



Account



Dashboard



Courses



Calendar



Inbox



History



Commons



Studio



Timely Care



Help

2026-SPRING

Home

Announcements

Modules

Assignments

Quizzes

Grades

People

Discussions

Library Resources

Course Analytics

Early Alerts

IgniteAI Search

Syllabus



Collaborations



Rubrics



BigBlueButton



Outcomes



Pages



Files



Settings

Music Appreciation

Jump to Today

Edit



Welcome

This course is designed to introduce you to the process of studying "classical" music, and to provide a one-semester overview of the development of western classical music from the the Middle Ages to the modern era. This course also fulfills the university Core Curriculum requirement in Creative Arts for all majors outside of music.

After reading all of this syllabus, please begin in [Module 1: What is Music?](#)

Course Scope & Objectives

Upon successful completion of this course, you should be able to:

1. Identify major composers, representative musical works, genres and general style characteristics for each period of western music history.
2. Understand the relationship between societal, cultural and musical developments throughout history.
3. Write knowledgeably about various musical styles and historical periods in the context of listening to representative works.

Required Course Materials

A notebook, a good pen and consistent internet.

Class Format & Pacing

This course will be taught online using Canvas modules and multi-media streams. While this class is 'asynchronous,' that is, not a live stream, I have worked to create modules and find examples that I think you will find engaging, thought-provoking and fun. Please progress through the course modules in a consistent, regular way. I have provided start dates and links to each module below and in the Canvas calendar with which I highly recommend you keep up. You are free to progress through this course as quickly as you like, but avoid falling behind.

Tests

There are six Canvas tests in this course covering the major periods of Western music history. Each test is comprised of multiple choice questions and music listening examples. All tests are active at the start of the term, but each test has a strict due date after which it will no longer be available. This is to help keep you progressing through the course at a steady pace.

A module must be entirely completed (read) in order to unlock a test. One can not 'jump' directly to a test without first having gone through the corresponding module.

Since all tests in this course are available starting the first day of class, and all test deadlines are published ahead of time, there are no test make-ups, extensions or extra-credit for missing a test deadline. Please record all test due dates in your calendar and avoid waiting until the last minute to take them in the event you run into an unforeseen issue. **Missing a test will reduce your final grade by approximately 13%.**

I recommend taking your tests in a quiet computer lab if possible. If you experience a computer or

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Course Analytics

View Course Notifications

January 2026						
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
1	2	3	4	5	6	7

Assignments are weighted by group:

Group	Weight
Tests	80%
Essays	10%
Project	10%
Total	100%

I recommend taking your tests in a campus computer lab if possible. If you experience a computer or internet problem there, staff can assist you or they may contact me. If you have an internet or computer issue while taking a test while off campus, I will be unable to resolve it. Do not take your tests on a phone as audio is not always heard.

All tests are to be taken without any type of assistance other than your memory.

Essays

Throughout this course you should be thinking about the question, "What is Music?" Your thoughts will develop and expand with each historic period and composer you will study. At the end of some modules you will be asked to write and upload a short essay responding to this question. As you write your essays you may use whatever sources you like, except AI. All quotes and borrowed ideas must be cited. [Please read further essay instructions.](#)

Group Playlist Project

As part of this course you will work together in an online group to create an annotated playlist representing one of the music historic periods. Groups will be assigned during the first couple of weeks of class. The project is due on or before. **April 10.** [Please read project instructions.](#)

AI, Plagiarism, Cheating

The use of AI is not permitted in this course at all. **Using AI to complete course projects, plagiarism or cheating of any type will result in an automatic F for the course.** In written work, quoting other sources is often appropriate, but plagiarism includes:

- Turning in someone else's work (or work created by AI) as your own
- Copying words or ideas from someone else without giving credit
- Failing to put a quotation in quotation marks
- Giving incorrect information about the source of a quotation
- Changing words but copying the sentence structure of a source without giving credit
- Copying so many words or ideas from a source that it makes up the majority of your work, whether you give credit or not

(From: <https://www.plagiarism.org/article/what-is-plagiarism>)

Grading

Final grading scale: A=90-100%, B=80-89%, C=70-79%, D=60-69%, F<60%.

Course grade will be computed from the combination of all six online tests (80% of grade), Essays (10% of grade), and the Collaborative Playlist project (10% of grade).

If necessary, the information contained in the course syllabus may be subject to adjustment as long as the change is without prejudice to the students.

Additional Course Information

Music Appreciation (MUSI 1306)

Fall 2026 - Online

Census Date: September 8, 2025

Dr. Cameron Rose - Balderas

crose@uttyler.edu

903-566-7304

FAC 1213

Office Hours: In person MWF 1:30-2:15 pm. Email or call at any time for online course help.

[Meet the Professor](#)

[University Student Resources](#)

[UT Tyler Policies and Information](#)

Start Here



Course Summary:

Date

Details

Due