

COURSE OUTLINE

MUSC-102

A Survey of Music Literature

3 Semester Hours

HOWARD COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Description

This course is an in-depth study of the evolution of Western music through a chronological presentation of master composers and their works. Emphasis will be given to the study of musical form and analysis, recognition and identification of the characteristics of stylistic periods, as well as individual research concerning the cultural context of various compositions. This course is strongly recommended for the music major after completion of MUSC-110. (3 hours weekly)

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, texture, rhythm, melody, harmony, form).
2. Explain how a composer has manipulated each of the elements of music in a given composition and propose a theory concerning the reasons for each of the changes.
3. Discern the form of a composition through either listening or study of the score.
4. Compare and contrast each of the major style periods of Western music history.
5. Recognize the composer and composition title of 25-50 major works.
6. List several major composers from each style period and describe the essence of their approach to composition and/or the uniqueness of their contribution to music.
7. Write an informed critique of a live music performance.
8. Write a short research paper on a detailed aspect of a composer or work.
9. Discuss the primary philosophical thrusts of each style period and relate those forces to specific musical examples.
10. Summarize the tonality crisis of the 20th century and discuss the specific composers and works which relate to the solution of that crisis.

Major Topics

- I. Elements of Music
- II. Middle Ages
 - A. Chant
 - B. Leonin, Perotin
 - C. Machaut
- III. Renaissance
 - A. Josquin
 - B. Palestrina
 - C. Gabrielli

- IV. Baroque
 - A. Monteverdi
 - B. Purcell
 - C. Vivaldi
 - D. Bach
 - E. Handel
- V. Classical
 - A. Haydn
 - B. Mozart
 - C. Beethoven
- VI. Romantic
 - A. Schumann
 - B. Chopin
 - C. Liszt
 - D. Brahms
 - E. Wagner
 - F. Mahler
 - G. Berlioz
- VII. Twentieth Century
 - A. Debussy
 - B. Ravel
 - C. Stravinsky
 - D. Schoenberg
 - E. Berg
 - F. Webern
 - G. Bartok
 - H. 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, critique, research paper, and music identification.

Writing: Specific writing assignments will be determined by the individual faculty member but will include at least 1000 words of formal writing.

Other Course Information

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