

Renaissance Seminar

MUH 6671 Section 13DB

MUH 4930 13DF

T: 4:00–7:00, or TBA

University of Florida, Spring 2015

Dr. Jennifer Thomas

Office hours: M/W 11:45-12:45 M

or by appointment

e-mail: thomasjs@ufl.edu**DESCRIPTION** Renaissance Music in cultural context:

The Renaissance, often called the “early modern period,” witnessed many developments in music and culture that indeed play out for centuries to follow. This seminar will be an introductory course surveying major musical genres, institutions, and practices as well as the social conditions in which they flourished. Our guiding text is Richard Freedman’s new book in the Norton series. The books and accompanying anthologies in this series are specifically created for single-semester courses rather than as comprehensive, detailed treatments of the period. The readings for each week will normally consist of one chapter from the book and related articles from Grove Music and periodical literature. Weekly assignments will consist of readings, preparation for discussion, periodic short writing assignments, musical analysis, and relevant short projects. Each student will complete a final project or paper on a topic chosen in consultation with the instructor.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

- To gain a fundamental understanding of the important repertory, composers, and genres of the period 1450-1600
- To understand this musical culture within its social context
- To gain skills in research, writing, discussion, and score reading
- To be able to interpret primary source documents such as musical sources, theoretical treatises, letters

REQUIRED READING AND STUDY**TEXTBOOKS:**

Freedman, Richard. *Music in the Renaissance: Western Music in Context*. New York: Norton, 2013, (ISBN 978-0-393-92916-4, along with the accompanying anthology of the same name (ISBN 978-0-393-92019-2)

Companion website: <http://wnorton.com/college/music/history/renaissance/welcome.aspx>

STYLE MANUALS:**Required**

- Turabian, Kate L. *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*. 8th ed. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2007.

Recommended

- Strunk, William Jr. and E. B. White. *The Elements of Style*. New York: Macmillan. Any edition after the 3rd.
- Wingell, Richard J. *Writing About Music: An Introductory Guide*, any edition. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice Hall.

READINGS: Weekly readings chosen from the suggested list in each chapter of the textbook. Most will be on reserve in the library or available from JSTOR.

LISTENING AND SCORE STUDY: Weekly assignments from the anthology, the textbook website, library, etc. to complement the topical readings for the week.

ASSIGNMENTS AND EVALUATION: Weekly reading assignments will be the basis for class discussion. It is essential that readings be completed fully and on time. Writing assignments will consist of occasional brief essays, one major paper or project, and other activities as appropriate for the class content. Areas to be evaluated as a part of the final grade: attendance, participation, quality of group and individual work, both oral and written. Evaluation of quality will take into account accuracy, logic, organization, clarity, pertinence to the general topic, writing, citation practices, and overall effectiveness. Undergraduate and graduate requirements will reflect the appropriate adjustments in the nature of the assignments.

Grading Scale: 94-100% = A; 91-93% = A- ; 87-90% = B+ ; 84-86% = B ; 81-83% = B- ; 77-80% = C+ ; 74-76% = C ; 71-73% = C- ; 67-70% = D+ ; 64-66% = D ; 61-63% = D- ; 60 and below = E.

LEARNING SUPPORT

OFFICE HOURS: As above or by appointment. Please see me before or after class or contact me by email or telephone to schedule appointments outside regular office hours.

Students with disabilities are strongly encouraged to use the resources offered by the University of Florida Dean of Students Office to assist anyone who qualifies. To learn more, see

<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drp/as.htm> or visit the office: Disability Resources Program, P202 Peabody Hall, Email: accessuf@dso.ufl.edu, :352-392-1261, Fax:352-392-5566, TDD:352-392-3008

Students who need extra help with writing should make use of the campus writing center. Students who use the writing center must submit all drafts of the paper, including the suggestions and revisions from the center. Information about the center is available at <http://www.at.ufl.edu/r&w/>. If you are asked to use the writing center, you will be expected to do so and to submit all drafts of the paper.

EXPECTIONS

ATTENDANCE: Attendance is required and essential for your success in the class.

CLASSROOM POLICIES: Class begins promptly; come prepared, come on time, stay the whole time. As graduate scholars, members of the seminar will naturally show respect and courtesy to the members of the seminar by being on time, participating fully in the process of the seminar, and refraining from distracting behaviors, such as eating, inappropriate use of technology, private conversations, etc.

ACADEMIC HONESTY: No academic dishonesty will be tolerated. Plagiarism is presenting the work of another as your owns. Cheating on exams and using someone else's ideas in a written paper without providing proper recognition of the source (plagiarizing) are serious matters. As a result of completing the registration form at the University of Florida, every student has signed the following statement: "I understand that the University of Florida expects its students to be honest in all their academic work. I agree to adhere to this commitment to academic honesty and understand that my failure to comply with this commitment may result in disciplinary action up to and including expulsion for the University." The instructor of this course fully endorses this statement and will not tolerate academic dishonesty. All violations of academic honesty will be referred to the Dean of Students Office for disciplinary action without exception. **Strictly enforced!**

University Policy on Academic Misconduct: Academic honesty and integrity are fundamental values of the University community. Students should be sure that they understand the UF Student Honor Code at <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/students.php>.

***e-mail etiquette:** Please make every effort to see me in person as listed above or to solve your problem using the information and resources at hand; look at the syllabus and assignment sheet first. Please do not email me for information that you can get from a classmate or figure out on your own, but feel free to email when you require my personal attention or need to make an appointment. Please use your ufl.edu account in all of your transactions for the class; please check your ufl.edu account at least once a day. I will often email you before or after class to follow up on something or to alert you to a change. I will attempt to answer your questions in a timely manner, but please do not expect an immediate reply. I may be occupied with other classes, away from my computer, or in need of time to find an answer to your question. I will make every attempt to answer your emails within 24 hours, M–F.

UF Policies:

University Policy on Accommodating Students with Disabilities: Students requesting accommodation for disabilities must first register with the Dean of Students Office (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/>). The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the instructor when requesting accommodation. You must submit this documentation prior to submitting assignments or taking the quizzes or exams. Accommodations are not retroactive, therefore, students should contact the office as soon as possible in the term for which they are seeking accommodations.

SCHEDULE—SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Week	Topic	Project development timeline
January 6	Introduction to the Renaissance; course overview	
January 13	Beginnings: Culture and Education, Part I	
January 20	Part II: Before 1500 3: Music at Court	
January 27	4: Religious life	Consideration of possible project topics
February 3	5: Musical structures and symbols	Choose a topic from the readings and subject matter to this point for a brief essay—3-4 pages.
February 10	Part III: Around 1500 6: Number, Medicine, and Magic	
February 17	7: Music and nobility	Project proposals due, draft 1. Undergraduate requirement: book review, CD review + bibliographic or historiographic study.
February 24	8: Josquin des Prez and the Perfect Art	
March 3	Spring break	
March 10	More about Josquin and musical analysis	
March 17	9. Musical sources and their owners	Final draft of graduate project proposal and annotated bibliography due. Undergraduate study proposal is due. Prepare to discuss in class the problem you will address, its significance, a methodology for addressing it, and the literature pertinent to the project.
March 24	Part IV: After 1500 10: Literature	
March 31	11: Crisis of Religion	
April 7	12: Unwritten performance practices	Schedule individual conferences no later than this week—sooner is better, and as often as needed.
April 14	13: Music in the larger world	
April 21	14: Tradition and innovation around 1600	
April 23-24	Reading days	
April 27-May 1	Exam week: final presentations TBA	