



Course Syllabus Music Appreciation



Mr. Lee Shawver

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Office Hours: Mon/Wed 2:35-4:00

Spring 2018

Mon/Wed 12:30-2:15

Location: Digital Media Lab

Course Description

This 32-session (56-hour) course is an introduction to the fundamentals of music and the development of listening skills through the examination of popular western music, including its history, styles and significance in the realm of popular music. This is a discussion-based course meaning attendance is critically important (though content and discussion material will be available through Google Classroom). The purpose of the course is to give students the vocabulary and context to develop and defend cogent options and answer the question, "Why do you like that music?" No musical background necessary.

*Important: This course may involve mature content and language and families may opt out of content and discussions.

Course Objectives: Students will

- Evaluate and challenge personal aesthetics, biases, and modes of listening in music appreciation through discussion and journaling. Speaking and listening will be guided by [Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts](#)
- Understand [elements of music](#) including rhythm, tempo, meter, melody, harmony, form, and instrumentation.
- Analyze social, political, and historical context in music.
- Become familiar with specific composers and representative works of each style period.

Additional Resources:

- Headphones
- Spotify account (optional)

Policies and Procedures

- There is a \$20.00 fee per student for this class.
- Class begins promptly at 12:30 and ends at 2:15.
- Absences - Unexcused absence will result in 0 points for the day. Only one absence is allowed to earn full UNM credit.

- Behavior concerns will be dealt with in accordance with [Taos Academy's STEM Institute policy](#).
- Academic dishonesty (cheating, plagiarism, etc.) will be dealt with in accordance with school policy. Please use [APA format](#) for citing research sources.
- The final day to drop the course is Monday, January 29.

Google Classroom is where we will host all of our class files, portfolios, discussions, rubrics, presentations, and other resources. You have been enrolled in this class entitled "Listen to Music Like a Boss". We will spend time the first week making sure that everyone knows how to use and navigate our Google Classroom. DO NOT DELETE ANYTHING FROM ANY SHARED FOLDERS.

Assessments

Assignment	Weight		Weight
Listening Journals	20	Research project	10
Final Exam	30	Discussion Contributions	20
Misc. Assignments	10	Live performance response	10

Taos Academy Grade Scale

A = 90-100

B = 80-89

C = 70-79

D = 60-69

F = 0-59

Research Project

You will write a 3-page report on an artist/composer of your choice. This paper will include key influences, instrumentation and personnel, relevant history, significant contributions, and other information. Detailed instructions will be provided in Google Classroom.

Discussion Contributions

Your contributions to our daily discussions are critical to the success of the course and to the overall experience of all involved. Your participation will be assessed with this [rubric](#).

Listening Journals

You will create entries into your journal nearly every class period. I will give you general parameters from which to select listening samples. We will use this [template](#) for our entries.

Live Performance Attendance & Response

You are expected to attend at least ONE musical event off campus throughout the semester. I will post weekly updates in Google Classroom regarding upcoming events. You may also check the Tempo in the Taos News for upcoming events. Note: Non-musical plays do not count for credit. You must bring a program from the event to receive credit. For events where a program is not provided, you must have a picture with YOU in attendance. If a student is caught taking extra programs for classmates, both students will fail the course, no questions asked. In addition to the event program or picture, you must provide a written reflection on your experience, to include as much relevant vocabulary as is necessary.