellness
As an Institutional Member of the National Association of Schools of Music, East Texas State A&M University supports the Association's commitment to student health and wellness. The following web address provides links to information for resources related to physical and mental well-being, as well as assists in offering preventative measures that students can take to avoid serious and/or chronic conditions:Musician Health and Safety - East Texas A&M University

This course content is aligned with the standards established by the Texas Education Code, covering areas such as Music, the Commissioner's Rules, Pedagogy and Professional Responsibilities, Technology, and English Language Proficiency. To review these standards, please visit the Music Education Program D2L Shell and select "Standards and Objectives."