



SCHOOL OF
Music

MUS 1308 01W
Introduction to Music Literature
Course Syllabus: Fall 2025

Instructor Information

Instructor:	RJ McDowell
Office Hours:	Zoom TBD
University E-mail:	Rayford.Mcdowell@tamuc.edu
Preferred Form of Communication:	Email
Communication Response Time:	1-3 business days

Course Information

Course Description

Designed for lower division students and deals with the characteristics of musical sound and the elements of music as found in the music of all of the world's cultures. Major emphasis will be given to active listening through recordings, live performances, reading about music, and organized discussions of the music heard.

Student Learning Outcomes

In this course, students will:

- Identify musical works and elements in a variety of styles.
- Analyze the elements and structures of music using appropriate terminology.
- Critically evaluate the influence of social, political, technological, and/or cultural ideas on music.
- Articulate the significance of music as an art form within historical, cultural and social contexts.
- Graduating students will apply appropriate criteria to interpret, classify, and evaluate music of various cultures and time periods, in the appropriate historical and cultural context.

Required Textbook

Kamien, Roger. *Music: An Appreciation* 13th edition. New York, NY: McGraw-Hill, 2022.

Course Requirements

Instructional Methods

Students will follow outlined activities for each week that include readings, discussions, quizzes, and assignments.

Assessments

Discussions: There will be 6 discussions requiring students to respond to prompts related to class topics.

Quizzes: Over the course of the semester there will be eight quizzes covering concepts from class materials.
Album Review: Students will write an essay reviewing an album of their choice.

Concert Report: Students will write an essay based on their attendance of a live concert featuring Western Art Music.

Grading

Discussions	240
Quizzes	480
Album Review	120
Concert Report	160
Total	1000

A=900-1000 B=800-899 C=700-799 D=600-699 F=Below 600

Course and University Procedures / Policies

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

Attendance Policy

Because this is an online course, there is no attendance policy. It is the responsibility of each student to keep pace with the course and complete work on time.

Late Assignments or Work

Assignments submitted within one week of the deadline will incur a 50% penalty. **No assignments will be accepted beyond one week after the deadline.**

Online Etiquette

Students are expected to be thoughtful and courteous in expressing their opinions and in responding to those of their classmates.

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](#)

AI Use in Course

Texas A&M University-Commerce acknowledges that there are legitimate uses of Artificial Intelligence, ChatBots, or other software that has the capacity to generate text, or suggest replacements for text beyond individual words, as determined by the instructor of the course.

Any use of such software must be documented. Any undocumented use of such software constitutes an instance of academic dishonesty (plagiarism).

Individual instructors may disallow entirely the use of such software for individual assignments or for the entire course. Students should be aware of such requirements and follow their instructors' guidelines. If no instructions are provided the student should assume that the use of such software is disallowed.

In any case, students are fully responsible for the content of any assignment they submit, regardless of whether they used an AI, in any way. This specifically includes cases in which the AI plagiarized another text or misrepresented sources.

NASM Statement

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](#)

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/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.

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

Zoom Video Conferencing Tool

https://inside.tamuc.edu/campuslife/CampusServices/CITESupportCenter/Zoom_Account.aspx?source=universalmenu

Course Calendar

Week	Content
Week 1: January 12-16	Course Introduction Reading: Elements of Music <i>Discussion 1 due</i>
Week 2: January 20-23	Music in the Medieval Period Reading: pp. 71-91 <i>Quiz 1 due</i>
Week 3: January 26-30	Music in the Renaissance Period Reading: pp. 94-115 <i>Album Review due</i>
Week 4: February 2-6	Introduction to Baroque Music and Baroque Opera Reading: pp. 120-146 <i>Quiz 2 due</i>
Week 5: February 9-13	Baroque Instrumental Music, Cantata, and Oratorio Reading: pp. 150-184

Week	Content
	<i>Discussion 2 due</i>
Week 6: February 16-20	Introduction to Classical Music and Haydn's Instrumental Music Reading: pp. 188-217 <i>Quiz 3 due</i>
Week 7: February 23-27	Opera in the Classical Period and Mozart's Symphonies and Requiem Reading: pp. 219-239 <i>Discussion 3 due</i>
Week 8: March 2-6	Beethoven's Music Reading: pp. 240-254 <i>Quiz 4 due</i>
Week 9: March 16-20	Introduction to Romantic Music and Schubert and Lieder Reading: pp. 258-276 <i>Discussion 4 due</i>
Week 10: March 23-27	Early Romantics and Program Music Reading: pp. 280-311 <i>Quiz 5 due</i>
Week 11: March 30 – April 3	Nationalism and Opera in the 19 th Century Reading: pp. 312-362 <i>Discussion 5 due</i>
Week 12: April 6-10	Introduction to Music in the 20 th Century and Impressionism and Symbolism Reading: pp. 370-396 <i>Quiz 6 due</i>
Week 13: April 13 - 17	Primitivism, Neoclassicism, Expressionism, and Beyond Reading: pp. 398-425 <i>Concert Report due</i>
Week 14: April 20-24	Music in the Americas Reading: pp. 427-445 <i>Quiz 7 due</i>
Week 15 and Finals Week: April 27-May 8	Musical Styles Since 1945 Reading: 446-473 <i>Discussion 6 due</i> <i>Quiz 8 due</i>