

Syllabus: Introduction to Musical Concepts MUS 1, Winter Term 2009

Instructor: John Meschi

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COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course is a study and discussion of music and its aesthetic and creative applications in a multicultural civilization.

COURSE OBJECTIVES: To give the student a better understanding of music through the study of its basic elements and the development of a method of analytical listening.

COURSE CONTENT: Course content can be divided into five main areas: 1) an introduction to music fundamentals including notation, style and style recognition, form, melody, rhythm, texture, harmony and timbre; 2) development and application of a method of analytical listening which will lead to more musical awareness; 3) an introduction to Western Art music from Medieval to the present and an overview of the popular music of the past fifty years; 4) discussion of music's role in society with emphasis on contemporary popular culture (e.g. "Why people listen to music", "Why are people attracted to a certain style of music"); 5) development of a perspective on creating music through the use of loop-based composition software.

REQUIRED TEXT: Ebook version of *The Enjoyment of Music*, 10th ed., Essential Listening Edition. Kristine Forney & Joseph Machlis. W. W. Norton, New York. 2007. Buy on the web at https://www.wwnorton.com/gateway/buychoice.asp?site=enj10_essentials_ebook or possibly at the campus bookstore.

INSTRUCTIONAL ACTIVITIES: Selected readings from the textbook and recordings from the accompanying CDs; lectures, discussions and demonstrations; two exams and two analytical listening assignments. Optional listening assignments will be given through the semester.

GRADING: Two quizzes and two Intelligent Listening assignments – each worth 25% of the final grade.

ATTENDANCE: Will be taken every class. You cannot miss more than 2 sessions. If you do, you may be asked to withdraw from the course.

ANTICIPATED QUIZ DATES: January 5, January 12

NOTE: Please shut off your cell phone BEFORE class begins