

COURSE OUTLINE

MUSC-101

Music Appreciation

3 Semester Hours

Humanities Core Course

HOWARD COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Description

Open to all interested students, this class provides an introduction to musical elements, forms and stylistic periods from the Middle Ages through the popular music of today. While concentrating primarily on Western Art Music and its representative composers, the course also touches on the increasing importance of different forms of popular music in the last century and its roots in various ethnic musical expression. Attention will also be given to historical events, sociological influences and encounters with non-European cultures within each historical period and their effect on musical development. This course is designed for the non-music major. (3 hours weekly)

Statement on General Education and Liberal Learning

A liberal education prepares students to lead ethical, productive, and creative lives and to understand how the pursuit of lifelong learning and critical thinking fosters good citizenship. General education courses form the core of a liberal education within the higher education curriculum and provide a coherent intellectual experience for all students by introducing the fundamental concepts and methods of inquiry in the areas of mathematics, the physical and natural sciences, the social sciences, the arts and the humanities, and composition. This course is part of the general education core experience at Howard Community College.

Overall Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Define the major elements of Western music (pitch, dynamics, timbre, composition, texture, rhythm, melody, harmony, form).
2. Interpret music notation at an elementary level.
3. Recognize the following types of musical form: (binary, ternary, variation, sonata, rondo).
4. Compare and contrast each of the major style periods of Western music history.
5. Listen to selected musical excerpts and distinguish between style periods.
6. Discuss the development of polyphony.
7. Write a basic analysis of a major musical composition.
8. Write an informed critique of a live music performance.
9. List several major composers in each of the style periods of Western music.
10. Identify the style period of a given jazz excerpt.

Major Topics

- I. Elements of Music
- II. Middle Ages
- III. Renaissance
- IV. Baroque
- V. Classical
- VI. Romantic Period
- VII. Twentieth Century
- VIII. Jazz

Course Requirements

Grading/exams: Grading procedures will be determined by the individual faculty member but will include the following:

Final grades will be calculated on the basis of exams and critiques of performances.

Writing: Specific writing assignments will be determined by the individual faculty member but will include at least 500 words of formal writing.

Other Course Information

This course is a Fine Arts and Humanities core course. This course is an Arts and Sciences elective, a Fine Arts elective, and a Humanities elective.