

Course Syllabus

HUMA2101/CORE2631

Enjoyment of Western Opera

Lecture: Wednesday and Friday 1:30-2:50

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 24 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 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
Fri Feb 3, 2023	<u>LECTURE 1 - Introduction</u>	12am
Wed Feb 8, 2023	<u>LECTURE 2 - Listening to Opera</u>	12am
Fri Feb 10, 2023	<u>LECTURE 3 - Il barbiere di Siviglia/Voice types</u>	12am

Date	Details	Due
Wed Feb 15, 2023	<u>LECTURE 4 - Il barbiere di Siviglia/Role types</u>	12am
Fri Feb 17, 2023	<u>LECTURE 5 - Il barbiere di Siviglia and self satire</u>	12am
	<u>Quiz 1</u>	due by 11:59pm
Wed Feb 22, 2023	<u>LECTURE 6 - Opera of the Classical period and Don Giovanni</u>	12am
Fri Feb 24, 2023	<u>LECTURE 7 - Don Giovanni</u>	12am
	<u>Discussion 1</u>	due by 11:59pm
Wed Mar 1, 2023	<u>LECTURE 8 - Don Giovanni</u>	12am
Fri Mar 3, 2023	<u>LECTURE 9 - baroque opera and The Enchanted Island and</u>	12am
	<u>Quiz 2</u>	due by 11:59pm
Wed Mar 8, 2023	<u>LECTURE 10 - The Enchanted Island</u>	12am
Fri Mar 10, 2023	<u>LECTURE 11 - The invention of opera and La favola d'Orfeo</u>	12am
	<u>Discussion 2</u>	due by 11:59pm
Wed Mar 15, 2023	<u>LECTURE 12 - The beginnings of opera and La favola d'Orfeo</u>	12am
Fri Mar 17, 2023	<u>LECTURE 13 - The beginning of Opera L'Orfeo</u>	12am
	<u>Quiz 3</u>	due by 11:59pm
Wed Mar 22, 2023	<u>Lecture - Review</u>	12am
Fri Mar 24, 2023	<u>LECTURE 14 - MIDTERM</u>	12am

Date	Details	Due
	<u>PRE MIDTERM - CLASS ATTENDANCE</u>	due by 12pm
	<u>Midterm Exam</u>	due by 11:59pm
Wed Mar 29, 2023	<u>LECTURE 15 - Rigoletto</u>	12am
Fri Mar 31, 2023	<u>LECTURE 16 - Rigoletto and the bel canto style</u>	12am
	<u>Discussion 3</u>	due by 11:59pm
Wed Apr 5, 2023	<u>MIDTERM BREAK APRIL 5-11</u>	12am
Thu Apr 6, 2023	<u>MIDTERM BREAK APRIL 5-11</u>	12am
Fri Apr 7, 2023	<u>MIDTERM BREAK APRIL 5-11</u>	12am
Sat Apr 8, 2023	<u>MIDTERM BREAK APRIL 5-11</u>	12am
Sun Apr 9, 2023	<u>MIDTERM BREAK APRIL 5-11</u>	12am
Mon Apr 10, 2023	<u>MIDTERM BREAK APRIL 5-11</u>	12am
Tue Apr 11, 2023	<u>MIDTERM BREAK APRIL 5-11</u>	12am
Wed Apr 12, 2023	<u>LECTURE 17 - Verdi Vs. Wagner and the music drama & The Business of Opera</u>	12am
Fri Apr 14, 2023	<u>LECTURE 18 - Wagner and the development of the motive</u>	12am
	<u>Quiz 4</u>	due by 11:59pm
Wed Apr 19, 2023	<u>LECTURE 19 - CARMEN</u>	12am
Fri Apr 21, 2023	<u>LECTURE 20 - Carmen</u>	12am
	<u>Discussion 4</u>	due by 11:59pm

Date	Details	Due
Mon Apr 24, 2023	<u>CONCERT REVIEW</u>	due by 11:59pm
Wed Apr 26, 2023	<u>LECTURE 21 - The 20th Century</u>	12am
	<u>LECTURE 22 - 20TH CENTURY</u>	12am
Fri Apr 28, 2023	<u>GROUP ASSIGNMENT</u>	due by 9am
	<u>Quiz 5</u>	due by 11:59pm
Wed May 3, 2023	<u>Lecture 23 - Presentations</u>	12am
	<u>Lecture 24 - Presentations</u>	12am
Fri May 5, 2023	<u>Discussion 5</u>	due by 11:59pm
	<u>POST MIDTERM - CLASS ATTENDACE</u>	due by 11:59pm
Fri May 19, 2023	<u>Final Exam</u>	due by 11:59pm