

Course Syllabus

Fall 2023

Course Syllabus

HUMA2101

Enjoyment of Western Opera

Lecture: Tuesday and Thursday 4:30-5:50pm

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

PHONE: 23587768 EMAIL: droscha@ust.hk

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.

OPERA VIEWING AND REVIEW:

This term you have the chance to watch a live opera. After you attend the event, you must submit a short response about your experience.

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).

EXAMS:

Midterm date: October 19 during class time (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 MAY 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

Course Summary:

| Date | Details | Due |
|------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| Tue Sep 5, 2023 | Calendar Event LECTURE 1 - Introduction | 4:30pm to 5:50pm |
| Thu Sep 7, 2023 | Calendar Event LECTURE 2 - Listening to Opera | 4:30pm to 5:50pm |
| Tue Sep 12, 2023 | Calendar Event LECTURE 3 - Il barbiere di Siviglia/Voice types | 4:30pm to 5:50pm |
| Thu Sep 14, 2023 | Calendar Event LECTURE 4 - Il barbiere di Siviglia/Role types | 4:30pm to 5:50pm |
| Tue Sep 19, 2023 | Calendar Event LECTURE 5 - Il barbiere di Siviglia and self satire | 4:30pm to 5:50pm |
| Thu Sep 21, 2023 | Calendar Event LECTURE 6 - Opera of the Classical period and Don Giovanni | 4:30pm to 5:50pm |
| | Quiz Quiz 1 | due by 11:59pm |
| Tue Sep 26, 2023 | Calendar Event LECTURE 7 - Don Giovanni | 4:30pm to 5:50pm |
| Thu Sep 28, 2023 | Calendar Event LECTURE 8 - Don Giovanni | 4:30pm to 5:50pm |
| | Discussion Topic Discussion 1 | due by 11:59pm |
| Tue Oct 3, 2023 | Calendar Event LECTURE 9 - baroque opera and The Enchanted Island and | 4:30pm to 5:50pm |
| Thu Oct 5, 2023 | Calendar Event LECTURE 10 - The Enchanted Island | 4:30pm to 5:50pm |

| Date | Details | Due |
|------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| | Quiz Quiz 2 | due by 11:59pm |
| Tue Oct 10, 2023 | Calendar Event LECTURE 11 - The invention of opera and La favola d'Orfeo | 4:30pm to 5:50pm |
| Thu Oct 12, 2023 | Calendar Event LECTURE 12 - The beginnings of opera and La favola d'Orfeo | 4:30pm to 5:50pm |
| | Discussion Topic Discussion 2 | due by 11:59pm |
| Tue Oct 17, 2023 | Calendar Event LECTURE 13 - The beginning of Opera L'Orfeo | 4:30pm to 5:50pm |
| | Assignment PRE MIDTERM - CLASS ATTENDANCE | due by 12pm |
| Thu Oct 19, 2023 | Calendar Event LECTURE 14 - MIDTERM | 4:30pm to 5:50pm |
| | Quiz Quiz 3 | due by 11:59pm |
| | Assignment Midterm Exam | due by 11:59pm |
| Tue Oct 24, 2023 | Calendar Event LECTURE 15 - Rigoletto | 4:30pm to 5:50pm |
| Thu Oct 26, 2023 | Calendar Event LECTURE 16 - Rigoletto and the bel canto style | 4:30pm to 5:50pm |
| | Discussion Topic Discussion 3 | due by 11:59pm |
| Tue Oct 31, 2023 | Calendar Event LECTURE 17 - Verdi Vs. Wagner and the music drama & The Business of Opera | 4:30pm to 5:50pm |
| Thu Nov 2, 2023 | Calendar Event LECTURE 18 - Wagner and the development of the motive | 4:30pm to 5:50pm |
| | Quiz Quiz 4 | due by 11:59pm |
| Tue Nov 7, 2023 | Calendar Event LECTURE 19 - CARMEN | 12am |

| Date | Details | Due |
|------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| Thu Nov 9, 2023 | Calendar Event LECTURE 20 - Carmen | 12am |
| | Discussion Topic Discussion 4 | due by 11:59pm |
| Tue Nov 14, 2023 | Calendar Event LECTURE 21 - La Boheme | 12am |
| Thu Nov 16, 2023 | Calendar Event LECTURE 22 - La Boheme | 12am |
| | Assignment GROUP ASSIGNMENT | due by 9am |
| | Quiz Quiz 5 | due by 11:59pm |
| Tue Nov 21, 2023 | Calendar Event Lecture 23 - Presentations | 12am |
| Thu Nov 23, 2023 | Calendar Event Lecture 24 - Presentations | 12am |
| | Discussion Topic Discussion 5 | due by 11:59pm |
| Tue Nov 28, 2023 | Calendar Event Lecture 25 - 20th Century | 4:30pm to 5:50pm |
| Thu Nov 30, 2023 | Calendar Event LECTURE 26 - Contemporary opera | 4:30pm to 5:50pm |
| | Assignment POST MIDTERM - CLASS ATTENDACE | due by 11:59pm |
| Fri Jan 12, 2024 | Assignment Final Exam | due by 11:59pm |
| Wed Jan 17, 2024 | Assignment CONCERT REVIEW | due by 11:59pm |