Grand Rapids Community College
Music Department

Course
MUS 110 (2548), Appreciation of World and Western Music

Semester
Winter 2015

Instructor Name
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Contact Information and Availability
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Office Hours (by appointment)
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Course Information
Course description: This course is designed to increase the student’s ability to effectively listen to and communicate about music. Study of the elements and media of music will include investigation of World and Western music. Outside reading, listening, and concert attendance are required. This course counts toward the Group 1 (humanities) requirement for the associate degree and is required for the Music Merchandising concentration of the Associate of Music degree. This course was formerly offered as MU 107.

The online course is not suitable for every learning style. Online course is independent study by nature, which is intense, demanding, requiring your commitment, research, self-discipline, and hard work. Online study is not necessarily easier than the traditional educational process. In fact, it requires much more time and commitment. The following link is worth your attention, which provides some online tips and assessment of your study skill level: Study Skills Self Help Information at Virginia Tech’s website. It is critically important that you look over your schedule and make the time commitment that will be required. This course requires a significant investment of your time. The workload is manageable, but only if you keep up. I will do my best to help you to succeed in this course, but it will not be possible without your commitment, good time management and hard work.

Student Learning Outcomes
1. Demonstrate understanding of the various genre of music throughout the world.
2. Demonstrate understanding of the major periods of Western Classical music (e.g. Renaissance, Baroque, Classical, Romantic, and Modern)
3. Demonstrate understanding of jazz history including the major periods (e.g. Dixieland, Ragtime, Swing, Bebop, Cool, hard Bop, Fusion, and Modern).
4. identify the various instrument timbres and place them in the correct classification.
5. Demonstrate an understanding of basic music vocabulary (dynamics, rhythm, tempo, timbre, harmony, melody, etc.)
6. Identify musical forms and genres (binary, ternary, sonata, rondo, 12-bar blues, 32-bar song form, symphony, sonata, mass, etc)
7. Synthesize all previous learning outcomes by writing critical evaluations of a minimum of two concerts.

**Required Materials**

**Textbook:** *The World of Music, 7th edition*, by David Willoughby (McGraw Hill publishing)

**E-book with Connect Access Card.** This is the least expensive option (under $70), but you don't get an actual print textbook, just the online version. You would need internet access whenever you use the book. You can purchase this option directly from the McGraw-Hill connect website, or at Brians Books, downtown Grand Rapids.

**Soft-cover print textbook with (or without) Connect Access Card** - you'll also get the e-book with this option (most expensive option - $95 to $125). Some of you will prefer this option because you have an actual textbook. You can access the e-book only when you have internet access. This is available through Brians Books and the GRCC Bookstore.

**Purchase the 3-CD set.** The connect card doesn't allow you to download the musical examples onto your MP3 player or your computer. You can only play back through the internet. If you want to be able to download the musical examples, you need to purchase the 3-CD set, check with the GRCC bookstore and Brians Books for availability.

**Course-Specific Requirements**

Our online work goes by week (Monday through Sunday midnight). Please note that if you miss a weekly assignment, there is no returning to it. Namely, **there is no late, make-up or extra credit.** I understand your schedules are busy, but you have seven days to complete your assignments and it is your responsibility to manage your time effectively and plan accordingly. I strongly recommend assigning specific days for completing your assignments so you don't get overwhelmed at the end of the week. If you have any problems (error in submitting the test, etc.), keep in mind that it may take me up to 24 hours to respond. Therefore, please do not wait until last minute to complete your assignments.

This course consists of following weekly assignments:

1) read assigned chapter
2) complete weekly written quizzes
3) listen to your listening examples
4) complete listening assignments
5) post to discussion forum

Please read and follow instructions inside each weekly assignment.

**The concert attendance**

**Concert requirements**

The concert attendance requirement offers an unique opportunity for students to experience live performances in a variety of idioms. You are required to attend minimum of two concerts – **one orchestral/choral concert** (large ensemble performing on stage all at the same time (orchestra, wind ensemble, choir, opera, etc.), and **one instrumental/vocal recital** (smaller ensemble or soloist recital: full-length concert). Please note that performances such as marching band, half-time shows, church’s praise bands, pop/rock bands, etc. will
Any concerts listed on the GRCC Music Events Calendar, Grand Rapids Symphony Orchestra ($5 with student passport), Grand Rapids Opera, Kent Philharmonic Orchestra ($5 with student ID), GVSU concerts, Calvin College concerts, and other venues in or outside of Grand Rapids may be attended, as long as the repertoire relates to topics discussed in the class.

Format for all papers must be 12 point Times New Roman font, one (1) inch margins, double spaced. Title page should contain your name, class and section number, and date of the concert report. Write 2-page essay discussing the experience as it pertains to the course materials for each one of the performances. Include the background of pieces/composers performed, elements of their style, and aesthetic evaluation/reaction to the performances are essential parts of your reports. Use scholarly journals/e-databases for your research, and comment on the basic music elements such as melody, harmony, rhythm, etc.

First concert report is due March 1, 2015.
Second report is due April 26, 2015.

To prevent possible loss/misplacement of your documents in a virtual space, your reports must be submitted via blackboard. No other submissions (email, discussion board, etc.) will be accepted.

Concert Goer's Guide: I would encourage you to review this section in your online Connect Edition, as it has been prepared to help you understand and enjoy the experience of attending a concert and write effectively about it. The guide contains two main sections: "Attending a Concert" and "Writing a Concert Report." The booklet will help you to decide which concert to attend, what to expect at the concert, and what to do after the concert. It will help you transform your notes into a report, guide you what to write in your report and how to write it. The booklet also contains a sample of the concert report.

Attendance Policy
You should expect to spend at least 9 hours on assignments each week. Participation is crucial to your success in this course. Each student is suggested to participate in the designated forum at least 2 out of 7 days each week. This standard is a minimum. Simply logging on does not contribute to the class. Participation includes questions or comments about the weekly material, responses to posts made by your instructor, or posts that you make as part of a learning activity. Participation does not include e-mails, or posts to the Virtual Office or Virtual Lounge areas. Make sure to logon often to avoid becoming overwhelmed by the number of posts.

Grading Procedure
A student's grade is determined by his or her performance on four tasks online: 1) tests (weekly quizzes, midterm, final exam) 2) weekly listening assignments, 3) weekly discussion board posts, and 4) two concert reports. Students must take tests and participate in discussion and assignments as required and scheduled for their grades. Please make sure to start early to avoid being overwhelmed toward the deadline. There are always the last-minute problems such as "traffic jam" on the network. Remember, no late work will be accepted or credited. No make-up test or discussion will be allowed or provided. Bygones are bygones. If you do not complete your assignment on time or at all, your will
earn 0 points for that assignment.

All the assignments must be completed before Sunday, 11:59pm of assigned week.

**Weekly Quiz**
Weekly quizzes are multiple choice/true-false questions and derive from the particular chapter only. All quizzes and exams are timed. After you submit the quiz, you will be able to see your score (not answers). After the deadline, you can review all the answers. This will help you to identify the material you have mastered and areas you need to review.

**Listening Assignment**
Weekly listening assignment draws from the accompanying CD set. The format of the test may be a combination of multiple choice questions, short answers, and/or short essay questions. Read instructions on Blackboard for completing the assignment.

**Weekly Discussion**
Each chapter has questions listed at the designated forum, i.e., discussion board. After answering the questions, you may respond to each other’s posts. This is optional, but highly recommended. You will not be able to see your classmates’ posts unless you create a your own thread first. This is designed for originality.

The participants must show respect to one another. We all agree to disagree. Also, you may create your own question on the board within the scope of the particular chapter, if you like. Please note that your instructor may not have time or energy to respond to every posting. It is your discussion, so strive for it, although sometimes without me.

Weekly discussion points are determined based on the quantity and quality of your posts, which are evaluated with the following rubric:

**10 Participation Points: Excellent** (this is the maximum you can get for each week)
The participant consistently posted insightful answers and substantive comments that show his or her understanding. Each post met the **minimum word count of 125 words**. The participant fully addressed all aspects of the questions, demonstrating analysis of the concepts and making reflective and stimulating contribution. Posts were original and factually correct, and it was a pleasure to read. The participant also used references to literature, readings, or personal experience to support comments. Furthermore, the participant stated his or her disagreement or objections clearly, yet politely.

**5 Participation Points: Good**
The participant posted superficial thought and didn’t address all aspects of the task. The participant simply threw out “cheap shots” like “I agree …” without explaining why. Apparently, in so doing, the participant attempted to get over, without intending to enrich discussion. On the other hand, the participant repeated or paraphrased other’s comments.

**0 Participation Points: Unacceptable**
The participant didn’t participate at all, post did not meet the minimum word count of 125 words or the post did not address the topic/question (s) in its entirety or shows serious flaws in comprehending the concept/context.

**Grading Policy**
Your final grade will be determined by the following rubric:
Weekly quizzes: 10 points each (11 quizzes = 110 points)
Listening assignments: 10 points each (13 assignments = 130 points)
Posting on discussion board 10 points each (13 postings = 130 points)
Midterm exam: 150 points
Final exam: 150 points
Papers: 80 points each (2 papers=160 points)
Total: 830 points

Your final letter grade is calculated with straight percentage. There is no weight assigned to each grading component. The following grading scheme will be utilized. These cutoffs will be strictly maintained.

Percentage Scale for Conversion to Letter Grade

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Honor Points for Credit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>4.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>3.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>3.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>3.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>2.67</td>
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<td>C+</td>
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<td>C-</td>
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<td>D</td>
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<td>0.67</td>
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<td>0.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td>Incomplete</td>
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<tr>
<td>V</td>
<td>Audit</td>
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<tr>
<td>W</td>
<td>Student Initiated Drop</td>
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<tr>
<td>WP</td>
<td>Withdraw – Passing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WF</td>
<td>Withdraw – Failing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NS</td>
<td>No Show</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Late Assignment Policy
Each assignment can be found in the “Assignments” area of your Blackboard course and is due by deadlines indicated in the course. No assignments will be accepted by e-mail or after the deadline. There is no extra credit, partial credit, or make-up work.

College Policies

Academic Integrity
Academic dishonesty (including cheating, fabrication, plagiarism, computer misuse and other actions as defined in the College Handbook and Catalog) may, at the discretion of the professor, result in sanctions that range from a failing grade on the relevant assignment to dismissal from the class and a failing grade. The Student Academic Grievance process can be used by students who feel they have been treated unfairly by this policy.

Academic, College and other Policies
The academic policies and procedures of GRCC are outlined in the College Catalog. College-wide policies and procedures, to include (but not limited to) grading, Federal Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), Student Right to Know, Privacy, Affirmative Action, Equal
Employment Opportunity, Americans with Disability Act (ADA), concealed weapons, smoking, campus crime, copyright, academic grievances and discipline grievances, are at http://www.grcc.edu/catalog. Additional policies, to include (but not limited to) academic integrity, disability support services, posting/distributing literature, selling merchandise, fundraising, classroom disruption, conduct and substance abuse, can be found in the GRCC Student Handbook at http://www.grcc.edu/handbook. If you come to campus for this or other classes, research, or meetings, remember that GRCC is a tobacco-free campus. Go to http://www.grcc.edu/tobaccofree for complete details on this GRCC policy or for resources about quitting. Finally, the most recent policies (that may not have been published in the catalog and handbook yet) are at http://www.grcc.edu/policies. These policies and procedures are subject to change and incorporated by reference.

Withdrawal
There are no withdrawals after the College’s deadline for withdrawing. I cannot withdraw you from the course. You must drop the course through the registrar or through the Online Center yourself.

GRCC Email and Course Communications
There are 3 ways for class communication between the students and the instructor.
(1) Office visit. Please check the office hours listed above or by appointment.
(2) Telephone call. Please check the phone number listed above.
(3) Email. Email can be used for private issues such as grade and other personal concerns. Before you e-mail your professor, please make sure to review the syllabus first. You will be able to find answers to majority of your questions.

If you still have questions, do not hesitate to contact me at londras@grcc.edu. Please remember, it may take up to 24 hours for me to respond. If you don't receive a response to your email within that timeframe, there are two possible reasons: 1) technical problem, please contact me again. 2) your email was not properly formatted (collegiate level).
I will not respond to emails that are not addressed properly. Your emails to your professors help shape their professional opinion about you. In fact, in online environment, email is the dominant opportunity for the professor to form an opinion about you. Every email adds to the professor’s profile. Make sure to write on collegiate level, which means address your professor properly (instructor’s name, title), include a proper subject, the course name, the four-digit section, as well as your own name. Respect us, we will respect you.

Course layout on the Blackboard
Here’s a list of the navigation links (left side of the course website) after you login to the Blackboard. What you’ll see are:

**Announcements** – the default front page with announcements about what’s new or due.
**Staff Information** – information on the instructor’s office and email address.
**Assignments** – learning activities, discussions, and assessments are assigned here.
**Discussion Board** – a link to class discussion each week.
**Course Information** – it provides syllabus and course schedule
**View Grades** – It is the entry point to check your score and grade.
**Resources** – additional study material
**Tools** – various tools for course study.
Disability Support Services
Students with disabilities who wish to request accommodations must be registered with the Disability Support Services Office (DSS) in Room 368 of the Student Center. You may contact DSS at (616) 234-4140 for more information. Once you are registered with the DSS Office, you will receive an Accommodations Agreement to present to me to verify your registration. Please see me as soon as possible so we may have a private conversation to discuss accommodations.

Student Code of Conduct
All GRCC students are held accountable to the Student Code of Conduct, which outlines expectations pertaining to academic honesty (including cheating and plagiarism), classroom conduct, and general conduct. The Code can be found in full at Student Code of Conduct.

Learning Online:
Learning online requires many of the same skills and techniques students use in traditional classes, but there are some differences. Here's a step-by-step example of what happens in this online course.

1. Students enroll in this online course via the normal registration procedures.
2. Students receive their usernames and passwords allowing them access to the course materials on GRCC Blackboard, which is a software operating this online course at http://bb.grcc.edu or http://www.grcc.edu/. To learn Blackboard, go to http://www.grcc.edu/learnbb. Use your campus student network login. This is the same username and password that you use for campus e-mail and to login to the computers on campus. If you have never logged into Blackboard or a campus computer, you will need to apply to receive your username and initial password. After logging in successfully for the first time, you must change your password.

   College Student E-mail can be accessed via: (Use the same username and password that you use for Bb.)
   - Blackboard Tab
   - Through GRCC website (Current Students area)
   - Directly by: http://mail.grcc.edu/gw/webacc

   Additional Student Assistance
   If you are experiencing technical difficulties with Blackboard, please contact ithelp@grcc.edu or 616-234-HELP

   For Blackboard 9, Mozilla FireFox is recommended.

3. Students participate in the orientation to learn how to go online to GRCC Blackboard and do your work on it. For details, go to www.grcc.edu/orientations.

   You will receive a letter from GRCC to inform you of the time and place of the orientation.

   You will need to get familiarized with the use of Blackboard yourself.

4. Students pace their work according to weekly schedule, which is already attached near the end of this syllabus. Each week, for the duration of the course, the instructor assigns
units, reading materials, discussion, and test. Students work online on their own time independently from any personal computer with the Internet access, whether it’s at school, at home, at work, or in the library. No matter where you work on it, *don’t wait until last minute to complete assignment.* Allow yourself the time to avoid or fix unexpected troubles.

When the deadline is missed, the assignment is gone and won’t return.

(5) Students communicate electronically with each other and the instructor when necessary.

(6) Students take part in discussion board regularly. In an online course, students access discussion board under instructor’s monitoring/ intervention so as to participate fully and maximize mutual learning.

Participation in discussion is vital in that it allows students to express themselves and learn from each other.

Discussion is evaluated and graded according to the criteria set forth in earlier part of this syllabus.

(7) Students complete the weekly assignment by taking and submitting a test before the deadline.

   You need to contact the instructor about any issue of assignment also before the deadline.

(8) Students are assessed and graded on a combination of three factors – tests/quizzes, listening assignments, and discussion.

   You need to go to your grade book to see your grade.

(9) Students start over again for the next weekly assignment each Monday morning.

Please be advised: online study is not necessarily easier than the traditional educational process. In fact, it requires much more time and commitment. The following link is worth your attention, which provides some online tips and assessment of your study skill level:  
[Study Skills Self Help Information at Virginia Tech’s website](#)

**Changes to the Syllabus**

The instructor reserves the right to change the contents of this syllabus due to unforeseen circumstances. Students will be given notice of relevant changes in class, through a Blackboard Announcement, or through GRCC e-mail.