

MUSI 401 – INTRODUCTION TO MUSIC

Dr. D. Franklin Price, Spring 2025

Course Meeting Times: **Tuesdays, 1:10 pm – 4:00 pm - Online**
Office Hours: **By Appointment – Email to Schedule a Meeting**

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Course Description and Program Objectives

The musical experience unfolds in a web of social knowledge. Focusing on the social aspects common to all music, we engage with various musical styles, cultures, and historical periods. Rather than valuing one type of music over another, we will demonstrate the role that all music plays in teaching us about ourselves and the world around us.

Through political, philosophical, emotional, physical, or undefinable values, ours is a world where diverse cultures share geographic territories. Because musical practices reflect and sustain those values, they offer important insights into how people understand the world.

Music has broad appeal across cultures and does more than entertain. It tells us about who we are and who we strive to become. Using a fundamental approach to perceptive listening based on a detailed study of several masterpieces representing different periods and forms, we will look at music from a historical perspective, emphasizing confronting significant works of musical art on their terms.

This 400-level course assumes no prior background in music. Our class will be run as a lecture course and seminar discussion. Each of you will have the opportunity to voice your opinions in conversation throughout the semester.

Music is a highly subjective experience, so there are rarely “right or wrong” answers. Throughout this class, we will see the growth of musical ambition from several sources. We will look at the fusion of social, political, and cultural changes, which informed and reflected music while gathering pace with accelerating technological and media progress.

Music began with a simple approach and, over time, evolved into today’s complex industry centered around the internet, where the sheer diversity of available music would amaze and astonish anyone who lived just a century ago. I hope to lead you through a timeline marked by songs and music in a way that illuminates a multitude of styles and influences. This chronology will accompany a comprehensive list of singers, musicians, and composers in each relevant era while introducing you to some fantastic musical geniuses.

Please note that this course does not fulfill a major music program requirement or satisfy the Fine and Performing Arts Discovery requirement.

Always feel free to ask questions and contribute your thoughts.

The Class Zoom Link is posted in the Navigation Section of Canvas.

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Class Itinerary

- Introduction and Musical Foundations
- Baroque Music in the Early Eighteenth Century - Vivaldi, Rameau, Bach, and Handel
- The Classical Period - Haydn, Mozart, and Beethoven
- The Romantic Period - Schubert, the Schumanns, Chopin, Liszt, Brahms, and Dvorák
- Classical Modernism - Classical Music in the Twentieth Century
 - Debussy, Ravel, Satie, Schonberg, and Bartók
- Blues, Doo-Wop, and Gospel
- Jazz
- Political & Protest Music and The Civil Rights Movement
- Black Pop, Reggae, and the Rise of Disco
- Sound, Music, and Technology

Class Resources: Suggested (Not Required)

Cornelius, S. & M. Natvig. (2022). *Music: A Social Experience*. (3rd ed.). Routledge. New York and London.

The Spotify Playlists (MUSI 401 – Introduction to Music - Midterm and Final) are posted in Canvas.

Final Grade Determination:

Attendance	10%
Participation and Class Engagement	10%
Book Report	10%
Discussion Questions	10%
Quizzes	10%
Midterm	20%
Final	30%

Weekly Quizzes and Discussion Questions have Due Dates posted in the Modules.

Late quizzes or discussions are not accepted.

The Book Report is due by the last day of lectures.

Note: The syllabus is subject to change based on class development.

Check the class Modules often for updates.

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Exams and Quizzes

The class will have two exams (Midterm and Final) and several quizzes to test your understanding of key terms, general concepts, and the chronology of musical developments. There will be a listening portion for the Midterm and Final.

The review quizzes are assigned throughout the semester. They will be posted on Canvas and help reinforce the material discussed in class and from the assigned readings.

Grading Scale

A	100 – 95	A-	94 – 90	B+	89–87	B	86–83
B-	82–80	C+	79 – 77	C	76–73	C-	72–70
D	69–60	F	59 – 0				

Attendance

Attendance is vital for this course, in which each class builds upon what has come before; if you fail to attend regularly, you will soon fall behind. According to College policy, students must participate in every meeting of their courses. If the College is closed due to inclement weather or I need to cancel a class, I will notify you beforehand.

Each absence will lower your final course grade; exceptions are at my discretion.

If you must miss a class due to illness, you need to have Health Services contact me. If UNH Staff confirms your condition, it will not count against your attendance grade. Any other circumstance will count as an unexcused absence.

Due Dates and Late Policy

I do not accept late assignments. Each week, you will have a Discussion question or a short, five-question quiz. You have six days to complete each assignment, but I will accept it for another week but at a 25-point reduction. After the second week, I will not accept it at all. All assignments, including the Book Report, are due the day before I post the Final. Nothing will be accepted afterward. Please take the time and effort to prioritize your work to meet deadlines.

Academic Dishonesty

Please note that the University has no tolerance for students who violate its Academic Honesty Policy. For a complete description, please see the student handbook.

Canvas

UNH uses Canvas as its course-delivery system. Please check it often (at least daily) for announcements and updated content. All assignments, including a convenient calendar showing due dates, will appear through Canvas. It is best to access Canvas through Mozilla Firefox or Safari; Google Chrome has less functionality. If you experience any technical problems, contact the Technology Help Desk at (603) 862-4242.

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Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

According to the Americans with Disabilities Act (as amended, 2008), each student with a disability has the right to request services from UNH to accommodate their disability. If you are a student with a documented disability or believe you may have a disability requiring accommodations, please contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS) at 201 Smith Hall.

Confidentiality and Mandatory Reporting

The University of New Hampshire and its faculty are committed to assuring a safe and productive educational environment for all students and the University. The University requires faculty members to report to the University's Title IX Coordinator (Donna Marie Sorrentino, dms@unh.edu, 603-862-2930/1527 TTY) any sexual violence and harassment incidents shared by students. The University respects your confidentiality, and for information about the report, your rights, and report options at UNH (including anonymous report options), visit <https://www.unh.edu/affirmativeaction/reporting-students>.

Emotional and Mental Health

If, during the semester, you find emotional or mental health issues are affecting that success, contact the University's Counseling Center (3rd floor Smith Hall: 603-862-2090/TTY:7-1-1), which provides counseling appointments and other mental health services.