Music 106 Foundations of Music

Taught by  Gillian Rodger
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Office Hours: Wednesday 1:30-3:45; Monday & Friday 9:30-10:30

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Course Description and Objectives
Foundations of Music is designed to actively engage first-year music majors in thinking about music in the academic and abstract ways necessary for formal music study. Other skills necessary for success in study will also be covered in the course of the semester, including study and practice skills, and advice from graduates of the department currently active as music professionals. The course will emphasize critical listening skills, introduce music and technical concepts, encourage students to think about their own development as professionals active in a music-related career, and, more broadly, to consider the personal and symbolic value of music in the lives of their audience. The class asks students to engage creatively with music and to define it as broadly as possible, even as they engage in narrowly focused study to prepare themselves for a professional life.

University Policies Relating to Student Conduct and Accommodation, and Expectations
For University policies relating to expectations of students, student conduct and the accommodation of students with disabilities and for religious observances, please see the following website:

http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/SecU/SyllabusLinks.pdf

Assignments and Class Discussion
This class relies heavily on full participation by all students, so attendance is not only crucial but required. Assignments will be completed in class, although it is expected that students have watched the clips assigned for each class and have considered the questions associated with them.

Grading
Students with 0-3 absences will earn the grade of S (Satisfactory), and students with more than 3 absences will earn the grade of U (Unsatisfactory). In order to graduate students need to amass at least 6 semesters of credit for Music 107 (This includes one semester of Music 106).
Schedule

September
8  Introduction. Welcome to the University
   a. Announcements from various groups
   b. Logging on to D2L
   c. Basic expectation for this class
   d. PS All of this is on the syllabus—READ IT!

15  How to find success as a Music Major
   a. How is this different from High School?
   b. What do we expect from you?
   c. What should you expect from us?
   d. Managing your time: Study, practice, work, leisure.

22  Intro to Library Resources: Join with other students in Recital Hall for presentation by Music Librarian, Rebecca Littmann.

29  Questions we ask about Music
   a. What is music? Is it on the page or in your body?
   b. What elements comprise music?
   c. How is music made? Created?
   d. Competing definitions of music inside the University and outside of it.

October
6  Music as Sound, music as social behavior
   a. How do non-musicians think about music?
   b. How do working musicians think about music?
   c. How do you move from one way of thinking to the other?
   d. What do you lose in this shift? What do you gain?

13  Melody
   a. Pitch elements
   b. How do we define melody--if it has no melody is it still music?
   c. Is this universal?
   d. How many melodies occur together--musical texture, harmony
   e. Timbre—what words, ideas do we use to describe the quality of sound?

20  Rhythm
   a. Temporal elements--if it has no obvious rhythmic elements is it still music?
   b. Temporal organization in art music
   c. Temporal organization in other musics
   d. What are the limitations of notation in terms of rhythm? Other musical elements?

27  Form
a. How is a succession of pitches/rhythms/sounds organized through time?
b. Formal structures you know (pop songs)
c. Other formal structures you will learn
d. The challenges of hearing form

November
3 How context gives music meaning
   a. How can one piece of music have multiple meanings?
   b. The study of music history—what can history and cultural context tell us?
   c. The study of ethnomusicology—what if how we think about music is ONE way to think about music and not THE way to think about music?

10 Music and Meaning
   a. Music in ritual--creating and suspending time
   b. Music as background sound, work music
   c. Music and pleasure

17 Music and Meaning/Music as Identity
   a. Class, race and ethnicity
   b. Gender and sexuality
   c. Symbolic power of music around the globe

24 Thanksgiving Recess

December
1 Music as an identity marker--show me your playlist?
   a. Amateur vs. professional
   b. What is the problem with confusing what you prefer with what is "good"
   c. What do you listen to, and why?
   d. How might studying music change that? Or not?

8 Class wrap up