

Montgomery County Community College
MUS 110
Music Appreciation
3-3-0

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Music Appreciation is a chronological survey of Western music from classical antiquity through the 20th century. Throughout the course, music will be examined for its own intrinsic characteristics in addition to being used as a means for achieving a greater understanding the society, politics, philosophies, and aesthetics of each historical period. Whenever possible, relationships between the music of Western culture and the music of other world cultures will be examined. In addition to the in-class activities, every student may be required to attend a live concert (approved by the instructor) and, following specific guidelines, prepare a written review of that concert experience.

REQUISITES:

Previous Course Requirements

LEARNING OUTCOMES	LEARNING ACTIVITIES	EVALUATION METHODS
2. Identify the basic elements of music: rhythm, harmony, melody, timbre, form, dynamics, tempo.	Assigned Readings Written Homework AV/Multimedia Materials Attendance at Live Musical Events Lecture/Discussion Research Resources Written Examinations	Quizzes (Objective, Essay and Listening Questions) Homework Assignments Research Paper
3. Identify examples and specific musical characteristics of various musical styles through listening to recordings and/or live performances.	AV/Multimedia Materials Attendance at Live Musical Events Lecture/Discussion Research Resources	Quizzes (Objective, Essay and Listening Questions) Homework Assignments Research Paper
4. Describe the similarities and differences between musical genres from the various stylistic periods in Western music.	Assigned Readings Written Homework AV/Multimedia Materials Attendance at Live Musical Events Lecture/Discussion Research Resources Written Examinations	Quizzes (Objective, Essay and Listening Questions) Homework Assignments Research Paper

At the conclusion of each semester/session, assessment of the learning outcomes will be completed by course faculty using the listed evaluation method(s). Aggregated results will be submitted to the Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs. The benchmark for each learning outcome is that *70% of students will meet or exceed outcome criteria.*

SEQUENCE OF TOPICS:

1. How to listen analytically to music
 - a. Properties of sound: Pitch, Dynamics, Timbre
 - b. Properties of time and Rhythm: Beat, Accent, Meter, Syncopation
 - c. Putting pitched sounds together: Melody and Harmony
 - d. Putting layers of activity together: Musical Texture
 - e. The structure of a musical event: Form
 - f. Types and purposes of music: Genres, Periods, Styles
2. Music and culture in Ancient Greece and Rome
 - a. Music and philosophy: Plato and Aristotle, the doctrine of Ethos and imitation.
 - b. Music and mathematics: Pythagoras and others
 - c. Music in everyday life: Poetry, Theater, Cultural history, Competitions
3. Music and culture of the Medieval period
 - a. The decline of Rome and the ascendance of the church

