

HUMA 1102: Enjoyment of Classical Music

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

Instructor:	Ilari KAILA (kaila@ust.hk)
Office:	Shaw Auditorium, Rm. 205
Office hours:	Tue 9:30–11:30 AM/by appointment
Instructional Assistants:	Galison LAU (galisonlau@ust.hk)
Office:	CYT, Rm. G004
Lectures:	Mon/Wed/Fri 10:00 AM–12:50 PM
Location:	LT-L, Cheng Yu Tung Building (CYT)

Course description

HUMA 1102 is an introduction to the history and appreciation of Western art music, from the medieval era to the present day, with an emphasis on the period between the 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. 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

Your term paper will be a comparative writing assignment: each student will be assigned a different pair of compositions to compare and contrast. The length is a minimum 700 words (body of the text), which works out to ca. 2 pages or more in Times New Roman 12-point font, double spaced.

If a high-level Western classical music concert is available on campus, we will suggest ways to incorporate that into the assignment. This is part of the class structure during regular semesters; in the summer session, however, a concert assignment may not be feasible.

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%

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Class schedule — Summer 2025

Date:	Lecture:	Topic:
Mon, Jul 14	Lecture 1	Introduction to the Course
	Lecture 2	Fundamentals of Listening
Wed, Jul 16	Lecture 3	Overview of Western Music History, I
	Lecture 4	Overview of Western Music History, II
Fri, Jul 18	Lecture 5	Rhythm and Rhythmic Notation
	Lecture 6	Chronological topic I: Ars Nova (14th Century)
Mon, Jul 21	Lecture 7	Chronological topic II: The Renaissance
	Lecture 8	Melody, Harmony, and Pitch Notation
Wed, Jul 23	Lecture 9	Counterpoint
	Lecture 10	Chronological topic III: Early Baroque
Fri, Jul 25	Lecture 11	Evolution of Instruments
	Lecture 12	Chronological topic IV: Late Baroque
Mon, Jul 28	Lecture 13	More on Baroque music (Chronological topic IV) Term Paper Guidelines
	Lecture 14	Formal Structure
Wed, Jul 30	Lecture 15	Chronological topic V: Classicism
	Lecture 16	<u>Mid-Semester Cumulative Quiz</u>
Fri, Aug 1	Lecture 17	Revolutions and Music
	Lecture 18	Chronological topic VI: Romanticism, 1
Mon, Aug 4	Lecture 19	Song Throughout the Ages

	Lecture 20	Chronological topic VI: Romanticism, 2
Wed, Aug 6	Lecture 21	Chronological topic VI: Romanticism, 3
	Lecture 22	Chronological topic VII: Early 20th Century
Fri, Aug 8	Lecture 23	Chronological topic VII: 20th and 21st centuries
	Lecture 24	Recap and catching up
Sat, Aug 9	Lecture 25	More on term paper
	Lecture 26	<u>Extended end-of-semester quiz</u>