**MSC 311: Music History and Literature II**

**Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1:00-2:15, Series L**

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**Office hours by appointment**

**Required texts:**

* Seaton, Douglass. *Ideas and Style in the Western Musical Tradition*. 4th ed. New York: Oxford University Press, 2017 (Seaton)
* Weiss, Piero and Taruskin, Richard, Editors. *Music in the Western World*. New York: Schirmer, 1984 (provided for students) (WT)

**Course objectives:**

This courses focuses on the music of the Baroque and Classical eras (1600-1800). Students will be equipped with the necessary tools to discuss this music using relevant terminology; musical terms which will be demonstrated and reinforced throughout the semester through references to musical examples. Students will be exposed to important musical concepts and representative pieces by important composers. In addition, writing assignments of varying lengths will be due throughout the semester so that students can learn how to research and write about music. *This course satisfies the requirements for Writing Proficiency 2.*

**Course outline:**

*Part I: The seventeenth century*

* Weeks 1–2: Monteverdi’s *Orfeo* and the birth of opera (1607)
* Weeks 3–4: Vocal chamber music and the Thirty Years’ War (1618–1648)
* Weeks 5–6: Music at the court of Louis XIV (the 1680s)
* Week 7: Research paper development week

*Part II: The eighteenth century*

* Weeks 8–10\*: Holy Week in Leipzig (1727)
* Weeks 11–12: Mozart in Prague (1787)
* Weeks 13–14\*: The Handel Festivals at Westminster Abbey (1784 & 1791)
* Weeks 15–16\*: Presentations, reflection, and review

\**Note that, due to the unusual schedule this semester, weeks 9, 10, 14 and 16 have just one class meeting each.*

**Course requirements and grading:**

1. **Attendance and participation (20%)**—I don’t have a strict policy on attendance and participation, but I expect you to attend most classes and participate actively; the latter is especially important since this is a small course.
2. **Homework (25%)**—Weekly assignments over the course of the semester, *due at the beginning of class on* *Thursdays* during most weeks. Your lowest homework grade will be dropped (thus, you may skip one assignment). *Note that some homework assignments will have minimum word counts, and all will count as part of the Writing Proficiency component of this course.*
3. **Concert review** **(10%)**—Due Friday, February 19; details of this assignment will be posted to Sakai at the beginning of February.
4. **Term paper** **(45%)**—A term paper on a topic of your choice pertaining to the music of the Baroque and/or Classical era. The 45% of your grade represented by the term paper can be broken down into the following components:
   1. Initial brainstorming document (5%)—due Thursday, March 11
   2. Proposal and annotated bibliography (5%)—due Thursday, March 25
   3. First draft (15%)—due Thursday, April 15
   4. Oral presentation (5%)—delivered on either Tuesday, May 4 or Thursday, May 6
   5. Final revised version (15%)—due Monday, May 17

Further details about the parameters of the term paper will be distributed at a later date.

**Late work, extensions, and feedback:**

It is important to submit your weekly homework assignments prior to the beginning of class on Thursdays, so that you are prepared to participate fully in that day’s discussion. That being said, the occasional late submission of a homework assignment is not a big deal and will not result in the deduction of points; I typically keep the submission portals on Sakai open until midnight on the day after an assignment is due (so, midnight on Friday most weeks).

You may also ask for an extension if you need more time on an assignment—I will probably say yes! I understand that everyone has busy stretches, and that a few extra days to complete an assignment can sometimes make all the difference. So please do not feel shy about asking for an extension, particularly if you are able to give me a few days’ notice.

I will strive to provide useful and timely feedback on all of your assignments. During a typical week, I complete grading of the homework assignments by Friday or Saturday. Please remember to review this feedback—it will help you improve your work over the course of the semester!

**A note on writing, proofreading, and citations:**

As always, but especially since this course fulfills the Writing Proficiency 2 requirement, take care that your writing is clearly organized and free of typos. Before handing in any piece of writing, take a few moments to proofread what you have written.

In addition, note that we will be using the Chicago Manual of Style in this course to format citations and references to musical works. For further details on this, please take a few moments to read “Music Writing Style Guide” (which is posted in the “Resources” section of Sakai) prior to completing your first writing assignment.

**How to listen to music in this course:**

This course will introduce you to a huge amount of wonderful music, but you can’t get to know that music if you don’t listen to it! Here are some tips for making the most out of your listening:

1. Focus your attention by following along with the score as you listen.
2. For works that are featured in NAWM, listen first without reading the commentary, then *be sure read the commentary before listening a second time*.
3. Listen to each assigned piece a minimum of three times, and on at least two different days; ideally you would listen to each assigned piece once per day during the week that it is assigned.
4. While I generally recommend “active” listening, “passive” listening (that is, having the music on in the background) can also be helpful. Make a playlist on Spotify or YouTube (or whatever music streaming platform you use) so that you can listen to music from class as you cook, exercise, or drive your car.

**Statement on students with disabilities:**

If you are a student with a documented disability on record at Providence College and wish to have a reasonable accommodation made for you in this class, please let me know immediately. You must have official documentation from the University specifying that accommodations need to be made.

**Support services:**

I encourage everyone to check out the website of PC’s Office of Academic Services (<https://academic-services.providence.edu/>) for information on various kinds of support that are available to you, including tutoring, help with writing, and programs focused on study skills.

**University policy on academic integrity:**

Each student is expected to turn in work completed independently, except when assignments specifically authorize collaborative effort. It is not acceptable to use the words or ideas of another person – be it a world-class philosopher or your lab partner – without proper acknowledgement of that source. Violations of the University policy on academic integrity, described on the webpage of the Dean of Undergraduate Studies, may result in failure of the course or failure on the assignment. Please see the policy as it is outlined in the course catalog, <http://www.providence.edu/forms/college-relations/undergrad1012.pdf>, pages 58-62.