

Conrad Grebel University College
The University of Waterloo
Department of Music
Music 100: Understanding Music – Course Outline
Winter Term 2024
Section 001

Classes: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11:30-12:50, CG1111

Instructor: Dr. John Brownell (jbrownel@uwaterloo.ca)

Office Hours: By appointment for in-person or Zoom, by email anytime.

Course Description

This course presents a broad overview of European art music and develops skills and concepts that can contribute to knowledgeable listening. Though the focus is on the music of a particular rich tradition, the technical and theoretical concepts introduced in this course are fundamental to music discourse in many genres and idioms. No knowledge of music notation is necessary.

By the end of the course students will:

- 1) Have a working knowledge of the history of European music.
- 2) Have a basic vocabulary for speaking and writing about music.
- 3) Be familiar with the stylistic characteristics of the various eras of European music.
- 4) Be familiar with important works of individual composers and be able to place them in historical and stylistic context.

Textbook (required)

Yudkin, Jeremy

2015 *Understanding Music, Eighth Edition*. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson Prentice Hall.

The e-version of the text is available through the UW Bookstore. Many musical examples are embedded in the text. Additional musical examples are available online in the Music 100

Brownell folder in the Naxos Music Library at the UW library website or through a link under “Course Reserves” on our LEARN page. Still more examples are posted under “Content>Audio Examples” on LEARN.

Evaluation

Assessment Weighting

Listening Quiz 15%

Midterm Test 25%

1st Concert Review 10%

2nd Concert Review 10%

Final Exam 40%

Date

January 25

March 5

Hard copy due at Final Exam (date TBA)

Hard copy due at Final Exam (date TBA)

(date TBA)

Class Expectations

The many listening guides and illustrations in the text will be referred to frequently. It is a good idea to listen to each week’s listening assignments at least once before class and then repeat and re-listen as necessary. Remember that the primary subject matter of this course is music. . . *sound*. Writings about music (the textbook), while crucial, are supplemental to the listening experience. In addition to the listening quiz there will be a midterm test and a final exam

You are also required to review two performances of “nonpopular” (i.e., “classical” – the kind of music that 100 is about) music. There are many opportunities to satisfy this requirement in the KW area including, of course, the KW Symphony as well as chamber and vocal music performances and recitals at both UW and Laurier. See the rubric on LEARN for more information.

Missed Tests and Assignment Deadlines

The deadline for receipt of the concert reviews is the same as the due date of the final exam. PLEASE NOTE: I’m old-fashioned. Print your reviews and bring them to the final exam. There will be no extensions. Exceptions will only be made if official documentation such as a doctor’s note can be provided.

Missed quizzes or midterms will require similar documentation before any makeup opportunity will be offered.

Further Listening (without breaking the bank):

CBC Radio1 (90.7 FM in Waterloo, 94.1 in Toronto)

Check cbc.ca for details.

cbc.ca has extensive classical music resources featuring Canadian and international

performers.

Classical 96 (96.3 FM)

If you can endure the ads for all the upscale consumer items (luxury cars, restaurants, and travel figure prominently), this station does play the warhorses. . . the “standards” of the standard repertoire.

There are also many internet sites (including YouTube) devoted to classical music (too many to list here).

UWaterloo Policies

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.

Arts: [Academic Integrity website](#) University of Waterloo: [Academic Integrity Office](#)

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.

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.

Appeals: A student may appeal the finding and/or penalty in a decision made under Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances (other than regarding a petition) or Policy 71 - Student Discipline if a ground for an appeal can be established. Read Policy 72 - Student Appeals.

Other sources of information for students:

Note for students with learning differences: The [AccessAbility Services \(AAS\)](#) office, located in Needles

Hall Room 1132, 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 ASS office at the beginning of each academic term.

Counselling Services: Counselling Services provides free confidential counselling, in both individual and group

sessions, with qualified professionals to help registered students, faculty and staff with personal concerns, educational career decisions, and strategies to studies and exams: www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infocs, ext. 33528, NH Room 2080.

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/verificationillness>

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.

CLASS SCHEDULE

Classes	Topic/Readings/Tests
January 9, 11	Introduction The Social Context of Music. Fundamentals: Texture, Melody, Rhythm, Harmony Chapters 1, 2
January 16, 18	Fundamentals: Form, Expression, Instruments, Ensembles Chapter 2, 3
January 23, 25	The Middle Ages and Renaissance Chapters 4, 5 Listening Quiz: January 25
January 30, February 1	Renaissance and Baroque Chapters 5, 6
February 6, 8	Baroque Chapter 6
February 13, 15	Baroque (continued) The Classical Era Chapter 6, 7
February 20, 22	NO CLASS - READING WEEK
February 27, 29	The Classical Era Chapter 7 Beethoven Chapter 8
March 5, 7	<i>Midterm Test</i> : March 5 The Nineteenth Century Chapter 9
March 12, 14	Romantic Opera
March 19, 21	The Nineteenth Century Chapter 10 The Late Nineteenth to Mid-Twentieth Centuries Impressionism, Primitivism
March 26, 28	Mid-Twentieth Century Expressionism, Atonality, Serialism Chapter 11
April 2, 4	The Twentieth and Twenty-first Centuries Music in America, Aleatoric Music Postmodern/Contemporary Chapter 11 Final Exam and Concert Reviews due date: TBA