

## Course Syllabus

Spring 2022

HUMA2101 Enjoyment of Western Opera

Lecture: Monday and Wednesday 10:30-11:50

INSTRUCTOR: Professor Isaac Droscha OFFICE: Shaw Auditorium Rm. 217

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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

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.) (Links to an external site.) (Links to an external site.)).

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.

### COSMOPOLIS FESTIVAL AND REVIEW:

Students will be asked to view a live opera performance and submit a written review. For those NIHK students you may watch the recording of this opera or submit a request to view a live opera in your local location. This semester will be the second season of HKUST's new cross-cultural music and arts initiative, the Cosmopolis Festival. Your opera review should focus on the Pomme d'Api - A French

Comic Operetta event on May 3 at 7:30PM. If you cannot attend this concert or watch the video, please contact me for an alternative.

You must also attend (or view) at least two other events from the Cosmopolis Festival:  
<https://cosmopolisfestival.hkust.edu.hk/home> (Links to an external site.)

#### 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). The Zoom meeting log will be used to record attendance. To receive full credit, you must attend 90% of the online session and participate in the lecture. This includes verbally or chat posting.

#### EXAMS:

Midterm date: conducted online. March 28 during class time, 10:30AM-12:00PM (date subject to change)

#### ONLINE QUIZZES:

Five online, multiple-choice quizzes are designed to help you prepare for the exams. They are based on the lecture slides, the operas, and the reading. For due dates, see the canvas calendar.

#### DISCUSSION POSTS:

You be asked to periodically post your opinion about the productions, the singing, the staging, etc. of the operas throughout the term. These are graded on completion and on the validity of your post.

#### Components

Percentage

Nature of Assessments

Exam

25%

MC, fill-in the blank, essay

Mid-term

20%

MC, fill in the blank, essay

Opera Review

5%

Individual

Group Project

20%

Teacher assessment

Discussion posts

10%

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.

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

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

"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."

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