



Reflections of the World in Western Music, 1500-2000

Fall 2016

Semester:	Fall 2016	Instructor:	Dr. Alice Jones
Class time:	Thursdays, 10-30-12:20	Email:	music.drjones@gmail.com
Room:	Music Building, Room 0037	Class website:	www.drjonesmusic.me

Course description. Designed with the nonmusician in mind, this course explores the aesthetics of music through time in the Western world. Parallels in the worlds of art, politics, economics, and philosophy are explored with the goal of giving students a better understanding of how the music of today does, and does not, relate to that of previous centuries.

This is a 2-credit course. For each credit, students are expected to complete a minimum of two hours of academic work (study, preparation, etc.) outside of class each week.

Music is simultaneously both a product of our human society as well as a cultural force which shapes it. The overarching goal of the course is to explore the notion of musical meaning—what it is, where it comes from, how it can be known, and how it can change—for both ourselves as individuals and for other listeners in different times and places. With this in mind, we will be listening to an array of music this semester from the Baroque, Classical, Romantic, and Modern eras with a goal of interpreting what we hear while also seeking to understand the concerns, influences, and contexts that appear in classical music are mirrored in and shaped by other areas of social knowledge: the arts, philosophy, politics, and economics.

Curricular objectives:

- 1) Students will observe, analyze, and critique various aspects of the musical experience (such as performance, style, genre, musical elements, and the role of the listener) through class discussions, writing assignments, and online blog participation.
- 2) Students will understand and place works of music and performances in their historical, stylistic, and cultural context.
- 3) Students will integrate their personal observations and objective criticism in the evaluation of musical works.

General education objectives:

- 1) Students will communicate about what they have read and heard effectively through writing and speaking.
- 2) Students will apply aesthetic and intellectual criteria to the evaluation of works in the humanities/arts.
- 3) Students will integrate the knowledge and skills of their respective programs of study, especially the fine arts.

Course objectives:

- 1) Students will become familiar with the basic elements of music and will correctly use the discipline's technical vocabulary to describe those elements.
- 2) Students will become familiar with several pieces of music, composers, and their historical, stylistic, and cultural contexts.
- 3) Students will listen closely to, analyze, and make both objective and personal observations about music.
- 4) Students will engage in critical inquiry of works assigned by the instructor as well as works of their own choosing.

REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS

A folder or binder for storing your lecture notes, class papers, and worksheets.

Access to the Internet. You will be required participate in a class blog. All assigned reading will be available as PDFs or links on the class website. The class website is also a source for recordings of works covered in class, study tips and guides, and additional course info (www.drjonesmusic.me).

A positive attitude, receptive ears, respect for everyone in the classroom, and an open mind!

STUDENT EVALUATION CRITERIA

Students' understanding of course materials will be assessed through the following kinds of required activities:

- 35% Midterm and Final exams (2)
- 15% Participation in online blog discussions (8)
- 15% Essay (3pp)
- 15% Daily in-class quizzes
- 10% Concert essay (1p)
- 10% Final project

Late assignments: Essays will lose one point per day that they are late; after two weeks, late assignments will not be accepted. In-class assignments and blog participation will not be accepted late; the grade for a missed in-class or blog assignment is a 0.

Essays: There will be two (2) formal writing assignments in this class:

- 1) Think-piece essay (3pp) – final draft due December 2
- 2) Concert attendance and response essay (1 page) – due at the final exam (December 15)

Participation in online blog discussions: There will be eight (8) online discussions led by the instructor in which every student is required to participate on the class website. These blog discussions are an opportunity for students to engage in additional informal writing, learn from their peers, and apply the concepts of observation, analysis, and critique introduced in class to a range of different musical styles. You will be graded based on whether you have posted the

required kind and amount of comments on each discussion; partial credit will be awarded. Of the 8 blog posts you'll be commenting on in the semester, I will drop the 2 lowest grades. However, if you participate fully in all of the required blog post discussions, you will earn extra credit.

Midterm and Final exams: The midterm exam will take place at the beginning of class on October 20. The final exam will be held December 15.

Final project: The final project will consist of a class discussion and writing project about grant writing in the music field. It will take place at the final exam on December 15.

In-class quizzes: Every day in class, there will be required in-class quizzes covering assigned reading and lecture content. There is no make-up given for any missed in-class assignments. I will drop the four (4) lowest daily assignment grades; there may be more than one in-class assignment per day.

Extra credit: There are two (2) ways to earn extra credit in this course: 1) participate fully in all online blog discussions (worth 10 additional points on your blog participation average); and 2) comment with exceptional insight and effort in online class blog discussions (worth 5 extra points on each blog discussion). You cannot pass this course by only doing extra credit. In order not to feel concerned about your grade, you should complete every assignment, do so with your best effort, and ask questions if you are unclear what is being asked of you. There are many assignments in this class, meaning that there are many opportunities to do well.

CLASS POLICIES

Students are responsible for all material covered in class, assigned for homework, posted on the class blog, and communicated via email.

Attendance: Each student is allowed two unexcused absences; two late arrivals and/or early departures are equivalent to one absence. Additional absences will negatively affect your grade. Regular attendance and participation (in-class assignments and discussion) are required. If a student is absent, he or she is still responsible for all missed work.

Participating in our classroom's intellectual space: Be respectful—of me, of your fellow students, of conflicting opinions, of your work, and of the music and cultures we study together—in all spheres of this course, including in the classroom, online blog comments, and email communication. Things that are disrespectful include, but are not limited to, *ad hominem* attacks, expressions of racism and sexism, and engaging in activities that are distracting those around you during our time together: arriving late, leaving early, sleeping, and holding unrelated side conversations. Cell phones should be turned off during class; laptops and tablets should only be used for activities that are relevant to the course. In the event that you must use your phone for a text or a phone call, please do so in a responsible manner: step outside, take care of your emergency, and return to class as quickly and quietly as possible. I expect you to be engaged in our classroom activities and to behave like responsible (young) adults—abuse of this policy will negatively affect your grade.

Emailing the instructor: Please include both a salutation (e.g., Hello Professor, Dear Dr. Jones) and a closing (e.g., Thank you, Sincerely, See you tomorrow) followed by your full name. I will not respond to email after 10 pm.

Academic Integrity: As members of an academic institution, we are engaged in an effort (and sometimes a struggle) to become better versions of ourselves—more informed, more eloquent, and more persuasive people. However, we cannot improve ourselves by relying on another person's work, ideas, or words. While honest scholarship is time-consuming and often requires hard work, it is also the primary process by which students learn to think for themselves. Because of this, all assignments must be the original work of the student. If at any point you are unsure what constitutes plagiarism or unethical conduct, please ask your course instructor.

The Purchase College academic integrity policy, www.purchase.edu/policies/academicintegrity.aspx, explicitly forbids cheating, plagiarism, and other forms of academic dishonesty. Plagiarism is the appropriation or imitation of the language, ideas, and/or thoughts of another person and the representation of them as one's own original work. Students are responsible for familiarizing themselves with the definition of plagiarism and the acceptable methods of attribution.

Violation of any of the above may lead to formal disciplinary action and the following sanctions:

- Minimum Sanction: Failing grade on the assignment or examination.
- Maximum Sanction: Expulsion
- Recommended Sanction (First Offense): Failing grade for the course
- Recommended Sanction (Second Offense): Expulsion

Students who have any questions or doubts about whether any activity is academically permissible should check with the instructor.

Student disabilities: Students with documented physical, learning, psychological, and other disabilities are entitled to receive reasonable accommodations. To receive accommodations, students must first register with the Office of Access and Accommodations, 251-6035, COU.accommodations@purchase.edu.

Campus academic resources:

Academic Resource Center – Student Services Building, 2nd Floor
Purchase College Library

Modifications to the Syllabus: The instructor reserves the right to modify this syllabus if circumstances warrant. Students will be notified of any changes in a timely manner by the instructor.