

Course Syllabus

HUMA2101

Enjoyment of Western Opera

Lecture: Monday and Wednesday 9:00-10:30

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.**) /).
- 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.
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COSMOPOLIS FESTIVAL AND REVIEW:

This semester will be the second season of HKUST's new cross-cultural music and arts initiative, the Cosmopolis Festival. You should attend two concerts and one workshop to full-fill the the requirement for this assignment. After you finish attending the events, you must submit a short response about your experience.

You may find out more and register for all events here:

<https://cosmopolisfestival.hkust.edu.hk/home>

ATTENDANCE:

Attendance will be taken throughout the twelve weeks after the add-drop period. You may miss three classes without penalty, but starting from you 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 sides, 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.

1. 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

Course Summary:

Date	Details	Due
Mon Sep 5, 2022	<u>LECTURE 1 - Introduction</u>	12am
Wed Sep 7, 2022	<u>LECTURE 2 - Listening to Opera</u>	12am
Mon Sep 12, 2022	<u>HOLIDAY</u>	12am
Wed Sep 14, 2022	<u>LECTURE 3 - Il barbiere di Siviglia/Voice types</u>	12am
Mon Sep 19, 2022	<u>LECTURE 4 - Il barbiere di Siviglia/Role types</u>	12am
Wed Sep 21, 2022	<u>LECTURE 5 - Il barbiere di Siviglia and self satire</u>	12am
	<u>Quiz 1</u>	due by 11:59pm
Mon Sep 26, 2022	<u>LECTURE 6 - Opera of the Classical period and Don Giovanni</u>	12am
Wed Sep 28, 2022	<u>LECTURE 7 - Don Giovanni</u>	12am
	<u>Discussion 1</u>	due by 11:59pm
Mon Oct 3, 2022	<u>LECTURE 8 - Don Giovanni</u>	12am
Wed Oct 5, 2022	<u>LECTURE 9 - baroque opera and The Enchanted Island and</u>	12am
	<u>Quiz 2</u>	due by 11:59pm
Mon Oct 10, 2022	<u>LECTURE 10 - The Enchanted Island</u>	12am
Wed Oct 12, 2022	<u>LECTURE 11 - The invention of opera and La favola d'Orfeo</u>	12am
	<u>Discussion 2</u>	due by 11:59pm
Mon Oct 17, 2022	<u>LECTURE 12 - The beginnings of opera and La favola d'Orfeo</u>	12am
Wed Oct 19, 2022	<u>LECTURE 13 - The beginning of Opera L'Orfeo</u>	12am
	<u>Quiz 3</u>	due by 11:59pm

Date	Details	Due
Mon Oct 24, 2022	<u>LECTURE 14 - Review and Catch-up</u>	12am
Wed Oct 26, 2022	<u>LECTURE 15 - MIDTERM</u>	12am
Mon Oct 31, 2022	<u>LECTURE 16 - Rigoletto</u>	12am
Wed Nov 2, 2022	<u>LECTURE 17 - Rigoletto and the bel canto style</u>	12am
	<u>Discussion 3</u>	due by 11:59pm
Mon Nov 7, 2022	<u>LECTURE 18 - Verdi Vs. Wagner and the music drama & The Business of Opera</u>	12am
Wed Nov 9, 2022	<u>LECTURE 19 - Wagner and the development of the motive</u>	12am
	<u>Quiz 4</u>	due by 11:59pm
Mon Nov 14, 2022	<u>LECTURE 20 - CARMEN</u>	12am
Wed Nov 16, 2022	<u>LECTURE 21 - Carmen</u>	12am
	<u>Discussion 4</u>	due by 11:59pm
Mon Nov 21, 2022	<u>LECTURE 22 - The 20th Century</u>	12am
Wed Nov 23, 2022	<u>LECTURE 23 - The 20th Century</u>	12am
	<u>GROUP ASSIGNMENT</u>	due by 11:59pm
	<u>Quiz 5</u>	due by 11:59pm
Mon Nov 28, 2022	<u>Lecture 24 - Presentations</u>	12am
	<u>Lecture 25 - Presentations</u>	12am
Wed Nov 30, 2022	<u>CLASS ATTENDANCE</u>	due by 12pm
	<u>Discussion 5</u>	due by 11:59pm
Tue Dec 6, 2022	<u>OPERA REVIEW</u>	due by 11:59pm
Sat Dec 17, 2022	<u>Final Exam - Part 1 - Multiple Choice</u>	due by 1:15pm
	<u>Final Exam - Part 2 - Fill in the blank</u>	due by 2:15pm

Date	Details	Due
	<u>Final Exam - Part 3 - Listening</u>	due by 3pm
	<u>Final Exam - Part 4 - Essay and Short Answer</u>	due by 5pm