

UWaterloo, Department of Music

Music 261: Opera

Course Outline and Schedule (fall 2017)

Lectures:	Tuesdays & Thursdays, 2:30-3:50 pm, CGC Room 1208
Instructor:	Dr. Laura Gray, Associate Professor and Chair, Music
Office:	CGR 1103A
Office Hours:	Tues & Thurs, 11:30-12:30 and 4-4:30; Wed 1:30-3, drop in, or by appt
Email:	ljgray@uwaterloo.ca

Course Description & Goals: An introduction to the themes, sources, forms and nature of opera through selected works from Monteverdi to Britten, through the lens of “the composer as dramatist”. While focusing on one or two operas each week, the class will consider ways in which the elements of music – form, melody, orchestration, singing style, rhythm, harmony, etc – are used to interpret drama through music. The class will also discuss broader issues – artistic, cultural, social, political, philosophical and emotional – encountered by opera composers, librettists, producers and audiences.

Prerequisites: There are no prerequisites for this course but the ability to read music and some knowledge of basic musical terms and theory are beneficial.

Course Requirements & Assessments:

ASSESSMENT	GRADE WEIGHT	DUE DATE OR TEST DATE
PARTICIPATION	5%	
QUIZ (OPERA TERMS) SEE LIST OF TERM & TEXT GLOSSARY	10%	Thurs Sept 28
2 LISTENING QUIZZES	30% (15% each)	Thurs Oct 26 & Thurs Nov 30
1 TAKE-HOME WRITTEN ASSIGNMENT	15%	Thurs Nov 9
OPERA REVIEW (3-4 PAGES)	20%	Thurs Nov 23
1 SHORT GROUP PRESENTATION (2 PEOPLE)	20%	To be scheduled

Notes on Assessments:

Participation:

- 5% is based on punctual attendance. Please check your name on attendance sheet each class and contact me if unavoidable circumstances prevent your attendance or punctuality.

Quiz on Opera terms:

- A list of pertinent terms will be distributed on class and posted on Learn. Definitions are found in the glossary at the back of the text, *The Story of Music*.

Listening Quizzes (2):

- Information about listening tests will be distributed in class and posted on Learn well before the test date.

Take-home Written Assignment:

- The purpose of this assignment is to explore how composers use the music in operas to dramatize the characters. Instructions will be distributed in class and posted on Learn.

Opera Review:

- Please see Learn site for links to opera performances this term. I will also announce opera performances in class. Guidelines for the review will be distributed in class and posted on Learn.

Group Presentation on Feature Opera:

- 2 students each week will give a short presentation on an opera featured in class. This is an opportunity for each student to get to know one opera in depth and to share their knowledge with the class. Instructions and a list of available operas will be distributed in class and a schedule of team presenters will be established early in the term.

Course Materials:

Texts and course materials are available at the University bookstore and there are hard copies on [course reserve](#) in the Grebel Library.

1. **Required Text:** Parakilas, James. *The Story of Opera*. New York: W.W. Norton, 2013.
2. **Naxos Music Library:** A Music 261 supplemental playlist is available by following this link: [Naxos Music Library](#) . → playlists → Conrad Grebel playlists → Music 261 Opera f17 playlist. (You may need to sign in via the library site from home using your watcard barcode here.)
3. **Naxos Video Library:** A Music 261 supplemental video clip playlist is available by following this link: [Naxos Video Library](#) . → playlists → Music 261 Opera f17 playlist.
4. **Citation Guides:**
 - a. [Chicago Style Citation and Bibliographic Guide](#) (Also available on Learn)
 - b. **Additional Citation Tool:** use ISBN for citing books: ottobib.com (Also available on Learn)
5. Additional materials will be available on the [Learn](#) site.

Course Reserves & other research resources:

Location: Conrad Grebel University College Library, 3rd floor

Hours: Mon- Thurs, 8:30 am – 10pm; Friday, 8:30 am- 6pm Sat, 1:00-5pm; closed Sunday.

Library Website: <http://www.lib.uwaterloo.ca/>

Oxford Music Online: a great resource for research, including Grove's Music Online. Access via the library website. (Off campus you will need to sign in with your watcard barcode.)

Another helpful resource:

Sacher, Jack. *Opera: A Listener's Guide*. New York: Schirmer Books, 1997. [Course reserve: ML1700.S13 1997]
Sacher provides a full character list, description, synopsis, and select bibliography on several major operas.

Other Reading Assignments:

Budden, Julian. "Tosca." *The New Grove Dictionary of Opera*. *Grove Music Online*. *Oxford Music Online*. Oxford University Press, accessed September 6, 2017,
<http://www.oxfordmusiconline.com.proxy.lib.uwaterloo.ca/subscriber/article/grove/music/O005948>

Kerman, Joseph. "Opera as Symphonic Poem." In *Opera as Drama*, 2nd rev. ed. 158-177. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1988. CGC ML 3858.K4 1988 (on course reserve and pdf on [Learn](#))

Millington, Barry. "Tristan und Isolde." *The New Grove Dictionary of Opera*. *Grove Music Online*. *Oxford Music Online*. Oxford University Press, accessed September 6, 2017,
<http://www.oxfordmusiconline.com.proxy.lib.uwaterloo.ca/subscriber/article/grove/music/O905152>.

Class Expectations: MUTUAL RESPECT

Electronic devices: please turn off cell phones & other electronic devices during class: they distract your peers. Use of a laptop for Music 261 class notes is acceptable.

Listening and speaking: speak and listen to each other with courtesy and respect.

Late arrivals: arrive on time and be ready to begin by 2:30pm (or let me know if you must be late).

Eating: in class is acceptable as long as you do not disturb your peers and clean up after yourself.

Attendance: Students are expected to attend all classes and to have completed all reading and listening assignments (as indicated on the class schedule) before class. It is the student's responsibility to catch up on any missed lectures. (I will not email class notes.) Students are also expected to be present and engaged in their fellow students' presentations.

Due dates and Penalties: Students are expected to submit assignments at the beginning of class on the day indicated on the class schedule and to be present for all quizzes. Without a doctor's note or other official document, a student will not be permitted to write an alternate exam or quiz and assignments will lose 10% for every week or part of a week that they are late.

Schedule conflicts: Students are encouraged to take a pro-active approach to address potential scheduling conflicts or other problems (i.e., please communicate any problems to me as soon as possible).

Your experience in class: please let me know if there is something that I can do to improve your experience.

UW Policies on Academic Integrity & Campus Resources:

Academic Integrity: In order to maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility. See the [UWaterloo Academic Integrity webpage](#) and the [Arts Academic Integrity webpage](#) for more information.

Discipline: A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, to avoid committing academic offences, and to take responsibility for his/her actions. A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offence, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offences (e.g., plagiarism, cheating) or about “rules” for group work/collaboration should seek guidance from the course professor, academic advisor, or the Undergraduate Associate Dean. When misconduct has been found to have occurred, disciplinary penalties will be imposed under Policy 71 – Student Discipline. For information on categories of offenses and types of penalties, students should refer to [Policy 71 - Student Discipline](#). For typical penalties check [Guidelines for the Assessment of Penalties](#).

Grievance: A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of his/her university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. Read Policy 70 - [Student Petitions and Grievances](#), Section 4. When in doubt, please be certain to contact the department’s administrative assistant who will provide further assistance.

Appeals: A decision made or penalty imposed under Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances (other than a petition) or Policy 71 - Student Discipline may be appealed if there is a ground. A student who believes he/she has a ground for an appeal should refer to [Policy 72 - Student Appeals](#).

Accommodation for students with learning differences: The [Access Ability Services](#) office, located on the first floor of Needles Hall extension (1401), collaborates with all academic departments to arrange appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities without compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you require academic accommodations to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with the AS office at the beginning of each academic term.

Accommodation for Illness: A medical certificate presented in support of an official petition for relief from normal academic requirements must provide all of the information requested on the “University of Waterloo Verification of Illness” form or it will not be accepted. More information can be obtained from Health Services and the form is available in pdf: <https://uwaterloo.ca/health-services/student-medical-clinic/services/verification-illness>

The Writing Centre: Writing Centre staff offer one-on-one support in planning assignments and presentations, using and documenting research, organizing and structuring papers, and revising for clarity and coherence. Make an appointment or drop in at the Library for quick questions or feedback. To book a 50-minute appointment and to see drop-in hours, visit www.uwaterloo.ca/writing-centre

Mental Health Support:

All of us need a support system. The faculty and staff in Arts encourage students to seek out mental health supports if they are needed.

On Campus

- Counselling Services: counselling.services@uwaterloo.ca / 519-888-4567 xt 32655
- [MATES](#): one-to-one peer support program offered by Federation of Students (FEDS) and Counselling Services
- Health Services Emergency service: located across the creek from Student Life Centre

Off campus, 24/7

- [Good2Talk](#): Free confidential help line for post-secondary students. Phone: 1-866-925-5454
- Grand River Hospital: Emergency care for mental health crisis. Phone: 519-749-433 ext. 6880
- [Here 24/7](#): Mental Health and Crisis Service Team. Phone: 1-844-437-3247
- [OK2BME](#): set of support services for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or questioning teens in Waterloo. Phone: 519-884-0000 extension 213

Full details can be found online at the Faculty of ARTS [website](#). Download [UWaterloo and regional mental health resources \(PDF\)](#). Download the [WatSafe app](#) to your phone to quickly access mental health support information.

Territorial Acknowledgement:

We acknowledge that we are living and working on the traditional territory of the Attawandaron (also known as Neutral), Anishinaabe and Haudenosaunee peoples. The University of Waterloo is situated on the Haldimand Tract, the land promised to the Six Nations that includes six miles on each side of the Grand River. For more information about the purpose of territorial acknowledgements, please see the [CAUT Guide to Acknowledging Traditional Territory \(PDF\)](#)

MUSIC 261: WEEKLY SCHEDULE: FALL 2017

Date	Topic & Featured Opera	Reading: Parakilas, <i>The Story of Music</i> (exceptions noted)	Video and Audio Recording & Featured Excerpts (all on reserve at CGC library)
Thurs 7 Sept	Introduction: What is Opera?	Chapters 1-3: 2-63 (skim)	
Tues 12 Sept & Thurs 14 Sept	The Birth of Opera: Monteverdi, <i>Orfeo</i> (1607)	Chapter 5: 95-118	DVD 133 & CD400 Mon Ope-1 CD1/9-10: Act II excerpts (Orfeo & Messenger): “Vi ricorda,” “Ahi, Caso,” “Tu se’ morta” CD2/3: Act III (Orfeo): “Possente spirito”
Tues 19 Sept	Opera Seria: Handel, <i>Giulio Cesare</i> (1724) Group Presentation 1	Chapter 8: 177-193	DVD 39 & CD400 Han Ope-1 CD2/3-7: Act II, sc.1-2 (Cleopatra, Nireno, Cesare): Eseguiti – V’Adoro pupille CD2/20: Act II, sc. 6 (Sesto): “L’angue offeso mi riposa”
Thurs 21 Sept	The Intermezzo & Opera Reform: Pergolesi, <i>La serva padrona</i> (1733)	Chapter 9: 223-225	CD400 Per Ope TR9-11: Part II (Serpina) Aria: “A Serpina penserete” – (Uberto) Recitative, “Ah, quanto mi sta male “ – Aria, “Son inbrogliato io”
Tues 26 Sept & Thurs 28 Sept	Drama through Music: Mozart, <i>Don Giovanni</i> (1787) Tues: Group presentation 2 Thurs Sept 28: Quiz: opera terms (10%)	Chapter 9: 235-246	DVD 136 & CD500 Moz Ope CD1/1: Overture CD 1/14: Act I, sc ix, no. 7 (Giovanni, Zerlina): “Là ci darem la mano” CD3/6: Act II, sc. 13, no. 23 (Donna Anna): “Crudele! – Non mi dir”
Tues 3 Oct & Thurs 5 Oct	Opera and Revolution: Beethoven, <i>Fidelio</i> (1814) Tues: Group presentation 3	Chapter 3: 54-56 (excerpt) Chapter 10: 266-271	DVD 137 & CD500 Bee Ope CD2/1: Act I, sc. 2 (Chorus of Prisoners): “O welche Lust” CD2/5-6: Act II, sc. I, no. 11 (Florestan): “Gott! Welch' Dunkel hier” – “In des Lebens Frühlingstagen”
Tues 10 Oct	***UW Study Days (no class)***		
Thurs 12 Oct & Tues 17 Oct	Operatic Form & Comedy: Rossini, <i>Il Barbiere di Siviglia</i> (1816) Thurs 12 Oct: Group presentation 4	Chapter 11: 307-312	DVD 134 & CD600 Ros Ope-1 CD1/7: Act I, sc i (Figaro): “Largo al factotum della città” CD1/12: Ac I, sc ii (Rosina): “Una voce poco fa” – “Io sono docile”
Thurs 19 Oct	Guest Lecture: Marina Gallagher, UBC PhD candidate in Musicology		

Tues 24 Oct & Thurs 26 Oct	Young Love & Family Conflict: Verdi, <i>La Traviata</i> (1853) Tues: Group presentation 5 Thurs 26 Oct: Listening Quiz #1 (15%)	Chapter 4: 65-90 & Chapter 11: 315-320	DVD (TBA) & CD600 Ver Ope-5 CD1/3: Act I (Alfredo): Brindisi: “Libiamo, ne’ lieti calici” CD1/5: Act I (Alfredo): “Un di felice, eterea” CD1/6-7: Act I (Violetta): “È strano – Ah! Fors’è lui” – “Follie – sempre libera”
Tues 31 Oct & Thurs 2 Nov	German Opera: Wagner, <i>Tristan und Isolde</i> (1859/65) Tues: Group presentation 6	Millington, ‘Tristan und Isolde’ Kerman, “Opera as Symphonic Poem”	DVD 95 & CD600 WAG OPE-5 CD1/1: Prelude CD1/7: Act I, sc v (Tristan & Isolde): “Tristan! Isolde! Treuloser Holder” CD3/11: Act III, sc iii (Isolde): “Mild und Leise”
Tues 7 Nov & Thurs 9 Nov	Opera, Race & Gender: Bizet, <i>Carmen</i> (1875) Tues: Group presentation 7 Thurs 9 Nov: Assignment #1 due (15%)	Chapter 11: 301-307	DVD 58 & CD600 Biz Ope-1 CD1/6: Act I, no. 5 (Carmen): “L’amour est un oiseau rebelle” (Habañera) CD1/9: Act I, no. 7 (José & Micaëla): “Parle-moi de ma mère!” CD3/14-15: Act IV, no. 27 (José, Carmen & Chorus): “C’est toi!”
Tues 14 Nov	Puccini, <i>Tosca</i> (1900) 9 Tues: Group presentation 8	Budden, “Tosca”	DVD 16 & CD600 Puc Ope-3 CD2/6-8: Act II- end of act II (Tosca, Scarpia): “Vissi d’arte”
Thurs 16 Nov & Tues 21 Nov	Opera, Violence & the Victim: Britten, <i>Peter Grimes</i> (1946) Tues: Group presentation 9	Chapter 13: 397-401	DVD 5 & CD700 Bri Ope-3 CD1/17-18: Act I, sc ii (Peter & Chorus): “Now the Great Bear and Pleiades” – “Old Joe has gone fishing” CD2/20: Act III, sciii (Peter): “Steady, there you are” (Mad Scene)
Thurs 23 Nov	Towards an American Opera: Gershwin, <i>Porgy & Bess</i> (1935) Thurs: Opera review due (20%)	Chapter 13: 390-397	DVD 98 & CD700 Ger Ope-1 CD2/11: Act II, sc ii (Sportin’ Life & Chorus): “It ain’t necessarily so” CD2/15-19: Act II, sciii (Bess, Porgy, etc): “Take yo’ hans off me” (Bess’s Delirium Scene)
Tues 28 Nov	Opera in the 21 st century: a) Truth, Reconciliation & Canadian Opera: Somers, <i>Louis Riel</i> (1967/2017) b) Interactive Mobile Opera: <i>Hopscotch</i> (2015)	Readings TBA	Excerpts TBA
Thurs 30 Nov	Listening Quiz #2 (15%) & Wrap-up		