

Music 281A/B: Music to 1750 Fall 2011

Dr. Hilde Binford

Mondays and Wednesdays: 8:55-10:05 and 2:35-3:45

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

Mondays and Wednesdays 10-12; 1:30-2:30

Tuesdays and Thursdays 1:30-4

By appointment

Phone: 610-861-1691 Email: hbinford@moravian.edu

- I. **Course Description:** This is a survey course of Western music from the antiquity through 1750. Vocal and instrumental music of the Medieval, Renaissance, and Baroque periods are examined in their respective social, political and aesthetic contexts. Attendance at lectures will be vital, as each lecture will present material complementing the textbooks and include discussion of musical examples and video excerpts. There will be required videos, CDs and readings associated with each lecture.
- II. **Goals of Course:** Students will be able to identify the stylistic characteristics for Western music from the medieval, Renaissance, and Baroque periods. For each period, they will learn to identify the characteristics of specific composers by ear. They will be able to apply standard musical terminology and analytical methods in order to provide written analyses of specific compositions. Students will also learn appropriate performance practices and perform prepared pieces for an Early Music Festival. Each student will also learn strategies for research in the discipline.
- III. **Instructional Materials:**
Burkholder, J. Peter, Donald Jay Grout and Claude Palisca. *A History of Western Music*, 8th ed. New York: E.W. Norton & Co., 2010.
Burkholder, J. Peter and Claude Palisca, eds. *Norton Anthology of Western Music*, 6th ed., Vol 1. New York: Norton, 2010.
- IV. **Teaching Strategies:** The course will be conducted with a series of lectures and class exercises 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, your 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 home or 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.

Assignments must be turned in on the day they are due in order to receive a letter grade. Assignments not turned in by that time will receive a "zero". The instructor reserves the right to make qualitative judgments in determining grades for an assignment or for the course.

Students are expected to write a reflection paper weekly and submit it via e-mail to Dr. Binford by Sunday evening at 6 PM. The topics will be assigned on Mondays, with a follow-up instructions sent by e-mail.

- VI. **Essay, Concert Reviews, Concert Notes, Performances, Homework and Exams:**
***Listening Quizzes (24%)*:** There will be two listening quizzes (listening identification/analysis), each worth 12% of the final grade.
***Exams (36%)*:** There will be two exams, each worth 18% of the final grade. These exams will include short essays and music analysis.
***Early Music Festival Performance (15%)*:** Each student will be preparing a performance for the Early Music Festival, which will be scheduled during the last week of classes. This

performance will involve significant research in performance practice. Students will need to submit a proposal for approval. In addition to the performance itself, each student will write a 4 - 6 page paper focusing on a specific aspect of performance practice relevant to the piece they perform. Students will need to consult both primary and secondary sources for their performance projects.

Homework/Reflections (15%): Every week students will be given an assignment on Monday, which will include writing précis of articles, analysis of original documents, analysis of musical examples, research exercises, etc. A reflection paper for each assignment is due by email every Sunday evening.

Discussion/Participation/Attendance at Concerts (10%): Students are expected to attend class regularly and to participate in discussions. In addition, students are expected to go to at least two concerts that feature repertory from our class and one session of the Moravian Music Conference. A list of accepted concerts will be handed out in class. Attendance at these concerts and the conference will be checked against the department's records.

VII. Library Literacy. Students are expected to have some knowledge of research methods prior to this course. These competencies include the ability to:

- Define a research need
 - Formulate a research topic
 - Determine an information need
- Plan and execute a search for information
 - Identify key terms and concepts
 - Identify the most appropriate sources of information
 - Use Boolean operators and truncation where appropriate
 - Make use of controlled vocabulary lists (subject headings)
 - Impose limiters (e.g., scholarly vs. popular, date, language)
 - Modify the search based on search results
- Know how and where to find the sources discovered in the search process
 - Determine which sources the library owns or provides access to and retrieve them
 - Request material not owned by the library on Interlibrary Loan
 - Locate material faculty may have put on reserve in the library
- Understand the obligation to credit sources and be able to do so in an appropriate citation style

In the context of this course, students will further learn to:

- Understand the way that knowledge is generated
 - Know the difference between a primary and secondary source and how to effectively search for each one
 - Recognize the differences between scholarly and popular sources
 - Know the difference between fee-based Web material and the free Web
- Judge the relevance of a source to a research topic
- Know the basics of Web searching and evaluation
 - Know the difference between a search engine and a directory
 - Be familiar with one high quality search engine
 - Be able to do simple Web searches
 - Know how to broaden and narrow a Web search
 - Recognize the differences among the major domains (.com, .edu, .org, .gov)

VIII. Academic Honesty: Students are expected to uphold the standards of academic honesty, as they are spelled out in the Student Handbook.

IX. Students can expect to work four or more hours per week outside of class preparing for this class.

X. 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.

XI. Please note that the syllabus and calendar of class assignments are subject to change.