



THE HISTORY AND THEORY OF MUSIC

Class Syllabus

Course Description

The purpose of this unique course is to track the development of music theory throughout its historical and cultural context. Students will develop a firm grasp of the fundamentals of music theory and a love and appreciation for the artistic traditions that have come down to us today.

We will study music from the following periods:

- The Early World (Before 500 BC)
- Classical Antiquity (500 BC - 476 AD)
- Late Antiquity (476 - 800)
- The Medieval Period (800 - 1453)
- The Renaissance (1453 - 1600)
- The Baroque Period (1600 - 1750)
- The Classical Period (1750 - 1815)
- The Romantic Period (1815 - 1901)
- The Twentieth Century (1901 - Present)

This course attempts to "connect the dots" in a historical narrative by focusing on the cultures where music was undergoing significant development. For example, the Early World period looks at music in Egypt, Mesopotamia, India, and China; the Baroque Period, by contrast, focuses mainly on Europe; the Twentieth Century examines music in the United States, Latin America, and Soviet Union. Students are encouraged to relate the information in this course to what is already known and being learned about these various cultures and time periods in other classes.

Required Materials

Pen and Paper

Grades

Grades will be a combination of music theory assignments and writing prompts. The rubric for the latter is:

20	The answer demonstrates thorough knowledge and critical understanding .
15	The answer demonstrates moderate knowledge and some understanding .
10	The answer demonstrates some knowledge and limited understanding .
5	The answer demonstrates limited knowledge and no understanding .
0	The answer demonstrates no knowledge and no understanding .

Classroom Policies

Please put away computers, cell phones, and all electronic devices. We will do a lot of listening in this class and it is important to eliminate any distractions. I will take away any devices I see.

Furthermore, I am extremely interesting and you should listen to everything I say.

Quizzes and assignments will be given on paper during class.

I can be reached via email at jonathan.brown@ocps.net.