

Seminar: Music of War and Peace
MUS 373

Dr. Debra Torok
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Office: Priscilla Payne Hurd (South) Campus, Music Center, Room 119

Spring 2015
Tues., Thurs. 1:10 – 2:20 PM

Hurd Campus Music Center
Room 207

Goal

The goal of this seminar is to examine, analyze, and discuss music of war and peace with particular emphasis on political and controversial works. Some works include the War Symphonies of Shostakovich and Prokofiev; *Dona Nobis Pacem* by Vaughan Williams; the War Requiem by Britten; and the staged version of *War Horse* by Morpurgo. Diverse musical genres, such as jazz and musical theater, will also be explored. Public student multimedia presentations of chosen individual topics will be the culminating experience.

Textbooks

Britten: War Requiem, Mervyn Cooke, Cambridge University Press, 1996, ISBN: 9780521446334
Testimony: The Memoirs of Dmitri Shostakovich, Solomon Volkov, Limelight Editions, 2004, ISBN: 9780879109981, Paperback

Requirements

Attendance, promptness, and class participation will count for a large portion of the final grade. Class participation includes active involvement in class activities as well as being prepared with reading assignments and observations for class discussion.

Assignment Policy

Assignments must be completed on time and email submissions are preferred. Assignments submitted within one day of the due date will receive a 5-point deduction. Assignments submitted within one week of the due date will receive a 15-point deduction and assignments submitted more than a week late will receive a zero.

Grading

Assignments	20%
Study Guides (2)	20%
Presentation	30%
Attendance and Participation	30%

There will be strict adherence to the Academic Honesty Policy in accordance with the college handbook. Students who wish to request accommodations in this class for a disability should contact Ms. Elaine Mara, Assistant Director of Academic & Disability Support, located on the first floor of Monocacy Hall (extension 1401). Accommodations cannot be provided until authorization is received from the Academic & Disability Support office.

The student work in this course is in full compliance with the federal definition of a one credit hour course. It is within the instructor's purview to apply qualitative judgment in determining grades for an assignment or for the course.

Assignments, Study Guides, and Presentation details are included in the assignment list.

Schedule (Subject to change)

Tues. 1/20	Introduction and overview of course and musical works Reading assignment: Preface, Introduction, Forward, and part 1 (Volkov)
Thurs. 1/22	War, peace, and politics Reading assignment parts 2 and 3 (Volkov) Assignment 1 (see Assignment Sheet)
Tues. 1/27	Student discussion on Assignment 1 topics Assignment 1 due

Reading assignment parts 4 and 5 (Volkov)

- Thurs. 1/29 *Shostakovich against Stalin: The War Symphonies* Part I
Reading assignment parts 6, 7, and 8 (Volkov)
- Tues. 2/3 *Shostakovich against Stalin: The War Symphonies* Part II
Assignment 2: Reaction 1
- Thurs. 2/5 Shostakovich, Prokofiev, and politics
Testimony Part I
Assignment 2 Due
- Tues. 2/10 *Testimony* Part 2
Assignment 3: Proposed Topics and Preliminary Sources
- Thurs. 2/12 *Testimony* Part 3
Assignment 3 Due
Assignment 4: Reaction 2
- Tues. 2/17 Shostakovich Symphony 9
Discussion on Preliminary Topics
Assignment 4 Due
Assignment 5: Reaction 3
- Thurs. 2/19 Prokofiev Symphony 5 and Ode to the End of War
Assignment 5 Due
Assignment 6: Reaction 4
- Tues. 2/24 Controversy, music, literature, and artistic reaction
Britten and the War Requiem
Assignment 6 Due
Reading assignment: Chapters 1 and 2 (Cooke)
- Thurs. 2/26 The War Requiem Background
Reading Assignment: Chapter 3 (Cooke)
- Tues. 3/3 The War Requiem
Reading assignment: Chapter 4 (Cooke)
Assignment 7: Study Guide 1
- Thurs. 3/5 Concluding discussion: War Requiem; Study Guides reviewed
Assignment 7 Due
- Tues. 3/10 Spring Break
- Thurs. 3/12 Spring Break
- Tues. 3/17 Presentations discussion
- Thurs. 3/19 Background, interpretation, and poetry of *Dona Nobis Pacem*
- Tues. 3/24 *Dona Nobis Pacem* by Ralph Vaughan Williams
- Thurs. 3/26 Proposals discussed
Assignment 8: Study Guide 2
Assignment 9: Preliminary Presentation Proposal
- Tues. 3/31 Study Guides reviewed; *War Horse* Act I
Assignment 8 Due
- Thurs. 4/2 *War Horse* Act II
Assignment 9 Due

Assignment 10: Reaction 5

Tues. 4/7	The Staging of War Horse; Preliminary Proposals discussed Assignment 10 Due
Thurs. 4/9	Choreography, Movement and Interpretation
Tues. 4/14	Theatrical Works and Opera
Thurs. 4/16	Popular music Jazz: Influence and Response Assignment 11: Presentation
Tues. 4/21	Presentations review Assignment 11 Due
Thurs. 4/23	Presentations: Run-through
Tues. 4/28	Presentations TBA
Thurs. 4/30	Conclusions; Evaluations

There is no final examination in this course.