

HUMA 1102: Enjoyment of Classical Music

The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology

SHSS, Division of Humanities

Term: Summer 2026

Instructor:	Dr. Leung Hin Yan Austin
Office Hours:	By email appointments
Instructional Assistants:	Galison LAU, Rod YU
Lectures:	15-JUN-2026 to 10-JUL-2026: Mon, Wed, Fri (02:00 PM - 04:50 PM) AND 11-JUL-2026 (Sat): 02:00 PM - 04:50 PM
Location:	Rm 2465, Lift 25-26 (122)

Course Description

From the power and beauty of the orchestra to masterpieces of the church and concert hall, students will gain an in-depth appreciation for the history and fundamentals of Western classical music. The listening and analytical skills demonstrated will bring about a deeper understanding of music as an art form. Previous musical training, albeit helpful, is not required.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

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

1. Demonstrate understanding and appreciation for the artform of Western classical music and its historical phases.
2. Apply basic knowledge with regard to style, genre, form, time period, and instrumentation when listening to music.
3. Compare and appreciate different types of music in general with the same sensitivity, regardless of style or tradition.
4. Connect the knowledge and sensitivity assimilated in this class to wider society and other disciplines.

Grading Breakdown

Assessment Task	Contribution to Final Grade (%)
Listening Quizzes (5 quizzes total, 5% each)	25%
Midterm Test	20%
Group Project Video Submission	20%
Final Exam	20%
Attendance & Participation	15%

Assessment Guidelines

Listening Quizzes (25%)

Five short, targeted listening assessments are distributed across the intensive summer term. Each quiz is scheduled on the class day *after* the completion of its respective historical topics to allow students time to revise at home.

- **Quiz 1:** Medieval and Renaissance
- **Quiz 2:** Baroque
- **Quiz 3:** Romantic
- **Quiz 4:** Impressionism and Early Twentieth Century
- **Quiz 5:** Contemporary music and Music beyond the concert hall

Note: The Classical period is not tested via a short quiz as it is comprehensively covered in the Midterm Test.

Midterm Test and Final Exam

Unlike the short quizzes, the **Midterm Test** and **Final Exam** each occupy a full 1.5-hour lesson block to allow for an in-depth evaluation.

Group Project Video Submission (20%)

Submission Deadline: After the final exam (exact date TBA)

Instead of a traditional in-class presentation or a written term paper, students will collaborate in groups (normally consisting of 5 students) to research, discover, and produce an engaging **5–7 minute video** styled like a modern digital content creator or "YouTuber."

Groups will select a specific topic analyzing the creative intersection of classical music with secondary fields (e.g., *Classical Music and Video Games*, *Classical Music and the Environment*, or *Classical Music in Pop Songs*).

Your video must bypass surface-level observations ("it sounds epic") and look deeper into analytical elements. Examples of areas to explore include identifying specific classical elements and techniques utilized, the historical implications of the music, any stylistic imitation, and the intent behind choosing specific pre-existing masterworks. We will go through more details and grading frameworks for this project later in the course.

Class Schedule

Each 3-hour class block (02:00 PM – 04:50 PM) is split into **two distinct 1.5-hour Lessons**.

Date	Lesson	Topic / Focus Area	Assessments & Milestones
15-JUN-2026 (Mon)	Lesson 1 Lesson 2	Introduction to the course Fundamental of classical music	
17-JUN-2026 (Wed)	Lesson 3 Lesson 4	Medieval and Renaissance (1) Medieval and Renaissance (2)	
19-JUN-2026 (Fri)	—	No Class — Dragon Boat Festival Holiday	
22-JUN-2026 (Mon)	Lesson 5 Lesson 6	Baroque (1) Baroque (2)	Listening Quiz 1 (Covers Med & Ren)
24-JUN-2026 (Wed)	Lesson 7 Lesson 8	Baroque (3) Classical (1)	
26-JUN-2026 (Fri)	Lesson 9 Lesson 10	Classical (2) Classical (3)	Listening Quiz 2 (Covers Baroque)
29-JUN-2026 (Mon)	Lesson 11 Lesson 12	Mid-term Test Romantic (1)	<i>Mid-term covers up to Classical</i>
01-JUL-2026 (Wed)	—	No Class — HKSAR Establishment Day Holiday	
03-JUL-2026 (Fri)	Lesson 13 Lesson 14	Romantic (2) Romantic (3)	
06-JUL-2026 (Mon)	Lesson 15 Lesson 16	Impressionism & Early 20th Century (1) Impressionism & Early 20th Century (2)	Listening Quiz 3 (Covers Romantic)
08-JUL-2026 (Wed)	Lesson 17 Lesson 18	Contemporary music Music beyond the concert hall	Listening Quiz 4 (Covers Imp & 20C)
10-JUL-2026 (Fri)	Lesson 19 Lesson 20	Music from the World Technology and Music	Listening Quiz 5 (Covers Contemporary & Beyond concert hall)
11-JUL-2026 (Sat)	Lesson 21 Lesson 22	Classical music in the society Exam	Final Exam