

MUH 4390/6665 – Opera: A History
Fall 2025 — W 4:05-7:05pm (periods 9-11)

Dr. Imani Mosley (she/her)
Office: Yon Hall 433 (*insert John Cage joke here*)
Classroom location: MUB 232
Student Hours with Dr. Mosley: TBD, [see below](#)
Email: imosley@arts.ufl.edu

A note about this semester

Before we get started, *how are you?* These are objectively (**I mean, 2025?!**) weird times for all of us and while I am so excited to teach you this semester, I am fully aware of what is before us. Your health (mental, physical, & emotional) and safety are paramount, and I will do my best to place grace, kindness, and understanding at the forefront of this class (I hope you will extend the same to me as well as to your fellow classmates). Prepare for changes, reworkings, and hiccups — do your best to center flexibility in your academic practice. If there are ever any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me — I can only help with things if I am aware of them. I hope that that our class meetings are a respite from what is the current insanity of the world and give you something to look forward to.

How to use this syllabus

This syllabus provides you with information specific to this course, and it also provides information about important university policies. This document should be viewed as a course overview; it is not a contract and is subject to change as the semester evolves. Any changes to the syllabus will be communicated to students via email and new syllabi.

General course description

This course aims to provide a grounding in the history of opera with an in-depth focus on themes, analysis, form, and ideas. This class is not meant to be an overview of *all* of opera history. Instead, by discussing these works, you will acquire the tools to be able to understand opera as a genre throughout time, how it has impacted Western art music and the world writ large, and how to interact with it as performers and scholars.

Requirements and Grading

Final grades will be calculated according to the system below. Rubrics and supplemental documents pertaining to the assignments are available on Canvas.

Attendance	10%
Contribution	10%
Weekly Quizzes	15%
Discussion Leading	30%
Final Paper	35%

Grading Scale for UF Music History Classes:

94-100	A	74-76	C
91-93	A-	71-73	C-
87-90	B+	67-70	D+
84-86	B	64-66	D
81-83	B-	61-63	D-
77-80	C+	0-60	F

Attendance, Discussion, Papers and Projects

Okay, so everything is weird, right? Right. And I understand that there will be illness and other things that may make attendance difficult. As such, I will evaluate attendance as we go along. However, participation is crucial. This is a graduate seminar, and everyone will get the most out of it by participating. Each week you will listen to the opera(s) assigned in full, the scores will be available on Canvas as well as on reserve at the AFA Library. Links to recordings will also be provided. There will also be a short quiz at the beginning of each class covering information about the operas. Each of you will lead one class where you will choose one theme (baroque, bel canto, etc.) and teach it to the class, in part through a general overview and also through an opera that represents that theme. There will also be a final paper with short in-progress presentations given the last week of class.

Gordon Rule Requirements

Successful completion of this course (a grade of C or higher) counts toward the Gordon Rule writing requirement. Mandatory course work includes 2,000 words of writing. Gordon Rule procedures adopted summer 2009 (link on this page for complete Writing Requirement Policies): <https://student.ufl.edu/gordonrule.html>

Academic Honesty

All violations of academic honesty will be referred to the Dean of Students Office for disciplinary action without exception. 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 (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honorcode/>) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report and condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TA.

Academic Policies and Resources

Information about university-wide policies and resources can be found here: <https://syllabus.ufl.edu/syllabus-policy/uf-syllabus-policy-links/>