

Introduction to Music 372- Syllabus, Fall

"Music is what feelings sound like." -Anon.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Students will gain a deeper knowledge of music by studying many different styles of music from various cultures throughout the world. The goal is to teach students to value music in their own lives and as an essential ingredient in the lives of all humans. This course will help students understand and respect music by focusing on recognizing musical characteristics, acquiring knowledge about music, and developing musical skills. Using musical terms, students will be able to write about and discuss what they hear in any piece of music. Students are encouraged to broaden their appreciation of music beyond personal tastes to include the rich heritage of music from history and other cultures.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Music has always played a vital role in society. Music "commands our attention and inspires us" and helps us to consider profound questions about the mysteries of life and our purpose on earth. Upon successful completion of this course, the student should be able to:

- ❖ Understand what makes music different from other art and entertainment forms.
- ❖ To respond emotionally and intelligently to a wide range of music representative of many styles and cultures;
- ❖ To understand the social uses of music and to value music accordingly;
- ❖ To recognize music as an important marker of its time and culture;
- ❖ To develop knowledge and understanding of, and respect for, superlative human musical achievements
- ❖ To acquire an overview of their own musical heritage and learn why music is an essential ingredient of all human cultures.

REQUIRED TEXTS AND COURSE MATERIALS:

- ❖ *Music! Its role and Importance in Our Lives* McGraw-Hill Publishing, Burr Ridge, IL (2006).
- ❖ Pencils/ Pens
- ❖ A two pocket folder for portfolio
- ❖ A 1 subject notebook that will serve as a student's journal

WORK ENVIRONMENT:

This is a collaborative learning environment that mirrors a college level course in structure. Students will engage with each other on an interpersonal level through exercises, projects, and performances; what is MOST required of students is an open mind and an ability to provide constructive criticism and respect. It is expected that you will be responsible, respectful and resourceful! You will be graded on your responsible, disciplined commitment to daily work. **Students are expected to keep up with the daily syllabus. If you do not keep up with the daily syllabus, you WILL FALL BEHIND FAST!**

REMEMBER: It is attitude and not aptitude that defines your altitude!!!!!!!!!!!!

MAJOR ASSIGNMENTS:

Participation- In this class, **silence is NOT golden!** This class is based solely upon RESPONSIBLE student participation. We will have discussions, create group projects, share performance work, and teach each other what music means to us. In the spirit of this, participation will weigh heavily on the student's grade; this grade will change based on the student's work ethic in class.

Personal Music List – *Students will create a list of songs that define them. Details will come from the instructor.*

Music Instrument Building Assignment – *In learning about musical instruments, it is important to remember that it is the spark of creation that first invented each instrument. Drawing from the student's creativity, small groups will create their own NEW musical instrument.*

Blue Man Assignment – *By looking at percussive performers, and by studying rhythm, the students will create a Stomp/BlueMan inspired performance piece.*

Concert Reports – *Each student will be required to see three music events and write a report on the experience. Your instructor will explain the structure of the concert reports in class.*

Shakespearean Rap – *Employing Shakespeare's classic verse, the students will create raps as a group to modernize Shakespeare's text.*

Song Project – *Each student will do a presentation on a song of their choice. Details will come from the instructor.*

Musical Theatre Profile – *In groups, the students will profile a specific musical from the American or British musical repertoire. Details will come from the instructor.*

Final Exam – *The final examination in this course will be a written exam with multiple choice, fill-in-the blanks, short answer etc questions. This will be approximately 20 % of the student's grade.*

EXTRA CREDIT POSSIBILITIES:

Listed below are possible options for extra credit. PLEASE NOTE THAT EXTRA CREDIT CAN ONLY BE RECEIVED IF ALL ASSIGNMENTS ARE UP TO DATE!

Additional Concert Report – *While students are required to see 3 concerts and report on them, it is important to make music an active part of your life. If you see an additional music event, you could receive up to **50 points**.*

Ushering for a Saint Patrick Performing Arts Centre Event - *You can receive **10 points** for each evening you usher for an event in the Saint Patrick Performing Arts Centre. This entails handing out programs, helping people to their seats, and a few other safety related issues that will be explained to you.*