

COURSE SYLLABUS

MUS 659
3 credits

Instructor: Dr. John Dressler
Office: FA-520

I. **TITLE:** Advanced Music History and Literature

II. **BULLETIN DESCRIPTION:** The student will explore in further depth the development of music in history through stylistic elements as found in the standard repertoire. Each of these musical elements will be traced from plainchant through music of the 20th century, with special emphasis on innovative trends, perspectives, and genres.

III. **PURPOSE:** To provide for the student a further opportunity to explore, examine and review music history and literature through the developing aspects of representative styles.

IV. **COURSE OBJECTIVES:** To assist the student's further conceptualization of a variety of musical genres and of their respective importance in the total history of musical style; to focus upon aural, visual and notational studies of music literature through assignments both in class and out of class; to assist the student in becoming more aware of the changing nature of music throughout history.

V. **CONTENT OUTLINE:** A variety of topics, composers and genres to be chosen from early Christian Church music, functional music, tuning and temperament systems, opera, art song, chamber music, symphonic forms, program music, oratorio and twentieth-century compositional techniques such as serialism, electronics, multimedia, aleatory, synthesis and minimalism will complement the study of a body of knowledge from the historical periods.

VI. **INSTRUCTIONAL ACTIVITIES:** As time permits, a combination of instructor-based lectures and presentations, student-generated presentations, tape-recorded listening assignments, videotaped opera and concert performance viewing assignments, research paper assignments and other individualized projects incorporating stylistic approaches to the total comprehension of music history and literature.

VII. **FIELD, CLINICAL, AND/OR LABORATORY EXPERIENCES:** Attendance at live performances and experiences with computer-assisted reference sources will be encouraged to supplement aural and written assignments. Field trips to observe public school general music programs will also be encouraged.

VIII. **RESOURCES:** The Waterfield Library Media Center and other electronic resource systems will be utilized in supplementing lecture and outside readings assignments.

IX. **GRADING PROCEDURES:** Grading will be based upon the following tasks:

10 quizzes @30 points

1 in-class teaching presentation 60

2 listening exams @60

1 research paper 75

Final Grade: A = 555-499 B = 498-442 C = 441-385 D = 384-328

X. ATTENDANCE POLICY: Because this course meets only once per week, attendance is mandatory. Any absence needs to be cleared prior to its occurrence with the instructor. Appropriate make-up work or additional assignment will then be set forth. Refer to the Attendance Policy in the current *MSU Graduate Bulletin*.

XI. ACADEMIC HONESTY POLICY: Cheating, submitting another person's materials as one's own and doing work for another person are all impermissible. Disciplinary action may be taken by the instructor for the copying of examinations, assignments, reports, term papers or the like. The instructor reserves the right to invalidate any examination or assignment if evidence exists that the integrity of any of the above tasks has been compromised. Refer to the current Academic Honesty Policy of the University as stated in the current *MSU Graduate Bulletin*.

XII. TEXTS AND REFERENCES:

- 1) Seaton, Douglass. *Ideas and Styles in Western Music*. Mountain View CA: Wadsworth Publishing Company, 2006, 2nd edition.
- 2) Listening assignments available through the Waterfield Library Online Streaming process.

XIII. PREREQUISITES: none

XIV. STATEMENT OF AFFIRMATIVE ACTION AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITY:

Murray State University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, marital status, age, or disability in employment, admission, or the provision of services, educational programs and activities, and provides, upon request, reasonable accommodation including auxiliary aids and services necessary to afford individuals with disabilities an equal opportunity to participate in all programs and activities. For information regarding nondiscrimination policies contact the Office of Equal Opportunity, 270-809-3155.