



TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SAN ANTONIO

Course: MUSI 1306.006 Term: Fall 2025 Instructor: Prof. Sarek Gutierrez Meeting Room: HALL 301 Time: 11:00am-12:15pm Credit Hours: 3	Language, Literature, and Arts Department Email: sgutierrez@tamusa.edu All appointments are met via Zoom. Virtual Office Hours: By Appointment.
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Welcome

Hello, Jaguars!

Welcome to MUSI 1306: Music Appreciation. I am thrilled to have you in my music class! Below, you will find important information regarding the course.

Virtual Office Hours

Since I do not have a physical office space on campus, any office hour meetings will need to be directly after class (on-campus classes only) or met by appointment over Zoom. Student TAMUSA credentials can be used to log into student Zoom accounts. Use this link provided by the university to log in: <https://tamusa.zoom.us>

Preferred Communication

As the instructor for this course, my preferred method of communication is through university email using the Microsoft Outlook app. Students are required to use official TAMUSA email Ex: sgutierrez@tamusa.edu.

DO NOT send messages over any other platform (Ex: Blackboard, text message, personal email, etc.). I answer emails during the working hours of (8am – 5pm) Monday – Friday. Allow me 48 hours (2 business days) to respond to your email. If I don't respond by then, please send a follow up email. There are times during the semester where I get a high volume of emails, but I typically respond within the same day.

Dual Credit

High school students enrolled in Dual-Credit courses at TAMUSA need to have proactive communication with their assigned liaison. Mia Garcia (mgarcia4@tamusa.edu) should be contacted for help. Kimberly Lutensky is the Director of Access and can be contacted as well klutensky@tamusa.edu. Dual-Credit students will be required to have meetings with their liaison

if attendance or class performance become an issue. If issues persist, student will be put on a probation period and will risk being dropped from the course.

Catalog Description

A general survey of music literature designed for the non-music major. Representative composers and their works are studied through recordings, lectures, reports, and live performances. The course focuses on the appreciation and analysis of musical compositions and performances, synthesis and interpretation of artistic expression and critical, creative and innovative communication about works of art. This course meets the standards for the Creative Arts category of courses under the core curriculum.

Student Learning Outcomes

The goals of this course are as follows:

- Identify and discuss the complexities of music from various cultures and eras of time.
- List and define the elements of music (Ex: pitch, rhythm, dynamics, tempo, etc.)
- Develop aural skills in recognizing composers and their nationalities, genres, historical periods and dates, & definitive features of selected musical examples.
- Develop writing, research, creativity, and communication skills that can be useful in other coursework.

Required Materials

TAMUSA students now have the required E-book combo included in their tuition payment. Therefore, no out of pocket purchases are necessary for this course! ☺

(Connect access required). ISBN: 9781265939168

- *World Music: Traditions and Transformations* (Bakan, Senungetuk, Shonekan).
- *Music: An Appreciation* (Kamien).
- *America's Musical Landscape* (Ferris).

Also required:

- Consistent access to a computer/laptop. (TAMUSA library has rentals).
- Reliable internet connection for Blackboard assignments.
- Access to a screen recording app such as Zoom/Canva/Apple Screen Share etc. (for recording final presentation).
- A method of note taking (notebook, laptop, etc.)
- An open mind to learning about ALL types of music! ☺

Course Breakdown

30% Connect Reading Assignments

- Weekly E-book reading assignments and graded comprehension questions through CONNECT online.

30% Listening Journals

- Weekly listening journal writing assignments exploring new music topics and/or cultures.

20% Attendance, Participation, and Preparation

- Attendance and active participation in music activities and discussions.

20% Final Exam

- Music Research Presentation Video
- Peer to Peer Comments/Questions

Total= 100%

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GRADING SCALE:

A: 90%-100%

B: 80%-89%

C: 70%-79%

D: 60%-69%

F: Below 60%

Grading Descriptions

Reading Assignments:

Students have access to all three textbooks as e-books through the Connect platform. Reading assignments (which can also be heard in audiobook form) will be given each week for students to complete on their own time for each week. Reading assignments will be accompanied by comprehension questions which will be factored into the reading assignment grade.

Listening Journals: Each week, students will need to listen to the assigned piece(s) and write a full 3-5 paragraph response to each prompt. All journals will be submitted electronically through Blackboard. DO NOT upload photos of handwritten assignments. It is recommended to use Microsoft Word, or other similar writing apps to complete these assignments.

Attendance, Participation, and Preparation: Students must attend all lectures and should plan to arrive at least a few minutes before the start of class. Students that are more than 15 minutes late will be marked absent. Students are given 2 free absences. Every absence after that is a 5 point deduction from the overall attendance grade. Participation is also required for music activities, etc. Students are **not** allowed to bring guests to class, unless given permission by the instructor in advance.

Mid-Term: Although there is no exam administered for the mid-term, the mid-term grade is a snapshot of the student's current grade average at the 8-week mark during the semester. The mid-term grade is NOT an official posted grade on your transcript; it is there to let students and admin know current standings mid-way through the semester.

Texas A&M University SA - LLA Core 50 Objectives

- **Critical Thinking Skills (CT)** - creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information.
- **Communication Skills (COM)** - effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral and visual communication.
- **Social Responsibility (SR)** - intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities.
- **Teamwork (TW)** - ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal.

FINAL EXAM INSTRUCTIONS

For the MUSI 1306: Music Appreciation FINAL EXAM, students will create a research presentation video focusing on **only one** of the following topic selections.

1. A formal composer.
 - Ex: *John Williams and the Music from Indiana Jones*
2. A world music artist or group.
 - Ex: *Fela Kuti and his Impact on African Music*
3. A featured world instrument.
 - Ex: *Caribbean Steel Pan: The Music of Trinidad and Tobago*

These are just examples of presentation topics that have been done in the past. Do not be limited to these examples.

For the presentation video, students should use tools such as PowerPoint, Canva, Spotify, YouTube, etc. Then utilizing screen share apps such as Apple screen share, Zoom, Loom, etc. to record the presentation. Allow yourself plenty of time to complete this and edit as necessary. Students are encouraged to use the computers located in the library on campus, if needed.

RUBRIC: Students will be graded on the following criteria:	Points
1. Proper selection of topic (composer, performer(s), or instrument). This means having the topic approved by the instructor prior to submission.	5 points
2. During the presentation, a discussion of at least (3) musical selections following the assigned prompt instructions. This includes allowing the audience to listen to excerpts of mentioned selections.	30 points
3. Successful display of Core 50 objectives: critical thinking skills, communication skills, social responsibility, and teamwork.	20 points
4. Use of musical vocabulary learned in class and from the readings.	10 points

5. Approx.10-15 minutes of presenting. No more than 10 slides.	10 points
6. Use of at least (3) academic sources (see below).	10 points
7. Reply with comments/questions on at least (3) other presentations.	10 points
8. Attire: dress appropriately, no workout clothes, PJs, etc.	5 points
Total	100%

Below I will list Zoom screen share instructions for those unfamiliar. Your TAMUSA credentials should allow you to access Zoom for screen share recording. The screen share recording of your presentation can be through any app, it doesn't have to be through Zoom. Keep in mind where you are saving your finished meeting video on your computer before starting to record.

1. Open Zoom App.
2. Start new meeting.
3. Select "Share" icon at bottom of screen (In Green).
4. **Then click the small box for "Share Sound".**
5. Then click "Share" (in Blue).
6. Click the "More" Icon (...)
7. Select "Record" It's recommended to "Record to this computer".
8. When finished recording, END meeting.
9. Locate Zoom. mp4 video file.
10. Upload video file to YouTube as unlisted (recommended).
11. When you are ready to submit on Blackboard, go to the Final Exam discussion board and click "post a response to the discussion". In the upper toolbar, click the (+) (add content) tab on the upper right corner, then click embed media. You then should copy/paste the URL for your unlisted video, and it should appear for us to see.

Doing this will allow others to conveniently view your video from Blackboard without having to be sent to YouTube. Other screen share alternatives include apple screen recording tools, QuickTime, Loom, etc. It is recommended to test that your audio sharing works before recording your full presentation.

Academic Sources

Academic sources are scholarly books, articles, and research papers that are typically peer-reviewed, credible and authoritative. Peer-reviewed sources are written by an expert in the field and have passed review by other experts who judged the source for quality and accuracy. If a source is peer-reviewed, there's a really good chance it's a good choice for high-quality, accurate information. **For these assignments, please avoid using websites like Britannica, Wikipedia, IMDb, etc.**

Late Work

- * Each week's assignments will be open every Monday @ 12:00am and close Sunday @ 11:59pm which gives students a full 7 days to complete each week's assignments.

- * Late work will be accepted for a max grade of 70%.
- * The last day to submit assignments will be posted at the end of the course calendar.
Submissions of any kind after this date/time will **not** be accepted. Students that have proper documentation through the university may request extensions.

Broader Use of Generative AI Permitted Within Guidelines

Use of artificial intelligence (AI) tools, including ChatGPT is permitted in this course for students who wish to use them on the ground of initial research. Students should not use AI tools to complete listening journals or Connect reading assignments. To adhere to our scholarly values, students may however, cite AI generated material that informed their Final Exam presentation research work. This includes intake, citations, and or use of quotations and in your reference list. Using an AI to generate content without proper attribution qualifies as academic dishonesty and violates Texas A&M, San Antonio standard of academic integrity.

Date	Course Calendar *Subject to change*
Week 1 8/25, 8/27	CLASSES START MONDAY 8/25 • Blackboard, McGraw Hill Connect, & Syllabus. • The Science Behind the Sound • Activity: Is This Music? Homework: • Log into Connect to read <i>World Music: Traditions and Transformations</i>, Ch.1-2. • Complete listening journal #1 assignment.
Week 2 9/1, 9/3	Lectures: • Elements of Music I • Elements of Music II Homework: • Log into Connect to read <i>Music: An Appreciation</i>, Ch. 1-5. • Complete listening journal #2 assignment.
Week 3 9/8, 9/10	Lectures: • Keyboard Fundamentals Pt. I: Melody • Keyboard Fundamentals Pt. II: Harmony Homework: • Log into Connect to read <i>Music: An Appreciation</i> Ch. 6-11. • Complete listening journal #3 assignment.

Week 4 9/15, 9/17	Lecture: • Vocal Art Music: Solo and for Ensemble • Instrumental Art Music: Orchestral/Band/Chamber Homework: • Log into Connect to read <i>Music: An Appreciation</i>, parts II-III. • Complete listening journal #4 assignment.
Week 5 9/22, 9/24	Lecture: • Early European music – Medieval, Renaissance, and Baroque. • Opera, Classical, and Romantic era music. Homework: • Log into Connect to read <i>Music: An Appreciation</i>, parts IV-V. • Complete listening journal #5 assignment.
Week 6 9/29, 10/1	Lecture: • Romantic era music. • 20th Century Music: Atonality, 12-tone, Graphic, and Minimalism. Homework: • Log into Connect to read <i>Music: An Appreciation</i>, parts VI-VII. • Complete listening journal #6 assignment.
Week 7 10/6, 10/8	Lecture: • Jazz History • Rock History Homework: • Log into Connect to read <i>America's Musical Landscape</i>, Ch. 10 & 13. • Complete listening journal #7 assignment.
Week 8 10/13, 10/15	Lecture: • Music for Stage • Music for Film Homework: • Log into Connect to read <i>America's Musical Landscape</i>, Ch. 18-19. • Complete listening journal #8 assignment.
Week 9 10/20, 10/22	Lecture: • Intro to World Music: Musicology & Ethnomusicology • Music In North America: Musical Cities in the USA. Homework: • Log into Connect to read <i>America's Musical Landscape</i>, Ch. 11 & 14.

	• Complete listening journal #9 assignment.
Week 10 10/27, 10/29	Lecture: • Music of Africa • Music of the Caribbean Homework: • Log into Connect to read <i>World Music: Traditions and Transformations</i>, Ch. 10-11. • Complete listening journal #10 assignment.
Week 11 11/3, 11/5	Lecture: • Music of Latin America • Music of Brazil Homework: • Log into Connect to read <i>World Music: Traditions and Transformations</i>, Ch.12. • Complete listening journal #11 assignment.
Week 12 11/10, 11/12	Lecture: • Music of India and Southeast Asia. • Music of the Middle East Homework: • Log into Connect to read <i>World Music: Traditions and Transformations</i>, Ch. 7-8. • Complete listening journal #12 assignment.
Week 13 11/17, 11/19	Lecture: • Music of China and Japan • Music of North and South Korea Homework: • Log into Connect to read <i>World Music: Traditions and Transformations</i>, Ch.14-15. • Complete listening journal #13 assignment.
Week 14 11/24	Lecture: • Tips for music research and creating effective presentations. Homework: • Prepare presentation for peer review session.
Week 15 12/1, 12/3	Lecture: • Music of Russia • In-class peer review activity Homework: • Work on final presentation videos.

	LAST DAY OF CLASS IS WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 3 th , 2025.
Week 16	Final Presentation Videos & Peer Comments Due By 12/X @ 11:59pm Late work accepted until 12/12 @ 11:59pm which is the official end of term.

IMPORTANT POLICIES AND RESOURCES

Syllabus Statement:

Texas A&M University-San Antonio is committed to providing all students with reasonable access to learning opportunities and accommodations in accordance with The Americans with Disabilities Act, as amended, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. If you experience barriers to your education due to a disability or think you may have a disability, please contact Disability Support Services in the Central Academic Building, Suite 210, or at (210) 784-1335 or visit <https://www.tamusa.edu/index.html> or email us at dss@tamusa.edu. Disabilities may include, but are not limited to, attentional, learning, mental health, sensory, physical, or chronic health conditions. All students are encouraged to discuss their disability-related needs with Disability Support Services and their instructors as soon as possible.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

1. TAMUSA Academic Misconduct Policy: Students at Texas A&M University-San Antonio are expected to adhere to the highest standards of academic honesty and integrity. Academic misconduct for which a student is subject to penalty includes cheating, plagiarism, fabrication, multiple submissions, misrepresentation of academic records, facilitating academic dishonesty, unfair advantage, violating known safety requirements and ethical misconduct. This includes holding other students to the same standards and reporting any incidents of alleged violation of the honesty policy to the instructor involved or, if necessary, to the appropriate academic department head. All students are responsible for being familiar with the Academic Misconduct Policy, which may be found in the Texas A&M University-San Antonio Student Handbook. All materials are subject to analysis by anti-plagiarism software. Any instances of academic dishonesty result in an automatic grade of '0'.

ADDITIONAL UNIVERSITY RESOURCES

- The **Writing, Language, and Digital Composing Center** supports graduate and undergraduate students in all three colleges as well as faculty and staff. Tutors work with students to develop reading skills, prepare oral presentations, and plan, draft, and revise their written assignments. More information about what services we offer, how to make an appointment, and how to access your appointment can be found on our website at <https://bit.ly/WLDCCenter>.
- If you have a disability that may require accommodation, please contact **Disability Support Services (DSS)** for the coordination of services. The phone number for DSS is (210) 784-1335 and email is dss@tamusa.edu.
- For more information, please visit www.tamusa.edu/studentcounseling.