La Salle University

**MUS 150 22 – Art of Listening Spring Session 2015 (CRN 20093)**

Instructor: Mr. Don Reese Cell Phone: 215-260-3537

Tuesdays and Thursdays 11:00 am – 12:15 pm (Office hours T 12:30 to 1 O130) Email: reese@lasalle.edu

Olney Hall Room 102 Website: <http://www.lasalle.edu/~reese/>

 COURSE DESCRIPTION:

The emphasis of this course is on *listening to music*. In order to grasp more clearly what they already hear in music, listeners need to understand musical concepts and know musical terms. Analyzing, pinpointing, and simply using the right terminology can sharpen one's awareness of what one hears. This heightened awareness can contribute to a greater appreciation of music as an art form and therefore a form of communication.

Discussions in class are intended to clarify the contents and the aesthetic qualities of specific music selections. This study can be applied to all music to the degree that it will help the student to understand what goes on in music and how it affects the listener.

 GOALS OF THE COURSE:

1. Upon the completion of this course, students will be able to define and describe the elements that separate music from the rest of the world of sound.

2. Students will be able to identify at least three stylistic differences in the music of the Baroque, Classical, Romantic and Twentieth Century time periods, as well as Jazz, Popular, and American musics.

3. Students will be aware of more detail, appreciation, and hopefully enjoyment in hearing music all around.

 COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

**Recommended Text: Bonds, Mark Evan. *Listen To This,*** 2nd Edition**.** Publ. by Pearson. There may be new and/or used copies of the text at the bookstore, and you are encouraged to purchase used copies if possible. I will post course reading material on the website maintained for this class. Please note that purchase of the text is NOT required.

**Required Listening:** There are selections that I will require throughout the course for regular and repeated listening / study. You may obtain the recordings on your own, but I have made several options available to you.

-The first is through the service Naxos Music Library. You can get there through a web browser by navigating to the databases page on the library website, and logging in through the portal. On that site, I have a playlist named Reese Music 150 Required Listening. Follow the Playlist tab to find a selection of faculty-created playlists; the one for our course resides there.

-I will have a set of CDs on reserve in the basement of the library.

-You may search for alternative performances of any of the works on YouTube, iTunes, or other music services. It is not required that you purchase the recordings for the course.

It is the student's responsibility to follow the course outline with corresponding readings, to know definitions of all terms listed in class, on slideshows, or in handouts, and to do additional listening outside of class.

**Examination procedures** for this course will involve four (4) **quizzes**, and two(2) **exams (Midterm and Final)**. Quizzes and exams will involve short listening excerpts and questions/terms from required reading and class notes. The midterm exam will cover all material from the beginning of the course; the final exam will cover all material from class after the midterm.

A missed exam or quiz may be made up within one week. Please notify instructor beforehand if an exam must be missed. If the exam is not made up in one week from the scheduled exam date, an automatic grade of "0" will be recorded. You are responsible for arranging a make up by telephone or email.

There will be **short listening assignments** throughout the course to concentrate on some of the major class topics: the Elements of music; the Baroque Era; the Classical Era; the Romantic Era; the Twentieth Century, etc.. The assignments may require listening to selections on the accompanying CDs in their entirety to answer questions and identify stylistic features concerning each selection. We will spend some time in class listening to the specific works for these assignments, but the assignments will require more individual effort and listening time.

Late assignments will not receive full credit, and assignments older than two weeks past the due date will not be accepted. I will gladly accept a short write-up of a live concert performance attended during the semester in lieu of any of the listening assignments.

**Live Concert Attendance:**

Attendance is required to at least one live performance of "concert music" during the semester. To fulfill the requirement, you will write a short paper on your reaction to the concert (worth 10% of your final grade). Please check with me for approval if you are unsure of the type of performance I'm looking for! Note: The PERFORMANCE is the assignment – the paper is your effort to document your part! I’d like you to be as thoughtful as you can be during the performance and in constructing your paper. If there are any performances at LaSalle University (guest artists, faculty recitals, etc.), then those performances are required attendance for completion of this assignment. You are welcome, however, to attend additional off-campus performances for the requirement or for extra credit.

**Attendance**: Absence from class affects your grade. Classes start at 11:00 am, and chronic lateness accumulates to a form of absence from class. Any absences will affect your ability to stay current with class material. I consider attendance to be for the full duration of class.

You are permitted three cuts from class. Each cut **above three** will result in **one percentage point** being **deducted** from your final grade. If you have **three or less** cuts at the end of the semester, your final percentage grade will be **increased** to the next grade level: e.g., if you have no cuts, a final grade of C+ will be “upgraded” one level to a B-, B to B+, etc.

Due to the nature of this course, personal communication between instructor and student is limited to the times that the class meets (I can be available both before and after class if you need to speak with me). Please feel free to contact me via email at "reese@lasalle.edu" should any question or concern arise regarding this course. My cell phone number is 215-260-3537.

I will also post material pertaining to this course on a website at this address:

[**http://www.lasalle.edu/~reese/**](http://www.lasalle.edu/~reese/)

**Initially, I will plan to post some course materials on the Blackboard area of La Salle's website. This may be just the syllabus and course outline.**

 GRADING: Grading scale:

Midterm Exam 25% A 93 – 100 A- 90 – 92

Final Exam 25% B+ 87 – 89 B 83 – 86 B- 80 – 82

Quizzes 20% C+ 77 – 79 C 73 – 76 C- 70 – 72

Listening Assignments 20% D 60 - 69

Live Concert Attendance / Paper 10%

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No prior knowledge of music is expected for this course. You are expected to bring an open mind, ready to understand technical information and style in a general way so that you can recognize and understand what composers and musicians are communicating in "serious music".

The component of listening is a vital one in any music course. We will spend much of class time engaged in active listening, of both familiar and unfamiliar material.

La Salle University expects of its students the highest standards of integrity in the performance of academic assignments. Dishonesty in college work - whether it be in quizzes, laboratory work, term papers, examinations, etc. - is regarded as a serious offense and may result in failure in the course and possible dismissal from the university. Anyone who willfully assists another in the breach of integrity is held equally responsible and subject to the same penalty.