

# IDS 2935: Musical Elements of Emotion

Fall 2025, 3 credit

**Instructor:** Maria Kuge, M.A.  
**Hours:** Fridays, 11:45-12:35 pm (virtual)  
**Email:** [mkuge@ufl.edu](mailto:mkuge@ufl.edu)

**Meeting Time:** MWF, 10:40 – 11:30 AM  
**Meeting Location:** Online ([link here](#))

Primary General Education Designation: Humanities (H)

Humanities courses provide instruction in the history, key themes, principles, terminology, and theory or methodologies used within a humanities discipline or the humanities in general. Students will learn to identify and to analyze the key elements, biases and influences that shape thought. These courses emphasize clear and effective analysis and approach issues and problems from multiple perspectives.

Writing Designation (WR) 2000 words

A minimum grade of C is required for general education credit. Courses intended to satisfy the general education requirement cannot be taken S-U.

## Course Description

This course explores three essential questions related to the Examined Life:

1. What role does music play in understanding emotions?
2. How does music contribute to the human experience?
3. Does live musical performance enhance the emotional experience?

Students will investigate the theoretical and historical musical elements that elicit emotion. This course explores how music impacts the human experience by discussing theories of emotion, emotional intelligence, wellbeing, consumerism, and musical film scores. Students will observe their emotional responses to music and analyze the musical elements that elicited that response by actively listening to music of various styles and genres. In addition, students will be required to attend two live music performances to investigate whether live musical performance enhances the emotional experience.

## Course Materials

- The following film is available at the Smathers library and/or on subscription streaming platforms.
  - Docter, P. (Director). (2015). *Inside Out* [Motion picture]. Disney.
- All required course materials will either be available to students through university resources and/or made available by the course instructor via Canvas.

## Coursework and Graded Work

| Assignment                           | Word Requirement           | Percentage of Final Grade          |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Listening Essays                     | 100-150 words each         | 150 Points (15%)<br>each 30 points |
| Concert Reviews                      | 250 words each             | 100 points (10%)<br>each 50 points |
| Hearing Loss Essay                   | 200-250 words              | 100 points (10%)                   |
| Film Score Analysis                  | *500-600 words             | 180 points (18%)                   |
| Music and Emotions<br>Analysis Paper | *1,500-1,700 words (final) | 320 points total (32%)             |
| Attendance and<br>Participation      |                            | 150 points (15%)                   |

\*denotes counting towards 2000 word writing requirement

## Course Schedule

| WEEK  | MODULE                           | ASSIGNMENTS (due Fri. each week unless indicated)  |
|---|----------------------------------|--|
| 1<br>8/22<br>(Fri)  | Introduction                     | Music Sharing Signup (due: before next class)  |
| 2<br>8/25   | Intro to Musical Origins         | Listening Essay 1  |
| 3<br>9/1<br>(No class Mon)  | Intro to Research Writing        | Listening Essay 2<br>(prepare for Hearing Loss Simulation)                                 |
| 4<br>9/8  | Theories of Emotion              | Hearing Loss Essay   |
| 5<br>9/15   | Music in Childhood               | Listening Essay 3  |
| 6<br>9/22   | Music and Emotional Wellbeing    | Concert Review 1<br><br><a href="#">* 9/18 Wind Symphony, 9/25 Orchestra</a>               |
| 7<br>9/29   | Music and Emotional Intelligence | Listening Essay 4  |
| 8<br>10/6   | Music and Emotional Regulation   | Listening Essay 5  |
| 9<br>10/13<br>(No class W or F)   | Music and Marketing              | Concert Review 2<br><a href="#">*10/14 Jazz band, 10/16 Choir</a><br><br>Listening Journal |
| 10<br>10/20   | Music and Emotional Expression   | Watch: Inside Out (1hr 42min)  |
| 11<br>10/27   | Music and Emotion in Film        | Film Score Analysis  |
| 12<br>11/3  | Together in Music                | Final Paper Topic and Outline  |
| 13<br>11/10   | Emotion and Performance          | Analysis Paper Draft   |
| 14<br>11/17   | Musician Perspectives            | Peer Reviews   |
| No Class due to Thanksgiving Break!   |                                  |  |
| 15<br>12/1<br>(No class Fri)  | Review                           | Final Paper due 12/3<br>(No Final Exam)  |
| <p>*Note: This schedule is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor.<br/>Please refer to the Canvas course page for more detailed information and updates.</p> |                                  |  |

## Grading Scale

| Letter Grade | % Equivalency | GPA Equivalency |
|--------------|---------------|-----------------|
| A            | 94-100        | 4.00            |
| A-           | 91-93         | 3.67            |
| B+           | 88-90         | 3.33            |
| B            | 84-87         | 3.00            |
| B-           | 81-83         | 2.67            |
| C+           | 78-80         | 2.33            |
| C            | 74-77         | 2.00            |
| C-           | 71-73         | 1.67            |
| D+           | 68-70         | 1.33            |
| D            | 64-67         | 1.0             |
| D-           | 61-63         | .67             |
| E            | 60 or below   | 0.00            |

Please note that a C- is no longer an acceptable grade for any course in which a 2.0 GPA is required, for example, any course in the major. UF grading policy website:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx#calculatinggpa>

## Policies

Attendance: Course objectives will be met by attending and actively participating in each class session. Students are expected to arrive to class on time, stay the entire class period and be prepared to participate in all class discussions and activities. Students are accountable for materials covered in lectures and discussions. If a student misses a class, it is their responsibility to contact other students to find out what was missed. Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found at:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>.

- If you have personal issues that prohibit you from joining freely in class discussion, (e.g., shyness, language barriers, etc.) see the instructor as soon as possible to discuss alternative modes of participation.
- COVID-19: If you are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, please use the UF Health screening system and follow the instructions on whether you are able to attend class.
  - Course materials will be provided to you with an excused absence, and you will be given a reasonable amount of time to make up work.

- Courtesy Policy: Students are expected to behave in a manner that is respectful to the instructor and fellow students. Opinions held by other students should be respected in discussion and conversations that do not contribute to the discussion should be minimal. Inappropriate behavior will result in a request to leave class.
- Recording classroom sessions: Our class sessions may be audio visually recorded for students in the class to refer back and for enrolled students who are unable to attend live. Students who participate with their camera engaged or utilize a profile image are agreeing to have their video or image recorded. If you are unwilling to consent to have your profile or video image recorded, be sure to keep your camera off and do not use a profile image. Likewise, students who un-mute during class and participate orally are agreeing to have their voices recorded. If you are not willing to consent to have your voice recorded during class, you will need to keep your mute button activated and communicate exclusively using the "chat" feature, which allows students to type questions and comments live. The chat will not be recorded or shared. As in all courses, unauthorized recording and unauthorized sharing of recorded materials is prohibited.

Assignments: All written assignments should be submitted via Canvas unless other arrangements have been made with the instructor.

- Late Assignment Policy: Students will be given three days after the due date to make up any missed material, but there will be a grade reduction of 5% per day. In the case of extenuating circumstances, arrangements will be made on a case-by-case basis through written documentation between the student and the instructor.
- Source Citations: All assignments should be formatted in APA style, double spaced and 12 point font, such as Times New Roman or Cambria. Research must include a bibliography citing all sources used.
- Grading Feedback from Instructor: It is the instructor's intention to grade all assignments within 1 week of their submission. Assignments will have a rubric that the instructor will use to evaluate students' grades. Rubrics for assignments can be found directly under the assignment instructions. The instructor will potentially leave grading feedback in three places:
  - Assignment Rubrics
  - Submission Comments
  - In-text annotated feedback in the text of the document submitted
 Students are responsible for checking all of these places to benefit from instructor feedback. Your grades may be dependent on reading this feedback and making appropriate adjustments to future assignments.

Communication: Each student is issued a University email address upon admittance. Students are expected to read email sent to this account on a regular basis. Failure to read and react to University communications in a timely manner does not absolve the student from knowing and complying with the content of the communication.

- Email: Email through Canvas is the preferred communication method. The instructor will attempt to respond to all emails within 48 hours, excluding weekends or holidays where the time might be slightly longer.

Academic Honesty: The university's policies regarding academic honesty, the honor code, and student conduct related to the honor code will be strictly enforced.

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, "We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the

University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: "On my honor, I have

neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.” The Honor Code specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.

Full information regarding these policies is available at the following links:

- Academic Honesty: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/advising/info/student-honor-code.aspx#honesty>
- Honor Code: <https://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>
- Student Conduct: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/advising/info/student-honor-code.aspx#conduct>

Disabilities: Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352.392.8565, [www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/](http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/)) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

Health and Wellness Campus Resources:

- *U Matter, We Care*
- 352-392-1575 or [umatter@ufl.edu](mailto:umatter@ufl.edu)
- *Counseling and Wellness Center*  
352-392-1575 or [www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/Default.aspx](http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/Default.aspx)
- *Sexual Assault Recovery Services (SARS)*, Student Health  
Care Center 352-392-1161
- *University Police Department*  
352-392-1111 or [www.police.ufl.edu/](http://www.police.ufl.edu/)
- *UF Health Shands Emergency Room / Trauma Center*
- 352-733-0111 or [https://ufhealth.org/emergency-room-trauma-](https://ufhealth.org/emergency-room-trauma-center)

center Academic Resources:

- *E-learning Technical Support*  
352-392-4357 or [www.lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml](http://www.lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml)
- *Career Resource Center*, Reitz  
Union 352-392-1601 or  
[www.crc.ufl.edu](http://www.crc.ufl.edu)
- *Library support*  
[www.cms.uflib.ufl.edu/ask](http://www.cms.uflib.ufl.edu/ask)
- *Writing Studio*  
352-846-1138 or <https://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/>
- *Student Complaints On-Campus*  
<https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honorcode-student-conduct-code/>

Course Evaluations: Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

This syllabus is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor.