Music Appreciation

“You just pick a chord, go twang, and you’ve got music.”

- Sid Vicious

course: musc 1023 (online)
semester: Fall 2016
crn: 10297
meeting time: ARR
room: ARR
professor: Thomas Labé
office: Music Building Room 102
office hours: M/W 8:00-9:30; T/TH 11:00-12:30, 2:00-4:00, or by appointment, via text message (580/713-1071), Blackboard Collaborate, Skype (maestrolabe) or FaceTime (tlabe@cameron.edu)
office telephone: (580) 581-2431
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course enhancement in blackboard: Music Appreciation 12:30-1:45pm
faculty web pages: cameron.edu/~thomasl
professional site: thomaslabe.com

I. Catalog Description: Study of our cultural heritage through an acquaintance with the elements of music and a variety of musical styles. The course includes listening to recorded music and live performance. Lecture 3 hours.

II. Objectives: (1) To acquaint the lay-listener with a broad spectrum of music terminology, styles, form, and vocabulary. (2) To present Western-music literature within the appropriate cultural, historical, and artistic settings. (3) To assist the student in developing his/her abilities to listen and discuss music fully and accurately. (4) To help the student to make educated decisions in determining musical tastes and standards. (5) To further encourage and develop the students creative writing skills regarding the student’s articulated response to music assigned and/or observed.

III. Student Learning Outcomes: (1) The student will access information from credible sources and use it effectively and responsibly. (2) The student will demonstrate knowledge of similarities and differences among cultures. (3) The student will apply critical thinking skills in order to make informed decisions and evaluations. (4) The student will demonstrate an understanding of ethical conduct in a defined context. (5) The student will make informed and reasoned responses to questions of aesthetics. (6) The student will apply knowledge and logic to solve problems. (7) The student will effectively communicate in written and oral forms. (8) The student will demonstrate knowledge and skills needed to maintain a healthy lifestyle.

V. COURSE REQUIREMENTS: This is a “proceed at your own pace” course comprised of seven units (located in Course Documents). After completion of the seven units, there is a comprehensive, proctored final examination (please see the course Announcement “Proctored Examination Information” for details on making advance arrangements to take the final examination). Students must proceed through the activities in each unit in sequence, and the entire course (including the proctored final examination) must be completed by the last day of final exams. N.B. There are no “due dates” in this course (except for completion of the entire course, including the proctored final examination, by the last day of final exams for the semester).

VI. LISTENING: All listening examples for this course are online and embedded in the course in the form of MP3 files or links to video content. Students should be conversant in downloading and playing MP3 files, and any problems associated with listening to audio content or viewing video content should be addressed early in the course. Links to MP3 files are preceded by the symbol : depending on the speed and available bandwidth of your internet connection, it may be possible to stream the audio (left-click). In other cases (and for large MP3 files) it may be more expedient to download (right-click) and save the file(s) locally.

VII. COURSE ACTIVITIES: Assignments and Examinations: In the folder for each unit (located in Course Documents) is an online “lecture” which incorporates a variety of reading and listening activities. New terms and concepts in the online lecture appear in this color. Once all the reading and listening has been completed, there is a link to an examination (comprised of multiple choice and true/false questions) at the bottom of the page. There is a time limit and two attempts are allowed for each examination. The final score for each examination is that of the second attempt (not the higher of the two scores). Unit seven concludes with the writing of an essay. After the completion of all seven units, the student must make arrangements to take the comprehensive final examination. The comprehensive final examination is open-book, open-note and consists of multiple choice and true/false questions. The final examination will be available for a period of twenty-one (21) days prior to the last day of final examinations or twenty-one (21) days prior to the last day of summer session (click here to view the Cameron University academic calendar). Students who complete the final examination prior to the first day of final exams (or the last day of class in the summer session) will receive an “early bird” bonus of twenty (20) points added to his or her course total.

VIII. GRADES: Course requirements add up to a total of 1,000 points. The three examinations and the written project are worth a total of 250 points each. At the conclusion of the course, grades will be assigned based on the accumulated total of points as follows:

- 900-1,000 POINTS A
- 800-899 POINTS B
- 700-799 POINTS C
- 600-699 POINTS D
- LESS THAN 600 POINTS F

At the conclusion of the course, a discretionary curve may be applied. Only in the most extenuating of circumstances will a grade of Incomplete ever be issued. (Grades of Incomplete impede degree progress and disrupt other course work in future semesters.)

IX. EARLY ALERT AND ADMINISTRATIVE WITHDRAWAL: As encouraged by Cameron University, this course may be using the Early Alert notification system. Early Alert is a system for identifying students who are having difficulties in a given course. The goal of the Early Alert system is not to penalize students, but rather to address problems—incomplete work, attendance, test scores, etc.—they may be experiencing. By addressing these issues early on in the semester, the hope is that students will be able to take the necessary steps to improve his or her own standing. Administrative withdrawal will not be utilized in this course. Students enrolled in a university with the intention of
achieving a degree should demonstrate the seriousness of purpose, the ability to cope with a wide range of academic and personal challenges and the appropriate level of responsibility necessary to complete the chosen course of study.

X. COMMON SYLLABUS STATEMENT AND ALIGNED GENERAL EDUCATION SLO’s: Click here to view and/or print the applicable university common syllabus. Cameron University assesses student learning at several levels: general education, program, and classroom. The goal of these assessment activities is to improve student learning. As a student in this general education course, you will participate in various assessment activities. Cameron University General Education Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs) can be found here.