



**MUSIC APPRECIATION 1306.08
FROM BACH TO BEATLES**

SYLLABUS – FALL 2024

Subject to any new Texas legislative mandate changes.

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Instructor Information



Dr. Peter Dabrowski, Instructor

Music Director and Conductor

[Valley Symphony Orchestra](#) (click here to watch a VSO performance)

Class Date/Time: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 12:30 p.m.-1:45 p.m., EENGR 1.300

Email: peter.dabrowski@utrgv.edu

Phone: 956-665-3471 (School of Music Office)

Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1:45 p.m. – 3:15 p.m. (by appointment)

Office Location: Performing Arts Complex, EPAC B2.131

[Campus Maps](#)

Dr. Peter Dabrowski is a Professor at the UTRGV School of Music.

For the past 23 years, Dr. Dabrowski has been the Music Director and Conductor of the Valley Symphony Orchestra, McAllen, Texas. He is a passionate music educator, renowned guest conductor with critical acclaim in Europe and the United States.

Welcome and Teaching Philosophy

The importance of music in our lives cannot be overestimated. Understanding its general workings and development enhances our appreciation for it. Commenting on present-day music using concise vocabulary allows for clear communication, analysis and comparison with music of the past.

The goal of this course is to introduce, compare and critique prominent composers of Western Art Music throughout the different historical periods. The evolution of musical concepts and forms is presented on selected examples. The importance and influence of composers from previous generations on the Beatles is examined throughout the course.

Course Outline, Format, Prerequisites and Course Modality

COURSE OUTLINE

- Definition of music, composer and composition, review of basic musical concepts and textures, music in Middle Ages and Renaissance
- Baroque and Music of Bach
- Mozart, Beethoven – Classical Style and forms
- Chopin, Tchaikovsky – Romantic Style and the role of Nationalism and folklore
- Atonal Music, Neoclassical Style in the music of Prokofiev and Stravinsky
- Jazz and Latin influences in the music of Gershwin and Bernstein
- Film music
- The Beatles

COURSE FORMAT

The course is organized into 15 instructional weeks following the university calendar. At the end of each class, lectures notes will be available on Blackboard.

PREREQUISITES

None

COURSE MODALITY

Traditional Face-to-Face Courses, Tuesdays and Thursdays
12:30 p.m. – 1:45 p.m., EENGR 1.300

Course Assignments and Learning Objectives

LEARNING OBJECTIVES FOR CORE CURRICULUM REQUIREMENTS ALIGNED WITH CRITICAL THINKING, COMMUNICATION SKILLS, EMPIRICAL AND QUANTITATIVE SKILLS AND SOCIAL AND PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY

After completing this course, students will be able to:

- Define and have a clear understanding of music and its components;
- Appreciate and realize the important role of music in the society throughout history;
- Develop analytical skills and vocabulary for better communication;
- Improve their listening skills and become more selective and critical in their listening choices.

These objectives fulfill the Texas Core Curriculum Components. Meets the requirements for the Creative Arts in the General Education Core.

Learning Objectives for Core Curriculum Requirements

CORE OBJECTIVES	UTRGV STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOME
Social Responsibility(SR)	Students will recognize and describe cultural diversity, the role of civic engagement in society, and the link between ethics and behavior.
Critical Thinking (CT)	Students will demonstrate comprehension of a variety of written texts and other information sources by analyzing and evaluating the logic, validity, and relevance of the information in them to solve challenging problems, to arrive at well-reasoned conclusions, and to develop and explore new questions.
Communication Skills(CS)	Students will demonstrate the ability to adapt their communications to a particular context, audience, and purpose using language, genre conventions, and sources appropriate to a specific discipline and/or communication task.
Teamwork (T)	Students will collaborate effectively with others to solve problems and complete projects while demonstrating respect for a diversity of perspectives.

Assessment of Learning

There is no comprehensive final exam as such. The final course grade is a straight average of five tests (or, the sum of all tests divided by 5). All five tests will contain ten questions covering music history and theory information studied in the course.

Not taking an exam will result in a failing grade (F) unless the student has an official academic, medical, or court explanation document.

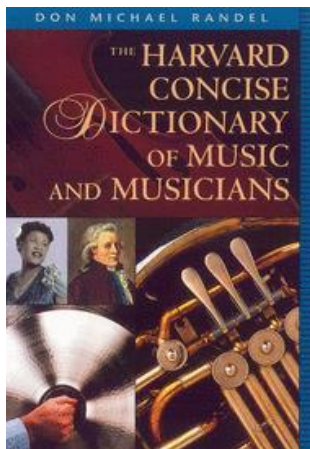
The following criteria will be used to convert your numerical test score to a letter grade:

A	90-100
B	80-89
C	70-79
D	60-69
F	59 and lower

Viewing Grades on Blackboard

All test grades will be uploaded on Blackboard. Click on “My Grades” on the left side menu to view your grades.

Optional Textbook (not required), Technology Needs, and Resource Materials



Optional Textbook (not required): *Harvard Concise Dictionary of Music*, Don Michael Randell (Belknap Press of Harvard Press), ISBN 0674009789, 1999. Retail Price (UTRGV Bookstore) \$13.02-\$31.00.

*Suggested Additional Reading: Daniel J. Levitin, *This is Your Brain on Music*.

Technology Needs: All notes, videos of musical examples, films and grades will be uploaded on Blackboard. Basic computer skills are needed as well as access to the internet in order to access the online materials and to view your grades.

Resource Materials, REQUIRED: Five (5) Scantron forms (No. 882-E) for tests. The forms can be purchased at the University Bookstore.

Tentative Calendar of Activities

WEEK #	DATE	DESCRIPTION
Week 1	08/27	Syllabus and Course Structure Review Use of Blackboard, Definitions of Music
	08/29	Composer/Composition/Elements of Music
Week 2	09/03	Elements of Music, Middle Ages
	09/05	Musical Structures and Textures, Renaissance
Week 3	09/10	TEST #1 REVIEW AND BEATLES
Thursday	09/12	TEST #1
Week 4	09/17	Baroque Period and Its Musical Characteristics
	09/19	Bach's Biography
Week 5	09/24	Bach's Keyboard and Orchestral Music
	09/26	Bach's Vocal Music
Week 6	10/01	TEST #2 REVIEW AND BEATLES
Thursday	10/03	TEST #2
Week 7	10/08	Classical Style, Musical Characteristics, Mozart's Biography
	10/10	Classical Compositions Following Sonata Cycle Design
Week 8	10/15	Beethoven's Biography
	10/17	Romantic Characteristics of Beethoven's Music
Week 9	10/22	TEST #3 REVIEW AND BEATLES
Thursday	10/24	TEST #3
Week 10	10/29	Romantic Period, Musical Characteristics, Chopin's Biography
	10/31	No Class
Week 11	11/05	Chopin's Piano Music and Style
	11/07	Tchaikovsky's Biography and Music
Week 12	11/12	TEST #4 REVIEW AND BEATLES
	11/14	TEST #4
Week 13	11/19	Atonal Music, Neoclassical Characteristics in music of Prokofiev, Stravinsky
	11/21	Jazz and Latin Influences in music of Gershwin, Bernstein
Week 14	11/26	Film Music and Beatles in the 21 st Century
	11/28	No Class - Thanksgiving Holiday
Week 15	12/03	TEST #5
	12/05	No Class - Study Day

The UTRGV academic calendar can be found at <https://my.utrgv.edu/home> at the bottom of the screen, *prior to login*. Some important dates for Fall 2024 include:

August 26	Fall Classes Begin
Sept. 2	Last day to add a class or register for Fall 2024 classes. Labor Day. No classes.
Nov. 7	Last day to drop a class (DR grade) or withdraw (W grade).
Nov. 28-30	Thanksgiving Holiday. No Classes.
Dec. 16	Grades due at 3 p.m.

Course Policies and Procedures

We value a positive and supportive learning environment, and for us to thrive together, we must recognize that our responsibilities, actions, and contributions can impact and transform our learning. The course policies listed below are created to ensure your success by fulfilling course expectations while remaining flexible to account for unexpected events.

1. **Regular attendance is mandatory** — students who miss a class for any reason are responsible for obtaining the information for that class. There is no opportunity for extra credit or make-up work. Absences will be excused only in cases of medical emergency, serious family emergencies or religious holidays. Requests for excuses related to health should be corroborated by written documentation from a physician. **Do not be late for class.** Arrive for class on time and stay for the full duration of the lecture.
2. **Use of laptops, tablets and any recording devices.** Unless otherwise instructed, electronic devices of all kinds are not to be used in the classroom – they are a distraction to you and to others. According to several recent studies, you will retain more content by taking long-hand notes.
3. **Email Policy:** The instructor has access to the listed university email/forwarding email only. Remember, you may forward all mail in this official school account to a personal email address you check often – contact the IT department if you need assistance in forwarding your email.

Please follow this procedure to make sure your email is received and answered in a timely fashion:

- Course name must be written in the subject line (MUSIC APPRECIATION 1306.08)
 - Sign your email with your full first and last name. *Do not neglect to do this! If you go by a nickname that is not listed by UTRGV, I will not know who you are!*
 - **Email that does not follow the communication policy and procedure will not receive a response.**
 - **Email without “MUSIC APPRECIATION” in the subject line will not be opened.**
 - **Email without a first and last name will not receive a response.**
 - Your instructor will endeavor to respond to your emails during business hours Monday-Friday. Email received from Friday-Saturday will be responded to on Monday of the following week. If the email is urgent, the professor will do his best to return your email quickly.
4. **Sunglasses, hats, chewing gum, food and drink, talking and other distractive behavior are not permitted in the class.**

ATTENDANCE

Students are expected to attend all scheduled classes. [UTRGV's attendance policy](#) excuses students from attending class if they are participating in officially sponsored university activities, such as athletics, accommodation by Student Accessibility Services (SAS), observance of religious holy days, or military service.

ABSENCES/SICK POLICY

In order to take a missed exam, students must present official documentation related to officially sponsored university activities or medical or court reasons. Upon review of the documentation, a date and time for the exam will be decided by the instructor.

COURSE DROPS

According to UTRGV policy, students may drop any class without penalty earning a grade of DR (drop) until the official drop date. Following that date, students must be assigned a letter grade and can no longer drop the class. Students considering dropping the class should be aware of the "3-peat rule" and the "6-drop" rule so they can recognize how dropped classes may affect their academic success. The 6-drop rule refers to Texas law that dictates undergraduate students may not drop more than six courses during their undergraduate career. Courses dropped at other Texas public higher education institutions will count toward the six-course drop limit. The 3-peat rule refers to additional fees charged to students who take the same class for the third time.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Members of the UTRGV community uphold the Vaquero Honor Code's values of honesty, integrity and mutual respect in our interactions and relationships. In this regard, academic integrity is fundamental in our actions, as any act of dishonesty conflicts as much with academic achievement as with the values of honesty and integrity. The Writing Center is an excellent resource to assist in learning about and avoiding plagiarism in writing. Violations of academic integrity include, but are not limited to: cheating, [plagiarism \(including self-plagiarism\)](#), and collusion; submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person; taking an examination for another person; any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student; or the attempt to commit such acts (Board of Regents Rules and Regulations, STU 02-100, and UTRGV Academic Integrity Guidelines). **All violations of Academic Integrity will be reported to Student Rights and Responsibilities through [Vaqueros Report It](#).**

Student Support Services

We are committed to your personal, academic, and professional success; please know you can reach out to me for questions and/or I can help you identify the resources you need. UTRGV offers student support resources designed to contribute to your well-being and academic excellence.

Students seeking academic help in their studies can use university resources in addition to an instructor's office hours. University Resources include the Advising Center, Career Center, Counseling Center, Learning Center, and Writing Center. These centers provide services such as tutoring, writing help, counseling services, critical thinking, study skills, degree planning, and connections student employment (through [JobX](#) and [HR Student Employment](#)). In addition, services, such as the Food Pantry are also provided. Locations are listed below.

Center Name	E-mail	Brownsville Campus	Edinburg Campus
Advising Center	AcademicAdvising@utrgv.edu	BMAIN 1.400 (956) 665-7120	EITTB 1.000 (956) 665-7120
Career Center	CareerCenter@utrgv.edu	BINAB 1.105 (956) 882-5627	ESTAC 2.101 (956) 665-2243
Counseling Center	Counseling@utrgv.edu Mental Health Counseling and Related Services List	BSTUN 2.10 (956) 882-3897	EUCTR 109 (956) 665-2574
Food Pantry	FoodPantry@utrgv.edu	BCASA Club House (956) 882-7126	EUCTR 114 (956) 665-3663
Learning Center	LearningCenter@utrgv.edu	BMSLC 2.118 (956) 882-8208	ELCTR 100 (956) 665-2585
University Library	circulation@utrgv.edu www.utrgv.edu/library	BLIBR (956) 882-8221	ELIBR (956) 665-2005
Writing Center	WC@utrgv.edu	BLIBR 3.206 (956) 882-7065	ESTAC 3.119 (956) 665-2538

Financial Need

Students who demonstrate financial need have a variety of options when it comes to paying for college costs, such as scholarships, grants, loans and work-study. Students should visit the Student Services Center (U Central) for additional information. U Central is located in BMAIN 1.100 (Brownsville) or ESSBL 1.145 (Edinburg) or can be reached by email (ucentral@utrgv.edu) or telephone: (956) 882-4026. In addition to financial aid, U Central can assist students with registration and admissions.

Blackboard Support

If you need assistance with course technology at any time, please contact the Center for Online Learning and Teaching Technology (COLTT).

Campus:	Brownsville	Edinburg
Location	Casa Bella (BCASA) 613	Marialice Shary Shivers (EMASS) 3.142
Phone	(956)-882-6792	(956)-665-5327
Toll Free	1-(866)-654-4555	
Support Tickets	Submit a Support Case via our Ask COLTT Portal	
Online Support	Chat with a Support Specialist online.	
24/7 Support	Need Blackboard assistance after hours? You can call our main office numbers, (956)-882-6792 or (956) 665-5327, to speak with a support representative.	

University Policy Statements

We care about creating a safe and supportive learning environment for all students. The University policy statements below are intended to create transparency for your rights and responsibilities as students. We each contribute to ensuring a safe and positive environment through our actions and conduct, and students are encouraged to advocate for their needs.

STUDENT ACCESSIBILITY SERVICES

Student Accessibility Services staff can be contacted at either campus to learn about and explore accessibility services.

Campus:	Brownsville	Edinburg
Location:	Student Union (BSTUN) 1.20	University Center (EUCTR, 108)
Phone:	phone (956) 882-7374	phone (956) 665-7005
e-mail	ability@utrgv.edu	

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Students with a documented disability (physical, psychological, learning, or other disability which affects academic performance) who would like to receive reasonable academic accommodations should contact **Student Accessibility Services (SAS)** for additional information. In order for accommodation requests to be considered for approval, the student must apply using the [mySAS portal](#) and is responsible for providing sufficient documentation of the disability to SAS. Students are required to participate in an interactive discussion, or an intake appointment, with SAS staff. Accommodations may be requested at any time but are not

retroactive, meaning they are valid once approved by SAS. Please contact SAS early in the semester/module for guidance. Students who experience a broken bone, severe injury, or undergo surgery may also be eligible for temporary accommodations.

PREGNANCY, PREGNANCY-RELATED, AND PARENTING ACCOMODATIONS

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 prohibits sex discrimination, which includes discrimination based on pregnancy, marital status, or parental status. Students seeking accommodations related to pregnancy, pregnancy-related condition, or parenting should submit the request using the form found at [Pregnancy and Parenting | UTRGV](#).

For questions about campus support services or public benefit programs for students who are pregnant, or parenting contact the Parenting Liaison Officer in the Dean of Students Office.

Edinburg: UCTR Rm. 325
Brownsville: BSTUN 1.20
PH: 956-665-2260
Email: dos@utrgv.edu

SEXUAL MISCONDUCT AND MANDATORY REPORTING

In accordance with UT System regulations, your instructor is a “Responsible Employee” for reporting purposes under Title IX regulations and so must report to the Office of Title IX and Equal Opportunity (otixeo@utrgv.edu) any instance, occurring during a student’s time in college, of sexual misconduct, which includes sexual assault, stalking, dating violence, domestic violence, and sexual harassment, about which she/he becomes aware during this course through writing, discussion, or personal disclosure. More information can be found at www.utrgv.edu/equity including confidential resources available on campus. The faculty and staff of UTRGV actively strive to provide a learning, working, and living environment that promotes personal integrity, civility, and mutual respect that is free from sexual misconduct, discrimination, and all forms of violence. If students, faculty, or staff would like confidential assistance, or have questions, they can contact OVAVP (Office for Victim Advocacy & Violence Prevention) at (956) 665-8287, (956) 882-8282, or OVAVP@utrgv.edu.

DEAN OF STUDENTS

The Dean of Students office assists students when they experience a challenge with an administrative process, unexpected situation, such as an illness, accident, or family situation, and aids in resolving complaints. Additionally, the office facilitates student academic related requests for religious accommodations, support students formerly in foster care, helps to advocate on behalf of students and inform them about their rights and responsibilities, and serves as a resource and support for faculty and campus departments.

[Vaqueros Report It](#) allows students, staff, and faculty a way to report concern about the well-being of a student, seek assistance in resolving a complaint, or report allegations of behaviors contrary to community standards or campus policies. The Dean of Students can be reached by email (dos@utrgv.edu), phone (956-665-2260), or by visiting one of the following office locations: Student Union (BSTUN) or University Center (EUCTR 323).

MANDATORY COURSE EVALUATION PERIOD

Students have the opportunity to complete an ONLINE evaluation of this course, accessed through your UTRGV account (<http://my.utrgv.edu>). Course evaluations are used by the instructor to better understand the student experience in the course, which can inform revisions of the course to ensure student success. Additionally, course evaluations are also used by the instructor for annual performance review and promotion applications, teaching award applications, among others. For these reasons, your feedback, reflections, and insights on your experience in the course are invaluable to ensure student success and a quality education for all. You will be contacted through email with further instructions. Students who complete their evaluations will have priority access to their grades.

Online evaluations will be available on or about:
November 13-December 4, 2024