

MUH 3211 Survey of Music History I

University of Florida, Fall 2025

Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays 9:35–10:25am (Period 3)

MUB 121

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Office Hours: Fridays 10:30am–12:30pm and by appointment

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Overview

This course is a survey of Western music literature, styles, and techniques from antiquity to c. 1750. We will examine representative repertoire from historical, theoretical, and cultural contexts and develop critical thinking skills in reading, writing, analysis, and listening. Prerequisites: music majors, MUT 1111 and MUT 1112 with a minimum grade of C. (H and N) Credits: 3

Throughout the course, you should develop an understanding of Western art music of the Medieval, Renaissance, and Baroque Periods through:

- Recognizing key musical works, genres, styles, and composers in both aural and written formats (Humanities Gen Ed Content Student Learning Objective)
- Identifying markers of genre and style in both aural and written formats, and associating markers with appropriate composers (Humanities Gen Ed Content and Critical Thinking Student Learning Objectives)
- Reading and discussing musical scores and recordings (Humanities Gen Ed Content and Critical Thinking Student Learning Objective; International Gen Ed Content Student Learning Objective)
- Describing, discussing, and writing about historical and musical concepts (Humanities Gen Ed Content, Critical Thinking, and Communication Student Learning Objective;

Required Texts and Materials

1. J. Peter Burkholder, Donald J. Grout, and Claude V. Palisca, *A History of Western Music*, 10th edition.
2. J. Peter Burkholder and Claude V. Palisca, *Norton Anthology of Western Music*, 8th edition, Volume 1: Ancient to Baroque.

You can access the textbook and the recordings through the Norton website:

<https://digital.wwnorton.com/hwm10>.

Canvas (<https://lss.at.ufl.edu>) is an important component of the course where you will find copies of the syllabus, course schedule, assignments, quizzes, and announcements from the instructor. Any changes to the course schedule or due dates, along with new resources and other course information, will be posted and announced on Canvas. Grades will also be posted on Canvas so that you can keep track of your progress.

Additional materials may be placed on reserve in the AFA Library.

Humanities General Education Descriptions and Student Learning Outcomes

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. See <https://undergrad.ua.ufl.edu/general-education/gen-ed-program/subject-area-objectives/> for additional details.

Humanities Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs):

- Content: Identify, describe, and explain the history, underlying theory, and methodologies used in the course disciplines.
- Critical Thinking: Identify and analyze key elements, biases, and influences that shape thought within the subject area. Approach issues and problems within the discipline from multiple perspectives.
- Communication: Communicate knowledge, thoughts, and reasoning clearly and effectively.

International Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs):

- Content: Identify, describe, and explain the historical, cultural, economic, political, and/or social experiences and processes that characterize the contemporary world.

- **Critical Thinking:** Analyze and reflect on the ways in which cultural, economic, political, and/or social systems and beliefs mediate understandings of an increasingly connected contemporary world.
- **Communication:** The international designation is always in conjunction with another category. Communication outcomes are listed in those subject areas.

Assignments

1. **Student Meeting**

Meet with the instructor or TA at least once during the term.

2. **Program Notes**

In the first part of the semester, each student will be required to take one work from their lesson repertory and create program notes for the work.

3. **Performance Project**

In the second part of the semester, students will be working in groups to prepare a performance of a work of early music.

4. **Quizzes**

Chapter Quizzes: Chapter quizzes are due before class and must be completed through Canvas.

Listening Quizzes: Listening quizzes are due before class and must be completed through Canvas.

5. **Exams**

There will be three in-class unit exams during the term (each musical period covered in the course is a unit). There is no cumulative exam.

Without prior discussion and written approval from me, no late assignments will be accepted. Extensions may be granted for reasonable circumstances.

Grading

| | |
|------------------------------|-----|
| Attendance and Participation | 5% |
| Student Meeting | 1% |
| Program Notes | 10% |
| Performance Project | 15% |
| Chapter Quizzes | 15% |

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|-------------------|-----|
| Listening Quizzes | 15% |
| Exams | 39% |

[University Grading Policies](#)

Grading Scale (%) for UF Music History Classes:

| | | | | | | | | | |
|----|--------------|----|-------------|----|-------------|----|-------------|---|---------|
| A | 94.00-100.00 | B+ | 87.00-90.99 | C+ | 77.00-80.99 | D+ | 67.00-70.99 | E | 0-60.99 |
| A- | 91.00-93.99 | B | 84.00-86.99 | C | 74.00-76.99 | D | 64.00-66.99 | | |
| | | B- | 81.00-83.99 | C- | 71.00-73.99 | D- | 61.00-63.99 | | |

Please keep in mind that music majors must receive a grade of C or above to pass MUH 3211. A grade of C- is not a passing grade.

Participation and Attendance

Participation in class discussions is a crucial component of the course's intellectual journey. I expect you to come to class having carefully completed the readings and listening assignments. Please bring your anthology to each class meeting.

I will evaluate your participation on the following criteria: being on time to class, engaging in discussion (quality over quantity!), and staying focused and attentive during class. Being attentive during class includes limiting digital devices only to class-related work.

[University Attendance Policies](#)

Attendance is mandatory for all class meetings. If you must be late or absent for any reason, please contact me *prior to the beginning of that class meeting* or your absence will be unexcused. Unexcused absences will result in a zero for attendance and participation on the day of the absence. Please keep in mind that you are responsible for all assigned work regardless of attendance or punctuality. Additionally, please look first to your classmates for review of material you missed. I am happy to answer any specific questions and discuss course material during my office hours.

If you are sick, please do not come to class! As long as you communicate with me prior to your class meeting, most absences can be excused and will not count against your grade. If concerning patterns arise, however, we may need to discuss.

Writing Requirement

This course meets the UF Writing Requirement for 2,000 written words but requires additional work beyond the normal coursework outlined above. The Writing Requirement (WR) ensures students both maintain their fluency in writing and use writing as a tool to facilitate learning. To receive

writing requirement credit, a student must receive a grade of C or higher and a satisfactory completion of the writing component of the course.

I will evaluate and provide feedback on written assignments that count toward the writing requirement with respect to grammar, punctuation, clarity, coherence, and organization. For MUH 3211, the writing requirement expands the program note project during the final third of the semester. Students will complete an additional set of program notes and concert reviews or other writing assignments. Detailed guidelines and deadlines will be posted on Canvas.

Accommodations and Accessibility

The University of Florida is committed to creating an accessible and inclusive learning environment consistent with university policy and federal and state law. Please let me know if you experience any barriers to learning so I can work with you to ensure you have equal opportunity to participate fully in this course. If you are a student with a disability, or think you may have a disability, and need accommodations please contact the [Disability Resource Center](#) (352-392-8565; DRC@ufsa.ufl.edu). Once you are registered, please deliver your accommodation letter to me as early as possible in the semester so we can discuss your approved accommodations and how I can help you succeed in this course.

Additional Policies

The lowest earned scores on your chapter quizzes and listening quizzes will be dropped. This policy allows students some flexibility in case of an overloaded week or missed quiz. Please keep in mind that proactive students will still plan to turn in all assignments.

The instructor can alter the syllabus throughout the semester and will notify students of any significant changes made to it.

If you have concerns about writing, please make use of the [UF Writing Studio](#) as an additional resource for this course. They are available in person and online to help students achieve their writing goals at any stage of their writing process. The Writing Studio tutors are kind, encouraging, and interested! The staff at the Writing Studio will assist with questions related to your writing but will not proofread or edit your work for you. The Writing Studio also has valuable resources in the form of citation guides, workshops, and helpful videos on subjects including time management, note taking, citation/plagiarism, and study tips. Although limited drop-ins are welcome, the best way to guarantee an appointment is to schedule one [online](#).

Recommended writing/style manual for this course is The Chicago Manual of Style, which is available on campus or off-campus using a VPN at https://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html

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.bluer.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

Academic Integrity

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 Conduct Code specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. [Click here to read the Conduct Code](#). If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor. For more details about the academic policies and resources, see [University Policies](#).

Course Schedule (subject to change)

UNIT 1. The Medieval Period

Week 1

Fri, 8/22 Introduction to Music History

Week 2

Mon, 8/25 *HWM Chapter 1: Music in Antiquity*

Wed, 8/27 *HWM Chapter 2: The Christian Church in the First Millennium*

Fri, 8/29

Week 3

Mon, 9/1 NO CLASS – LABOR DAY

Wed, 9/3 *HWM Chapter 3: Roman Liturgy and Chant*

Fri, 9/5

Week 4

Mon, 9/8 *HWM Chapter 4: Song and Dance Music to 1300*

Wed, 9/10

Fri, 9/12 *HWM Chapter 5: Polyphony through the 13th Century*

Week 5

Mon, 9/15

Wed, 9/17 *HWM Chapter 6: New Developments in the 14th Century*

Fri, 9/19

Week 6

Mon, 9/22

Wed 9/24 **Exam 1: The Medieval Period**

UNIT 2. The Renaissance Period

Fri 9/26 *HWM Chapter 7: Music and the Renaissance*

Week 7

Mon 9/29 *HWM Chapter 8: England and Burgundy in the 15th Century*

Wed, 10/1

Fri, 10/3 *HWM Chapter 9: Franco-Flemish Composers, 1450–1520*

Week 8

Mon, 10/6

Wed, 10/8

Fri, 10/10

HWM Chapter 10: Madrigal and Secular Song in the 16th Century

Week 9

Mon, 10/13

Wed, 10/15

Fri, 10/17

HWM Chapter 11: Sacred Music in the Era of the Reformation

NO CLASS – HOMECOMING

Week 10

Mon, 10/20

Wed, 10/22

Fri, 10/24

HWM Chapter 12: The Rise of Instrumental Music

Exam 2: The Renaissance

UNIT 3. The Baroque Period

Week 11

Mon 10/27

Wed, 10/29

Fri, 10/31

HWM Chapter 13: New Styles in the 17th Century

HWM Chapter 14: The Invention of Opera

Week 12

Mon, 11/3

Wed, 11/5

Fri, 11/7

HWM Chapter 15: Music for Chamber & Church, Early 17th Century

HWM Chapter 16: France, Engl., Spain, the New World in the 17th Century

Week 13

Mon, 11/10

Wed, 11/12

Fri, 11/14

HWM Chapter 17: Italy and Germany in the Late 17th Century

Week 14

Mon, 11/17

Wed, 11/19

Fri, 11/21

HWM Chapter 18: Early 18th Century in Italy and France

HWM Chapter 19: German Composers of the Late Baroque

Week 15 (11/25):

NO CLASS – THANKSGIVING BREAK

Week 16

Mon, 12/1

Wed, 12/3 Performance Project Day

Exam Week Wed, 12/10 10:00am–12:00pm **Exam 3: The Baroque**