

Music 845-Special Topics in Music: Beethoven Symphonies

TTh 11:00am-12:20pm, 240 Biddle Hall

Prof. Jeffrey L. Webb/Fall 2015

Office Hours: MWF 9:00-10am, TTh 10-11am

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Class Objective: The objective of this class is to study and learn the nine symphonies of Ludwig Van Beethoven. We will learn how Beethoven's life circumstances affected his musical output and study how his symphonic compositions changed the way composers would compose music after him. Students will be expected to identify works by the composer including title and movement as well as materials covered in class pertaining to styles, forms and historical context.

Grade Breakdown: Your final grade will be calculated in the following manner:

Quizzes: 60 points (3 @ 20 points each)

Attendance based quizzes: TBD

Final Exam: 100 points

Attendance Policy: There is no formal attendance policy for the class. If you choose to miss class, that is your choice. However, be aware of some of the consequences of missing class. I will give a mini quiz at the start of each class. These quizzes will be on specific works/movements announced verbally in the class before. This will be done mainly to keep you motivated in your listening/studying sessions. The final exam will be cumulative and for some, that might be a great deal of music to try to remember all at once. When more than 20 percent of the class is absent on any day, I will collect the quiz and count the grade of the quiz on that day. If there are more than 80 percent of you in class, you will correct the quizzes yourself and I will not collect them. This will let you know which pieces you may be struggling with.

Required Text: There is no required textbook for this course. Students may be given supplemental readings throughout the semester. In addition, students may be required to attend concerts outside of class time and as such, will be required to purchase tickets for those concerts

Helpful Hints/Listening to the music: If something is not clear to you, you should ask questions about. Never be afraid to ask questions during the course of the class. Moreover, do not wait too long to ask questions. Don't fail a quiz (or two or three) because you failed to ask questions. Classical music is new to some (or many) of you. Music in general is elusive. During class we will learn to decipher and discern. It takes attentiveness and deliberate proactive efforts on your part. It also takes a great deal of repeated listening and dissecting, a process you will be taught in class. Classical music (at least the pieces for this class) requires a quiet environment for listening. This music cannot be used as background music. You must be active in your listening at all times, especially because your ultimate goal will be to identify the music for your quizzes.

SEMESTER CALENDAR

Sept. 1 Introduction/How to listen to music
Sept. 3 A Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra

Sept. 8 Symphonic Forms
Sept. 10 Classical Style vs. Romantic Style

Sept. 15 Symphony 1
Sept. 17 Symphony 1

Sept. 22 Quiz #1 (materials since day 1)
Sept. 24 Symphony 2

Sept. 29 Symphony 2
Oct. 1 Symphony 3

Oct. 6 Symphony 3
Oct. 8 Quiz #2 (materials since 9/24)

Oct. 13 Symphony 4
Oct. 15 Symphony 4

Oct. 20 No Class-Fall break schedule
Oct. 22 Symphony 5

Oct. 27 Symphony 5
Oct. 29 Symphony 6

Nov. 3 Symphony 6
Nov. 5 Quiz #3 (materials since 10/13)

Nov. 10 Symphony 7
Nov. 12 No Class

Nov. 17 Symphony 7
Nov. 19 Symphony 8

Nov. 24 Symphony 8
Nov. 26 No Class-Thanksgiving Break

Dec. 1 Symphony 9
Dec. 3 Symphony 9

Dec. 8 Symphony 9/Review
Dec. 10 Review

FINAL EXAM: Tuesday, December 15
10:30am-12:30pm