

## **HUMA 1102: Enjoyment of Classical Music**

The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology  
SHSS, Division of Humanities — Spring 2025

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Office:	Shaw Auditorium, Rm. 205
Office hours:	Wed 9:30–11:30 AM/by appointment
Instructional Assistants:	Galison LAU ( <a href="mailto:galisonlau@ust.hk">galisonlau@ust.hk</a> )
Office:	CYT, Rm. G004
Lectures:	Tue/Thu 3:00–4:20 PM
Location:	LT-L, Cheng Yu Tung Building (CYT)

### **Course description**

HUMA 1102 is an introduction to the history of Western art music, from the medieval era to the present day, with an emphasis on the period between Late Middle Ages (14th century) and Romanticism (19th century). Using the last half a millennium of repertoire as its primary point of reference, the course aims to change the way the student hears and understands music. We will explore the foundations of music cognition and acoustics, look at works in their historical and political context, inspect the relationship of music to other art forms, learn analytical listening skills, and try to understand the creative operations and craftsmanship behind music-making. Prior knowledge of music or music theory is not required, and some basics of notation are covered in class.

### **Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)**

On successful completion of the course, the student will be able to

- demonstrate a deeper appreciation and understanding of Western classical music and its different historical phases;
- listen to music analytically, with an awareness of aspects such as style, genre, form, time period, and instrumentation;
- listen to music in general with the same sensitivity, regardless of style or tradition; and
- apply the knowledge and sensitivity assimilated in this class to other disciplines.

### **Required materials**

Reading assignments will come mostly from *Listen* (7th Edition) by Kerman & Tomlinson, available at the campus bookstore, library, [and online](#). I will assign additional reading and listening from other sources. You will also have access to my PowerPoint slides on Canvas after each lecture, as well as video recordings of the lectures via HKUST's Remote Video Capture service.

### **Reading and listening assignments, quizzes**

It is crucial that you complete all the reading and listening assignments; the lectures can only serve as *preparation* for your most important work, which is to spend time with the material, listening to music with your full attention. Reading quizzes constitute 25% of your final grade, and are aimed at making sure everyone is on track with the assigned texts and musical examples. In lieu of midterms and final examination, we will have two extended, cumulative quizzes: one mid-semester, and one at the end of the term, which together constitute another 25% of your final grade.

### **Term paper—Cosmopolis Festival: The Hong Kong Philharmonic**

This spring semester, in lieu of a full-fledged season, HKUST's Cosmopolis Festival will present two individual events. The one relevant to this course is two recitals by the pride of the city, the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra. This event is a required part of the course.

*You can choose between **Saturday, April 12, or Sunday, April 13, at 7:30 PM.***

*Attendance is free, but you will need to register a seat; a link will be provided later.*

Your term paper will be an analytic writing assignment, based on a composition of your choice that you hear at the concert. The length is a minimum 700 words, which works out to ca. two pages in Times New Roman 12-point font, double spaced.

### **Attendance and participation**

Attendance at lectures, and participating in the class by answering and asking questions, are an important part of the course.

### **Grading**

Quizzes on reading assignments	25%
Cumulative mid- and end-of-semester quiz	25% (12.5% each)
Term paper (concert report)	35%
Attendance & participation	15%

## **HUMA 1102: Enjoyment of Classical Music**

Class schedule — Spring 2025

<b>Date:</b>	<b>Lecture:</b>	<b>Topic:</b>
Tue, Feb 4	Lecture 1	Introduction to the Course
Thu, Feb 6	Lecture 2	Fundamentals of Listening
Tue, Feb 11	Lecture 3	Overview of Western Music History, I
Thu, Feb 13	Lecture 4	Overview of Western Music History, II
Tue, Feb 18	Lecture 5	Rhythm and Rhythmic Notation
Thu, Feb 20	Lecture 6	Chronological topic I: Ars Nova (14th Century)
Tue, Feb 25	Lecture 7	Chronological topic II: The Renaissance
Thu, Feb 27	Lecture 8	Melody, Harmony, and Pitch Notation
Tue, Mar 4	Lecture 9	Counterpoint
Thu, Mar 6	Lecture 10	Chronological topic III: Early Baroque
Tue, Mar 11	Lecture 11	Evolution of Instruments
Thu, Mar 13	Lecture 12	Chronological topic IV: Late Baroque
Tue, Mar 18	Lecture 13	More on Baroque music (Chronological topic IV) Term Paper Guidelines
Thu, Mar 20	Lecture 14	Formal Structure
Tue, Mar 25	Lecture 15	Chronological topic V: Classicism
Thu, Mar 27	Lecture 16	<b><u>Mid-Semester Cumulative Quiz</u></b>
<b><u>Mid-Term Break – No classes Tue, Apr 1 &amp; Thu, Apr 3</u></b>		
Tue, Apr 8	Lecture 17	Revolutions and Music
Thu, Apr 10	Lecture 18	Chronological topic VI: Romanticism, 1

Tue, Apr 15	Lecture 19	Song Throughout the Ages
Thu, Apr 17	Lecture 20	Chronological topic VI: Romanticism, 2
Tue, Apr 22	Lecture 21	Chronological topic VI: Romanticism, 3
Thu, Apr 24	Lecture 22	Chronological topic VII: Early 20th Century
Tue, Apr 29	Lecture 23	Chronological topic VII: 20th and 21st centuries

**Labor Day – No class on Thu, May 1**

Tue, May 6	Lecture 24	Recap and catchin up; more on paper
Thu, May 8	Lecture 25	<b><u>Extended end-of-semester quiz</u></b>