



# MUSI 10100 1 - Introduction to Western Art Music - Instructor(s): Melani Shahin

Project Title: **College Course Feedback - Autumn 2023**

Number Enrolled: **17**

Number of Responses: **9**

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## Report Comments

Opinions expressed in these evaluations are those of students enrolled in the specific course and do not represent the University.

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Creation Date: **Friday, February 2, 2024**

## What are the most important things that you learned in this course? Please reflect on the knowledge and skills you gained.

Comments
We focused on the history and form/structure of music, and made connections between this history and form. I had zero academic experience with music, either performance or study, and now I feel that I can pick out structural aspects of music better.
–how to think about music from different time periods –learned to truly appreciate different components of how music sounds
Learned about Western Art music in a more or less chronological order. Starting from composers in the medieval times, and understanding what prompted music to evolve in terms of complexity and cultural purpose. Learned about structures of symphonies, sonatas, fugues, motets, and other musical terms.
Western art music and history. Began in 12th century starting with monophony and polyphony. Touched upon African–American blues, Symphony, Quartets. Ended with modernist and deep listening.
I learned what to listen for in music and how to connect the time period to different musical elements and styles.

## Describe how aspects of this course (lectures, discussions, labs, assignments, etc.) contributed to your learning.

Comments
Lectures put historical context to music and helped elucidate structure. Before this class I had no idea how to even describe music, now I can comment as to how it is organized and its qualities. Discussion posts helped synthesize information from readings, and essays allowed me to analyze music in a longer format.
combination of reading + listening assignments, along with listening along in class, was really fun and informative
Lectures were engaging and were a discussion between Prof. Shahin and the class about the assigned readings and discussion posts. There was a weekly discussion post with four short papers and a final exam.
Discussion post weekly, 3–one page essays, 1–concert report, 1–final exam. Discussion post would be about the nightly reading (10–20 pages). Essays would be synthesis across multiple sources of reading & class. Concert report is just describing some concert. Final exam should be replaced with a final essay instead. A 2–3 page essay would be a more fruitful because it would require synthesis of multiple sources of information with close reading.
The canvas posts helped to direct me in my listening, especially when listening assignments were longer.

## Please respond to the following:

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
This course challenged me intellectually.	4.11	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	11.11%	66.67%	22.22%
I understood the purpose of this course and what I was expected to gain from it.	4.22	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	77.78%	22.22%
I understood the standards for success on assignments.	4.22	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	11.11%	55.56%	33.33%
Class time enhanced my ability to succeed in graded assignments.	4.56	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	11.11%	22.22%	66.67%
I received feedback on my performance that helped me improve my subsequent work.	4.56	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	44.44%	55.56%
My work was evaluated fairly.	4.67	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	33.33%	66.67%
I felt respected in this class.	4.78	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	22.22%	77.78%
Overall, this was an excellent course.	4.56	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	11.11%	22.22%	66.67%

### Additional comments about the course:

Comments
I imagine that it must be challenging to teach a course of this nature to students of various levels of experience– to people like myself with no musical experience whatsoever and to people who play multiple instruments. Prof. Shahin did a good job. It was clear enough for me to understand, and I imagine that it was still interesting and content-rich enough for someone with musical experience to still find worthwhile.
Melani is a great professor! She seemed enthusiastic about what she was teaching, and we had interesting readings and listening assignments.

### I would recommend this course to:

	No	Yes
Highly-motivated and well-prepared students	11.11%	88.89%
Anyone interested in the topic	0.00%	100.00%

### Thinking about your time in the class, what aspect of the instructor's teaching contributed most to your learning?

Comments
I most liked hearing about historical connections to musical structure. More practically, the lecture notes / powerpoints were posted and very clear and organized.
–created an inclusive & welcoming environment, and understood that most people did not have an in-depth background in music –accessible via email and in-person meetings outside of class
Prof. Shahin's lecture/discussion format was nice to have and I felt that she set the narrative for the development of art music in a very engaging way.
Class discussions

### What could the instructor modify to help you learn more?

Comments
N/A
N/A
Nothing!
Reduce the reading, especially for the first assignment. Seeing 35+ pages for a art-core class on day one did not make me want to engage fully with the assignments. If the readings were 10 pages, I would probably read them more closely and participate more in class.

## The Instructor . . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Organized the course clearly.	4.38	4.50	0.00%	0.00%	12.50%	37.50%	50.00%	0.00%
Presented lectures that enhanced your understanding.	4.50	4.50	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	50.00%	50.00%	0.00%
Facilitated discussions that were engaging and useful.	4.63	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	37.50%	62.50%	0.00%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the course.	4.63	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	37.50%	62.50%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	4.63	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	37.50%	62.50%	0.00%
Helped you gain significant learning from the course content.	4.63	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	37.50%	62.50%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	4.75	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	25.00%	75.00%	0.00%
Motivated you to think independently.	4.63	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	37.50%	62.50%	0.00%
Worked to create an inclusive and welcoming learning environment.	4.75	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	25.00%	75.00%	0.00%
Overall, this instructor made a significant contribution to your learning.	4.63	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	37.50%	62.50%	0.00%

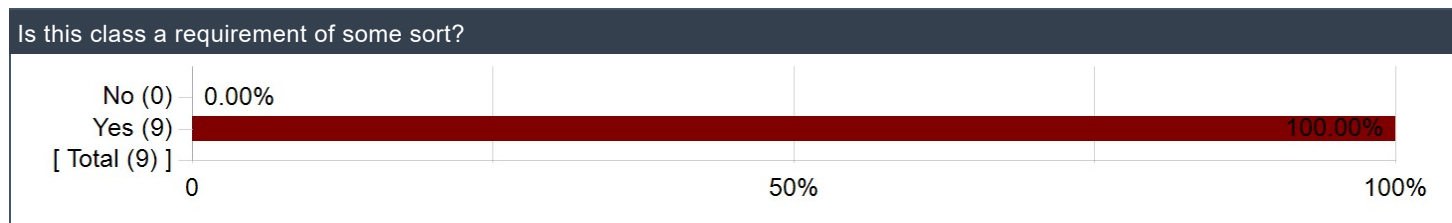
## How much did the following elements of the course contribute to your learning gains?

	Mean	Median	No Gain	A Little Gain	Moderate Gain	Good Gain	Great Gain	N/A
Laboratory Experience	N/A	N/A	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%
Field Trips	5.00	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	50.00%	50.00%
Library Sessions	N/A	N/A	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%
Review Sessions	N/A	N/A	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%
Writing Seminars	N/A	N/A	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%

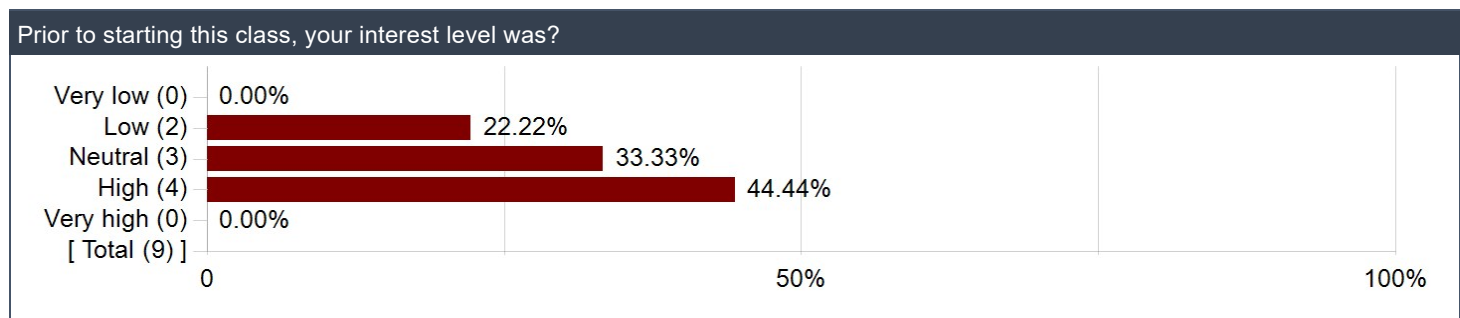
## Other course elements not mentioned above:

Comments
We had a concert report where we would attend a concert of our choice and reflect on it! Very interesting concept and a fun assignment.

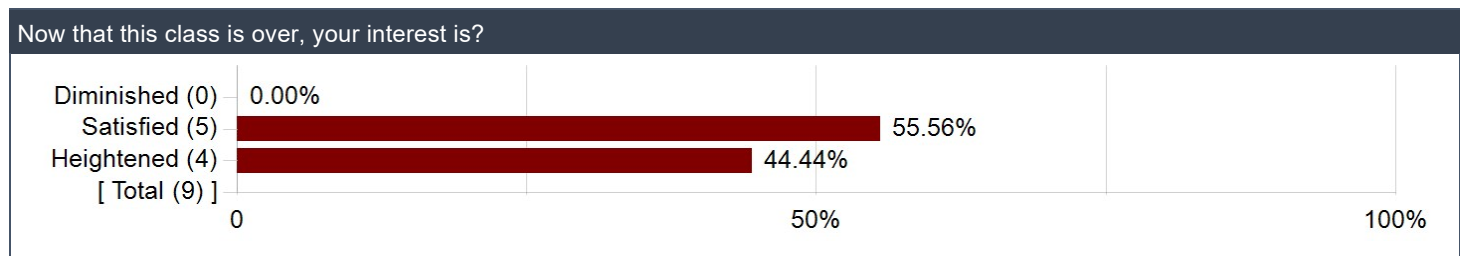
## Is this class a requirement of some sort?



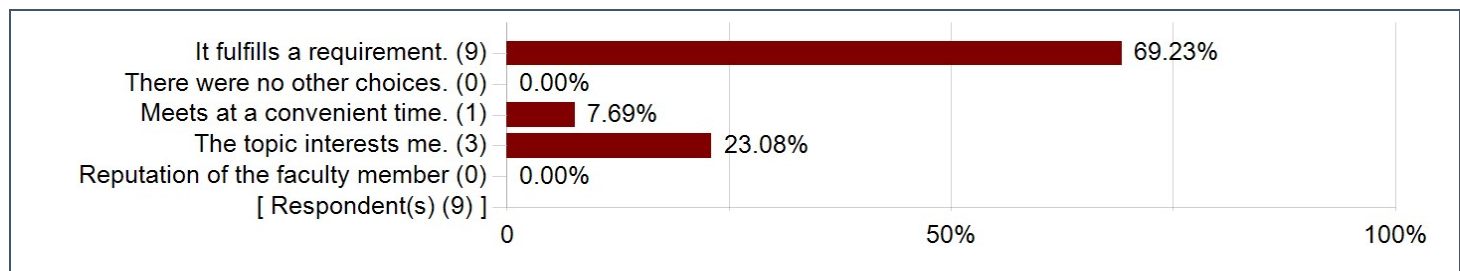
### Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?



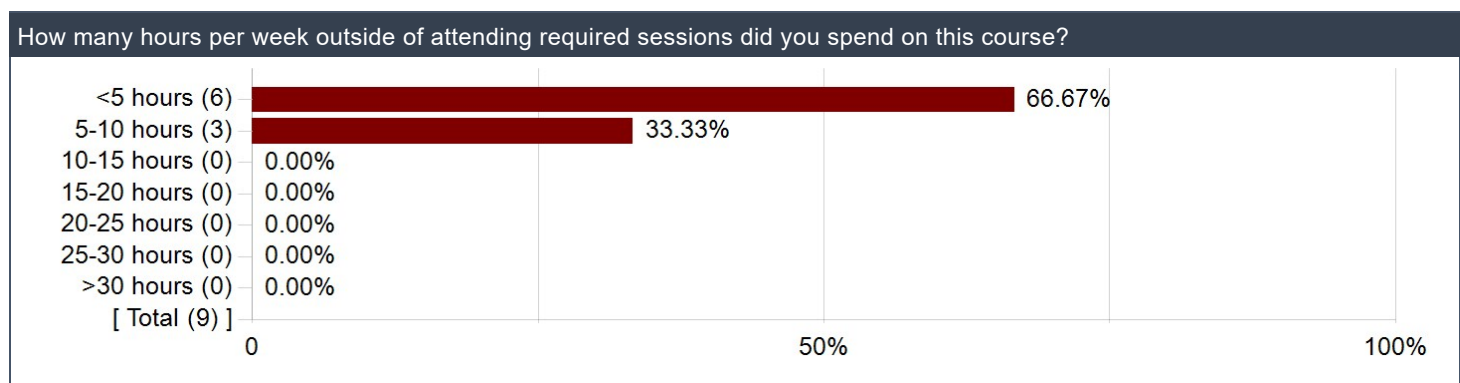
### Now that this class is over, your interest is?



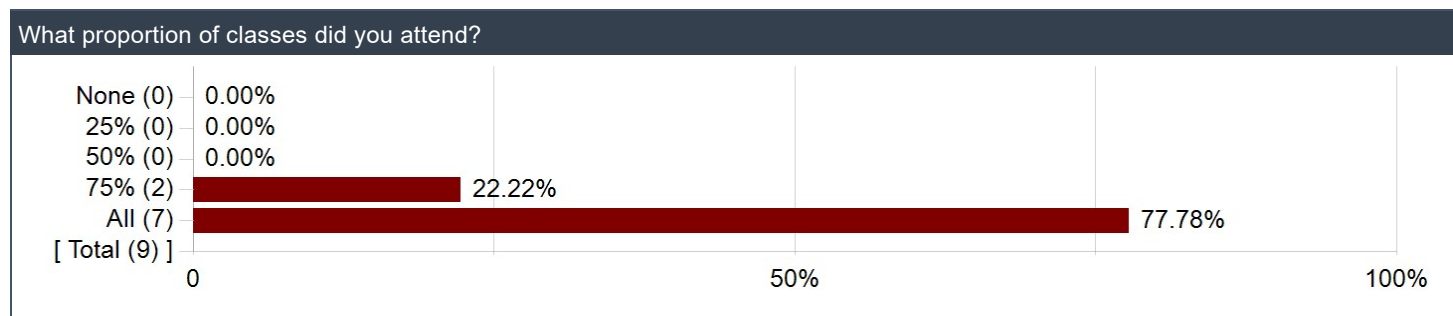
### Why did you choose to take this course? (Select all that apply)



### How many hours per week outside of attending required sessions did you spend on this course?



## What proportion of classes did you attend?



## Please comment on the level of difficulty of the course relative to your background and experience.

Comments
It was a perfect difficulty and understandable even for someone with no musical experience
Prof Shahin doesn't expect you to know anything about music, she explains everything thoroughly and provides resources (videos, textbook readings, articles) to supplement one's understanding of what is discussed in class
No prior background in music knowledge required
I have an extensive background in music, which gave me a leg up when discussing musical terminology and composers/pieces, but, regardless, the course is good for beginners.