

School of the Arts

OFFICE OF THE DEAN

ARTS ABROAD PROGRAM: Music

Instructor: Dr. Alice Jones

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Classroom: Mus 1033

Class meeting times: Monday and Wednesday, 2:30-6:30

Course overview:

This course is an introduction to the idea of “America” through music. Our weekly in-class experience will alternate between discussions of specific kinds of American music and explorations of careers in music making through recorded music, field trips, and interactive visits from working musicians. In this course, students will develop a deeper understanding of three things: 1) various music careers, 2) different ways that music is made and consumed in America, and 3) themselves as musicians who help shape the American soundscape.

The final product of this course will be a magazine written by all students that provides several answers to the question, “What does America sound like?”, by documenting students’ experiences, observations, thoughts, and growth during the course of their stay in the New York City area.

Curricular Objectives:

- 1) Students will gain confidence in their skills in English (reading, writing, speaking, and listening).
- 2) Students will become familiar with several pieces of music, composers/performers, 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.
- 5) Students will become familiar with several different music career paths.
- 6) Students will expand their apparatus of imagination as artist-citizens.

Attendance:

Because the Arts Abroad Program is structured around pedagogical experiences and class interactions, class attendance is mandatory for all students, in every class, for the entire class session, throughout the entire semester.

Three unexcused absences will earn the student a failing grade for the class. Two late arrivals are the equivalent of one absence. Leaving a class early is considered equivalent to arriving late.

All excused absences must be verified by the Arts Abroad Program staff.



Grades and Grading Policies:

Music students will be assessed on their ability to listen, observe, describe, and assess different musical experiences. All assignments are open-ended—they are designed so that students can find ways to make their own experiences and interests relevant, and students who apply themselves the most intently to their completion will have the most meaningful experience in this course.

Grading breakdown:

In-class daily grades (28)	20%
An average of all participation in discussions, in-class and homework writing assignments, and quizzes on assigned reading that take place each day	
Midterm presentation	15%
The midterm presentation will consist of an oral presentation to other AAP students and teachers. In it, each student will describe the career of a working New York City-based professional musician, researched online and via email, and compare it to his or her own. The presentation will discuss both musicians' identity, goals, and place in the musical world.	
Magazine writing (7 assignments)	65%
Concert attendance in the Purchase Conservatory (2)	
Travel essays about New York City (3)	
Revising at one in-class/homework short writing	
An essay about an interview the student leads of a musician	

The work of all students is evaluated throughout the semester with a final grade being assigned at the completion of that course. The grade is based on the accomplishments documented by the student. These accomplishments include completed, assigned work but also reflect the attitude and approach taken to the course. It is expected that each student will not only perform at a given level but will also show improvement or growth during the course of the semester. *In this way, grades are not based on comparison to other students, but are based off a faculty evaluation of an individual's progress and potential.* It is an expectation of the faculty that students will clearly demonstrate a commitment, or passion, for the continued study in this program.

The Purchase College Arts Abroad Program is a rigorous course of study and students are expected to uphold the same standards as any Purchase College students.



The determination of each grade is made solely by the faculty member. It is not a collaborative process with the student, nor does the student need to agree with the grade assigned by the faculty. It is the subjective assessment of the student's success.

Some faculty choose to provide mid-term grades, as a vehicle to inform their students of performance expectations.

The following general guidelines apply to grades from courses at Purchase College. Faculty members define the standards and rubrics for each grading level as appropriate for the discipline.

C is the average grade to indicate standard expectations, and is the grade required to pass-through to a higher level within a discipline.

A(+/-) = Student work that goes far above and beyond standard expectations. Both talent and hard work are demonstrated through assignments and classroom participation. Grades in this category indicate excellence in the subject matter, demonstrated by only a small minority of students in the discipline.

B (+/-) = Student work goes above and beyond standard expectations. Hard work and passion are given expectations, demonstrated through assignments and classroom participation. Grades in this category indicate strong aptitudes for the subject matter, demonstrated by a minority of students in the discipline.

C (+) = Student work meets and exceeds standard expectations. Hard work is required to attain this grade, and full participation in classroom activities as well as full completion of all assigned work, on time and up to faculty-defined standards, are also required. A majority of students in the discipline will receive this grade.

C- = Student work generally meets expectations, but other factors (such as hard work, participation, attendance, attainment of faculty-defined standards, and timely completion of work, etc.) are not up to expectations. *This grade, or lower, will prevent a student from progressing to the next level in this discipline.*

D = Student work does not meet minimum expectations. Even though attendance, participation, and other factors may be satisfactory, student progress within the subject matter is not at an average level. While grades of this level will count towards graduation outside of a major area, they do not count towards required credits in a major, and prevent a student from progressing further within a discipline.



F = Failure to meet expectations. This can include, but is not limited to, quality of work, progress within the discipline, participation, attendance, etc. Three or more class absences not approved by the faculty member will result in an automatic failing grade. Check policies and procedures outlined in the course syllabus for faculty-defined grading rubrics and standards.

Important dates, assignments, and tentative course calendar

Additional assignments, due dates, and information will be added throughout the semester.

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| October 9 | Welcome!
Introduction to issues in American music

<u>Homework for next class</u>
Reading: Jeff Titon, <i>Worlds of Music</i> , Chapter 1
Writing: Choose 3 musical topics for the semester from the list distributed in class |
| October 11 | Introduction to issues in American music, continued / Introduction to the immigrant experience in America (Antonín Dvořák)

<u>Homework</u>
Attend PCO concert in the Conservatory Recital Hall, October 13
Writing: Purchase Conservatory concert response 1
Reading: TBD (to be determined) |
| October 16 | The immigrant experience in America, continued

<u>Homework</u>
Reading: Jeff Titon, <i>Worlds of Music</i> , Chapter 11 |
| October 18 | Guest: Hugh Ash, trumpeter |
| October 23 | Topic TBD (to be determined) |
| October 25 | Guest/Music careers |
| October 30 | Topic TBD

<u>Homework</u>
Reading: Travel essay examples |



November 1 NYC field trip

Homework

Writing: NYC travel essay 1

November 6 Topic TBD

November 8 Guest/Music careers
Midterm preparation

November 13 Violin masterclass with Kristin Lee
Midterm preparation

November 15 Midterm presentations

November 20 Topic TBD

November 27 Guest: Isabel Gleicher, flutist

November 29 Topic TBD

December 4 Guest/Music careers

December 6 Topic TBD

Homework

Writing: NYC travel essay 2

December 11 Guest/Music careers

Homework

Writing: Purchase Conservatory concert response 2

December 13 Topic TBD

January 3 NYC field trip



Homework

Writing: Interview essay draft

January 8 Guest/Music careers

January 10 Topic TBD

January 15 Topic TBD

Homework:

Revision of one in-class/homework short writing from earlier in the semester for the Magazine

January 17 Topic TBD

January 22 Magazine editing and design

Homework

Writing: NYC travel essay 3

January 24 Magazine editing and design

January 29 Magazine editing and design

January 31 Final magazine presentation