



MUSI 10100 2 - Introduction to Western Art Music - Instructor(s): Catrin Dowd

Project Title: **College Course Feedback - Winter 2024**

Number Enrolled: **17**

Number of Responses: **14**

Report Comments

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

Creation Date: **Thursday, March 28, 2024**

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

Comments
Listening to music
History of Classical Music and How to listen with intent
We learned how to listen to music closely and write about that music
I learned about musical structure and how to write about music compositions .
Broadening my music knowledge and branching out into new territory. Going to the performances was fun and a breath of fresh air compared to other classes here.
I learned how to listen to music in a new way, which I think was really important overall.
Most importantly, this course taught me how to approach music critically and exposed me to a wide range of western art music from the early classical tradition (including Bach, Schubert, and others) to jazz. I also gained an appreciation for the relevant cultural and historical contexts surrounding these pieces and how certain throughlines have been maintained from early pieces to the modern day.
Critical listening skills, understanding basic musical techniques.
The most important thing I learned is the idea of music taxonomy. In other words, the idea of defining and categorizing music into genres and styles that have evolved over time. This course emphasized the way "western art music" has changed between generations and artists, so that when we hear a particular sound or technique in a piece, we have an idea of how that technique/style evolved through history. Coupled with the skills in critical listening we built, I think the course is a great starting point for future class/career work in music, whether through analysis, history, or practice.
The most important skill I learned in this class is placing music within it's broader historical context.
Amazing teacher. Truly stunning. Loved this class so much. I have an extensive background in classical music so this class really helped me build on that and pushed us each individually to the best of our abilities. Can't recommend Professor Dowd enough.
I learned how to listen to music closely

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

Comments
Lectures are very helpful, discussion posts are helpful
Lectures were great for learning and listening, but the best parts were the field trips to performances.
The reading and listening assignments helped us practice closely dealing with music. The live performances helped us apply those skills.
We attended three concerts outside of class , one was an opera, a play and one of your choosing .
Classes were good for learning about new musical topics and taking that to the performances to utilize them.
The group discussions were really important to my learning and my ability to understand the music and what we were doing in the course, and the readings were all super relevant and stretched my mind to understand how they were all applicable.
Lectures were important for introducing certain aspects of music theory. Listening assignments were also useful for giving a basis for the music that we encountered in class. Finally, attending concert performances felt like a true culmination of all of the work we did in class and were used as the backdrop for larger writing assignments.
lectures were very helpful in developing course material and understanding.
I think the two most important aspects were the class discussions led by Catrin and the concert attendance. Catrin was a great guide for the music we listened to, especially since much of it was new to us. The concerts were an opportunity to see WAM in its "true" context.
I found the lectures, presentations, and trips to symphonies, operas, and other shows to be very helpful.
We got to see opera, live concert performances, write a blog post, etc. Lecture was always fun + engaging and I just loved every minute of this class.

Please respond to the following:

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
This course challenged me intellectually.	3.71	4.00	0.00%	14.29%	14.29%	57.14%	14.29%
I understood the purpose of this course and what I was expected to gain from it.	4.57	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	42.86%	57.14%
I understood the standards for success on assignments.	4.64	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	35.71%	64.29%
Class time enhanced my ability to succeed in graded assignments.	4.69	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	30.77%	69.23%
I received feedback on my performance that helped me improve my subsequent work.	4.71	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	28.57%	71.43%
My work was evaluated fairly.	4.79	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	21.43%	78.57%
I felt respected in this class.	4.86	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	14.29%	85.71%
Overall, this was an excellent course.	4.64	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	35.71%	64.29%

Additional comments about the course:

Comments
Maybe let us see others's discussion posts
With little musical background, I loved it
Great course to learn some basic music analysis. Not too intensive.

I would recommend this course to:

	No	Yes
Highly-motivated and well-prepared students	0.00%	100.00%
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
Listening to music
She is very well-versed in music, but she does a great job meeting everyone at whatever level they're at. She can make it more in-depth for students with more training but also make it accessible for those who have less prior knowledge.
The instructor facilitated great class discussions that let us all share our thoughts and hear from each other, which helped me get more familiar with the concepts and learn more about this type of music.
Professor Dowd gave immediate feedback for all of our assigned work and inside of class, we worked in groups to listen to new music.
Very invested in our learning and unlike other professors here, isn't trying to end my entire career before it begins by making the class insanely hard to get an A in. I felt like less stress about my grade made it easier to sit back and soak in the knowledge rather than think about how to shortcut to a good grade.
Live performances.
She really made the environment collaborative and interesting, which was really nice, especially with so much listening.
Catrin Dowd did a wonderful job of breaking down certain practices in music composition (ranging from the sonata form to fugues). She also gave useful feedback on my written assignments in the class and clearly put a significant amount of time into structuring the course around useful readings and listening without creating an tedious workload from class to class.
Lectures were good.
Catrin was great at working with us to improve our understanding, and she elevated us and the class with her commentary. I felt she regarded us as equals in our listening rather than students.
The presentation and class slides style of teaching.
Clear + engaging. She knew all of us individually + I really needed that.
good at facilitating discussion

What could the instructor modify to help you learn more?

Comments
Nothing really
Nothing, it was perfect
Professor Dowd was one of the best professors I have had at this university, it is professors like her that make coming to class enjoyable . She grades fairly and quickly. I would take any course that she teaches .
Nothing really to be honest.
I would have appreciated it if the development of the class followed a more chronological timeline. In most classes we would examine how some older form or musical technique had found its way into the modern era. However, I think that it would have been more beneficial to my learning if the topics in the course were organized in a more linear fashion.
Expectations for what we were meant to discuss in midterm and final papers were fairly regimented, which sometimes made it difficult to write about concerts in a free-flowing way.
Nothing I can think of
Nothing
None.
I would have liked more lecture because I found it helpful when she gave background info

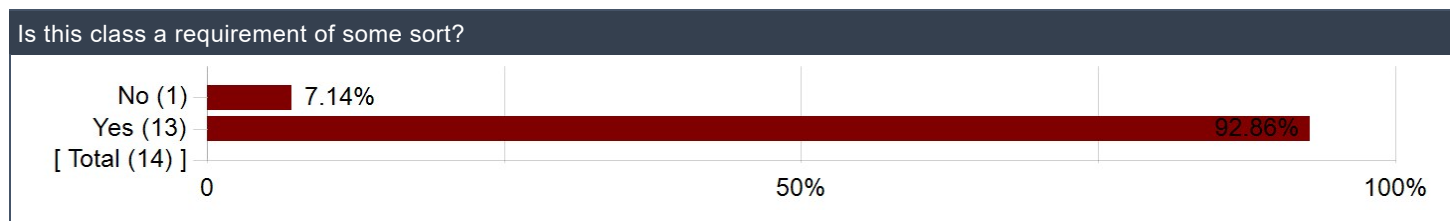
The Instructor . . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Organized the course clearly.	4.79	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	21.43%	78.57%	0.00%
Presented lectures that enhanced your understanding.	4.93	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	7.14%	92.86%	0.00%
Facilitated discussions that were engaging and useful.	4.93	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	7.14%	92.86%	0.00%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the course.	4.86	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	14.29%	85.71%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	4.64	5.00	0.00%	7.14%	0.00%	14.29%	78.57%	0.00%
Helped you gain significant learning from the course content.	4.86	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	14.29%	85.71%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	4.93	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	7.14%	92.86%	0.00%
Motivated you to think independently.	4.86	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	14.29%	85.71%	0.00%
Worked to create an inclusive and welcoming learning environment.	5.00	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%
Overall, this instructor made a significant contribution to your learning.	4.93	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	7.14%	92.86%	0.00%

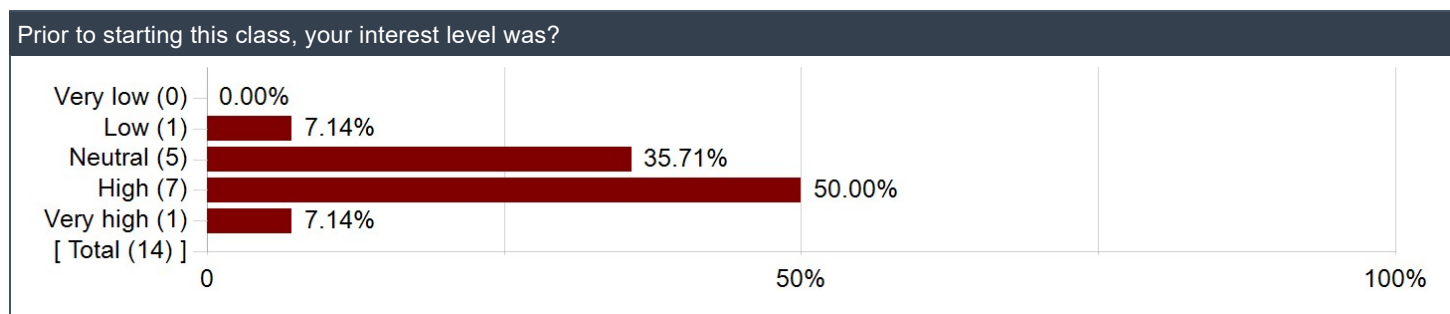
How much did the following elements of the course contribute to your learning gains?

	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	4.92	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	7.69%	92.31%	0.00%
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%

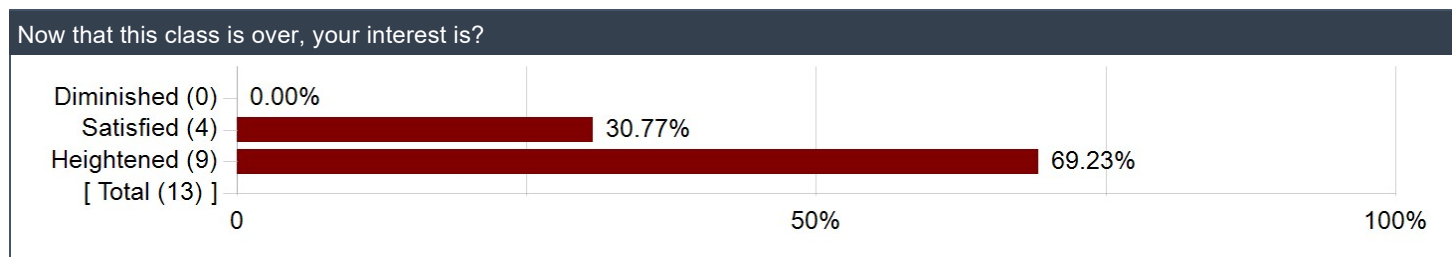
Is this class a requirement of some sort?



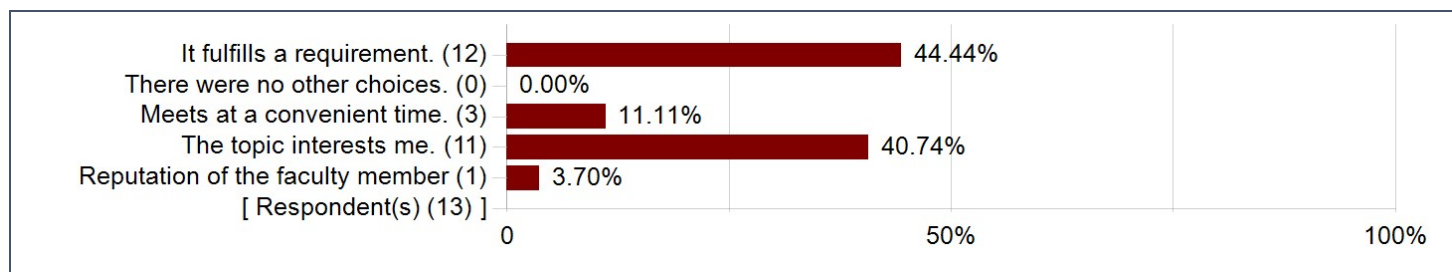
Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?



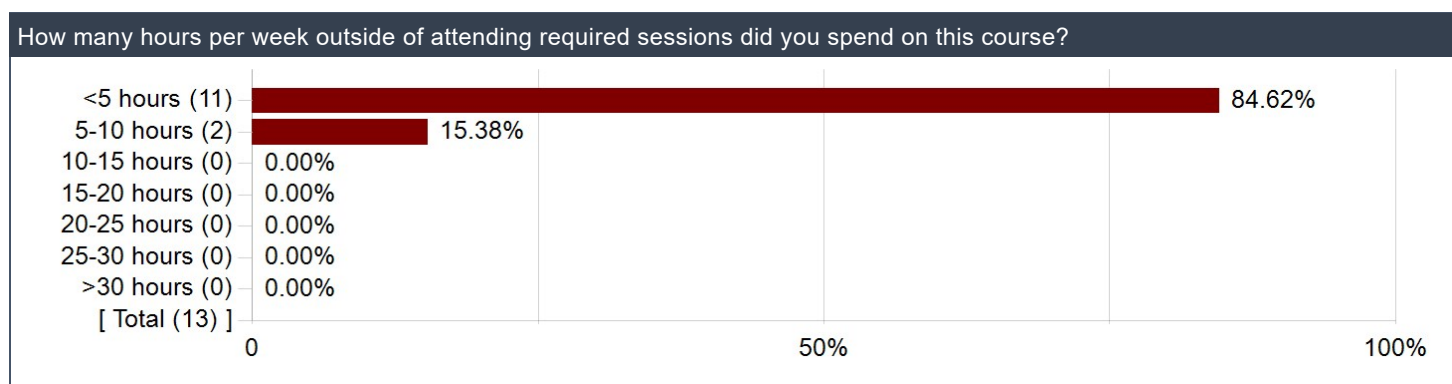
Now that this class is over, your interest is?



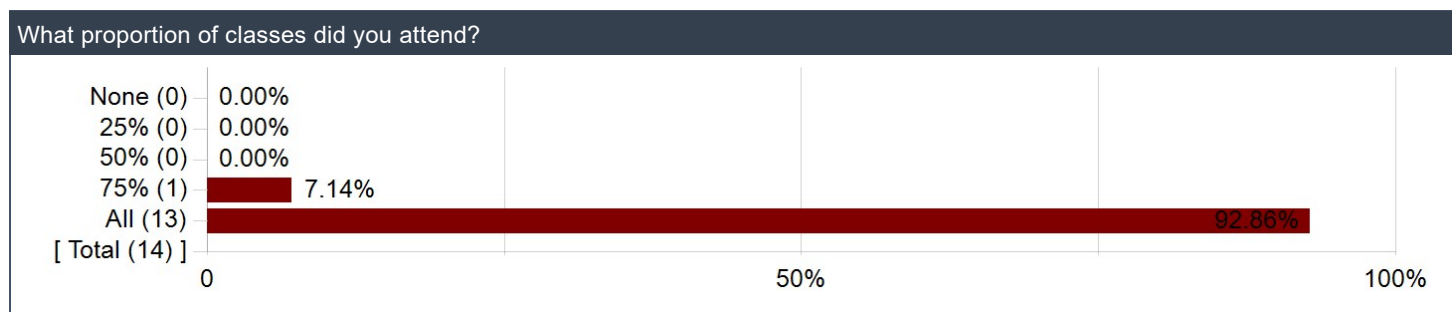
Why did you choose to take this course? (Select all that apply)



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
Easy
Not difficult for someone with little musical experience
I had a bit of a background in technical music, and the course wasn't too challenging for me. The instructor did a good job of making the complex music concepts simple for us.
3–5/10
Being a core music class, it is pitched in a way that is meant to be accessible to students of all musical backgrounds. As someone with some experience playing piano and reading music I found that everything discussed and covered in the course was completely manageable as a result.
Very easy course. It's not designed to be a hug3 time commitment.