

Music 373: Music of Politics
Spring 2009

Dr. Hilde Binford

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 12:50 – 2:20 p.m.

Office Hours (Brethren's House, Room 302):

Mondays - Wednesdays 8:20-8:50; Mondays, Wednesdays 12:45-2:00

By appointment on Thursday or Friday

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- I. **Course Description:** Students will analyze music associated with politics from the Medieval period through to present time. Each work will be considered in its historical and cultural context.
- II. **Instructional Materials:** Articles, books, films, and CDs on reserve.
- III. **Goals of Course:** Students gain familiarity with several specific major works and repertoires of music written relating to politics, mostly from the 20th century. To further the discussion, students will view films and read related materials. Most importantly, each student will participate in a mini-conference on the Music of Politics, where they each choose a topic and prepare both a written paper and an oral presentation. They will learn the research methodology necessary to write a conference paper and will have the opportunity to present their work in a public forum.
- IV. **Teaching Strategies:** The course will be conducted with a series of lectures and class discussions based on the reading assignments, audio-visual materials, and other supplemental materials presented by the instructor.
- V. **Course Requirements:** Attendance is mandatory. For each unexcused absence, the overall grade for the class will be lowered by .25 (using a 4.0 scale). Excused absences include illness (doctor's note required) and family funeral (note from Student Services required). All other absences will be evaluated at the discretion of the instructor. Chronic lateness will not be tolerated, and will be reflected in the overall grade.
- VI. **Exams, Research Paper, Concerts, Class Presentations, and Journal:**

Research Paper: An essay (30%, minimum of 3000 words) on a topic related to the class will be turned in by April 7th. Students will need to submit the paper topic for approval by February 19th. No subject may be selected by more than one student (first come, first serve on topics). All work submitted, including drafts, must be printed on computer. Standard fonts and margins are required. Papers must be free from errors of grammar and spelling.

Exam: (20%) Midterm

Concert Attendance: All students should plan on attending the following concerts: *Québecité* (Feb. 18) and *Candide* (April 25-26). Please reflect on these concerts in your journal and we will also discuss the repertory in class.

Journal/Class Participation: (30% journal; 10% class participation and attendance) As this is a seminar class, class participation is essential. Each student will be expected to maintain a journal (notebook). The journal will be reviewed periodically for completeness. It should include notes from the required readings, guest lectures, films, outside sources, and other materials pertinent to the course. Finding additional materials and bringing new ideas to the class is encouraged. Grading: A – shows consistent preparation and research beyond the reserve materials; B – consistently prepared for class with some additional research; C – prepared for class but no outside readings or research.

Class Presentations: (10%) Each student will be expected to make an oral presentation as part of a “mini-conference” on “Music of Politics.”
- VIII. Students can expect to work a minimum of six hours per week outside of class preparing for this class, which includes keeping a journal, required reading and listening, library research, writing, and conference attendance.
- IX. Students with disabilities who believe that they may need accommodations in this class are encouraged to contact the Learning Services Office as soon as possible to enhance the likelihood that such accommodations are implemented in a timely fashion.
- X. **Please note that the syllabus and calendar of class assignments are subject to change.**
- XI. **Academic Honesty:** Students are expected to uphold the standards of academic honesty, as they are spelled out in the Student Handbook.

XII. **Schedule:**

Wk. 1	Jan 20	Introduction and Songs of the 2008 Election
	Jan 22	Campaign Songs Through the Ages
Wk. 2	Jan 27	Star-Spangled Banner and other National Anthems
	Jan 29	Song of Roland and Songs of the Inquisition
Wk. 3	Feb 3	19 th Century Protest Music of America
	Feb 5	Songs of Today: Environmental and Economic Concerns
Wk. 4	Feb 10	Verdi and Wagner
	Feb 12	Shostakovich and Prokofiev
Wk. 5	Feb 17	Political Satire and the Broadway Musical
		<i>Feb 18 Québecité</i>
	Feb 19	Topic due (in class), <i>Québecité</i> , <i>Emperor of Atlantis</i> and <i>Brundibar</i>
Wk. 6	Feb 24	Labor, Civil Rights, Black Nationalism, and Peace
	Feb 26	Developing a topic and bibliography – meet in Reeves
	Mar 3	Spring Break
	Mar 5	Spring Break
Wk. 7	Mar 10	Bibliography due; Bernstein's <i>Mass</i> and <i>Candide</i>
	Mar 12	Smailovich and Sarajevo
	Mar 17	No class – meet with students individually to review bibliographies (sign up)
	Mar 19	(Voigt Masterclass) -- Review
	Mar 24	Mid-term exam
	Mar 26	Student-led discussion (3)
	Mar 31	Student-led discussion (3)
	Apr 2	Student-led discussion (3)
	Apr 7	Student-led discussion (3), Draft of paper due
	Apr 9	No class – meet with students individually to review drafts
	Apr 14	No class -- Individual review of drafts, cont.
	Apr 16	Practice for presentations
	Apr 21	Practice for presentations
	Apr 23	Mini-conference
		<i>Apr 25-26 Candide</i>
	Apr 28	Practice for presentations
	Apr 30	Min-conference

Required Readings and Materials will be outlined on Weekly Assignment Sheets for Weeks 1-7. After March 17, the emphasis is on the students' research papers and oral presentations.