

HUMA2101  
Enjoyment of Western Opera  
Lecture: Tuesday and Thursday 15:00-16:20, CYT LTL

INSTRUCTOR: Professor Isaac Droscha,  
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COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course aims to make opera more enjoyable and understandable. This survey course will examine the development of Western opera and selected Western operas with their related literary texts. By watching and analyzing opera, the students will learn to understand the relationship between music, literature, drama, and culture. Prior knowledge or experience of Western opera or classical music is not required.

COURSE OBJECTIVES AND INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES:

On completion of the course, the students will be able to

- describe the development of Western opera
- understand the interrelationship between music, literature, drama and culture
- understand the elements of exoticism in western opera
- analyze the structure of scenes
- critique production quality
- coordinate team activities
- give and take direction and constructive criticism
- communicate orally applicable to presentation
- express their own talent and creativity

COURSE MATERIALS

Course materials will be available on CANVAS

1. YouTube has MANY wonderful excerpts and complete performances of opera, and this website will be used extensively (<http://www.youtube.com> (Links to an external site.)).
2. The Metropolitan Opera offers online viewing of their operas. There is a free trial and monthly rate available. The Library currently provides a database subscription which we will use for viewing.

PERFORMANCE:

All students will be involved in an **in-class** performance/presentation, details to be announced. TBA date being considered is November 28.

OPERA REVIEW:

Students will be asked to view a live opera performance and submit a performance review of a minimum of 1200 words. Several Opera companies and arts festivals will be performing a variety of repertoire in Hong Kong this term. This can be planned to attend as small groups (perhaps dinner before or after)!

Current offering:

Opera Hong Kong: *Rigoletto* by Giuseppe Verdi – October 9-13

Musica Viva: *Le Nozze di Figaro* by W.A. Mozart – September 20 & 21

*The Merry Widow* by Franz Lehar – December TBA

ATTENDANCE:

Attendance will be taken throughout the twelve weeks after the add-drop period. You may miss three classes without penalty, but starting from your fourth absence, one percent will be deducted for each absence (10% maximum deduction).

EXAMS:

NO make-up exam or test will be offered without proof of extenuating circumstances. If you miss the midterm, the total score will be transferred to the final exam (i.e. the weight of final exam will become 50%).

Midterm date: OCTOBER 22<sup>nd</sup>, IN CLASS (date subject to change).

ONLINE QUIZZES:

These five quizzes are designed to help you prepare for the exams. They are based on the lectures slides, the operas, and the reading.

Quiz 1 – Due Sept 19, 11:59PM

Quiz 2 – Due Oct 3, 11:59PM

Quiz 3 – Due Oct 17, 11:59PM

Quiz 4 – Due Oct 31, 11:59PM

Quiz 5 – Due Nov 7, 11:59PM

Components	Percentage	Nature of Assessments
Exam	30%	Individual (MC questions and short questions)
Mid-term (October 17 <sup>th</sup> )	20%	Individual (Mostly MC questions)
Opera Review	15%	Individual
Group Presentation	10%	Teacher assessment + Peer evaluation
Performance	5%	Teacher assessment
Attendance	10%	Individual

5 Online Quizzes

10%

Individual (MC and some fill in the blank)

#### ACADEMIC HONESTY:

If you are being dishonest in the course, the penalty is an F for the COURSE.

Cheating: a) If you look at other students' papers or materials (ex. notes) during exam or test.

1. b) If you claim credit for other students' work in group projects.

Plagiarism: If you copy sections from a source without referencing it.

Excerpt from <http://www.ust.hk/vpao/integrity/>

"If you are discovered cheating, however minor the offence, the course grade will appear on your record with an X, to show that the grade resulted from cheating. This X grade stays with your record until graduation. If you cheat again and "earn" another X grade, you will be dismissed from the University. In serious cases, your department may ask the Student Disciplinary Committee to look at the case. The Student Disciplinary Committee can require you to do campus community service; take away your eligibility for a degree with honors, or scholarships and prizes; suspend you from the University, or simply dismiss you right away."

#### LEARNING ENVIRONMENT:

[http://www.ust.hk/vpao/conduct/good\\_learning\\_experience.pps](http://www.ust.hk/vpao/conduct/good_learning_experience.pps)

OPERAS TO BE STUDIED FROM WILL BE SELECTED FROM THE FOLLOWING:

*La Favola d'Orfeo*

*Giulio Cesare*

*Castor et Pollux*

*The Enchanted Island*

*Le Nozze di Figaro*

*Don Giovanni*

*Il barbiere di Siviglia*

*La Cenerentolla*

*Les Huguenots*

*Rigoletto*

*La Traviata*

*Otello*

*Der Ring des Nibelungen*

*Carmen*

*Werther*

*Pagliacci*

*Cavalleria Rusticana*

*La Boheme*

*Turandot*

*Salome*

*Wozzeck*

*Nixon in China*

*Einstein on the Beach*

*The Dream of the Red Chamber*