



MUSI 10400 2 - Introduction to Music: Analysis and Criticism - Instructor(s): Florian Walch

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

Number Enrolled: **16**

Number of Responses: **11**

Report Comments

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

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
How to analyze music in a historical, cultural context. Exploring multiple forms of music throughout time and talking about it!
learned about genre and metaphor and how to look at music across various time periods through these lenses
I learned how to better express music in words.
The most important things were the how to closely analyze music and also enjoy music in different ways.
This course taught me how to appreciate and interpret various types of music through a critical lens. We covered a range of genres – from classical to jazz to pop – primarily focusing on the concepts of genre and cognitive metaphor. We also talked a lot about how to take historical/cultural/other situational context into account when interpreting music and why it is important to do so. This class helped me develop better vocabulary for describing music and I feel like I can now write about music much better than before.
Genre conventions and metaphor. I learned how to effectively analyze music and categorize a project's sonic and cultural elements.
I learned about the complex nature of genres and musical metaphors throughout musical time. I also learned to listen to music in a more meaningful manner.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – How to engage in close listening of musical works – The importance of and ideas behind using metaphor to describe music – The hybridity of genres – Studying the form and works of widely acclaimed composers like Mozart and Bach, and using the presence/absence/manipulation of musical conventions to infer more about the social circumstances surrounding those musicians, as well as their implications for today – Understanding what genre is and what it does – How to write intentionally and critically about the music we listen to
The value of genre as a framework for perceiving music, and the ways one can make insightful criticism about musicians and their work.

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

Comments
The lectures were really engaging and group discussions helped us think about the extremely abstract concepts we dealt with.
class discussions were ok, having the chance to write and receive feedback on discussion posts/ assignments was helpful. opportunity for a review of a draft of the final paper was also good
The assignments challenged my writing skills which forced me to improve.
The lectures helped me to solidify the material that I have read or listened to before class to closely dive into analyzing the music. The discussion posts were short evaluations on myself to see how much I learned from the weeks' lectures. The assignments were longer pieces of writings which seemed to me like a continuation of the discussion posts, but in some ways they helped me the most to learn because I was able to analyze closely.
We had interactive lectures in which we discussed the readings for the week. The course content was very interesting but I wish we spent a little less time on classical music. We also had weekly discussion posts and written assignments about the topics covered in the readings and in class.
Lectures were thorough and informative.
The discussions we had reinforced the readings given to us for homework by highlighting certain parts of excerpts of music and relating the texts to these excerpts' fundamental musical qualities. These in-class examples also helped us think more about the overarching theme of genre and how it translates from periods, instrumental sequences, and historical contexts.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – This course was very discussion-based and the readings/music assigned worked well together to provide a basis for discussion during class time. – The assignments and discussion posts were also helpful in practicing/delving deeper into the concepts and examples we covered during class discussions; sometimes they could be challenging, but were a good way of helping to solidify understanding of the topics discussed, as well as give us a chance to practice formulating our own opinions. – The Theon Cross concert we went to was an enjoyable and practical way of helping us close listen during a live performance, as well as notice extra-musical elements of performance that add to the way music is interpreted.
The readings were one of my favorite parts of the course – one of the few classes I've actually done all the readings and listenings for in college. They all felt relevant and interesting, and those that weren't as applicable to our assignments were still just fun to read. Florian's lectures were also good and insightful, though they suffered a little from most of the students seeming somewhat uninterested in the material or in contributing. That's not the professor's fault at all, but I wish he got more engagement because he definitely deserved it. All of the assignments were well written and helped to develop my own understanding of the material, especially the final paper, which I felt was really helped by Florian's check-ins and encouragement throughout the quarter.

Please respond to the following:

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
This course challenged me intellectually.	4.45	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	54.55%	45.45%
I understood the purpose of this course and what I was expected to gain from it.	4.36	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	18.18%	27.27%	54.55%
I understood the standards for success on assignments.	4.36	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	63.64%	36.36%
Class time enhanced my ability to succeed in graded assignments.	4.73	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	27.27%	72.73%
I received feedback on my performance that helped me improve my subsequent work.	4.73	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	27.27%	72.73%
My work was evaluated fairly.	4.91	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	9.09%	90.91%
I felt respected in this class.	5.00	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%
Overall, this was an excellent course.	4.73	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	27.27%	72.73%

Additional comments about the course:

Comments
None.
– So long as you try to get through the readings, listen to the music assigned (which might end up becoming favorites for you), and show up prepared to discuss during class, you'll do well in this course. It is an enjoyable and quite intellectually intriguing look into how critically we can think about music and genre, and what those do for us in society.

I would recommend this course to:

	No	Yes
Highly-motivated and well-prepared students	0.00%	100.00%
Anyone interested in the topic	9.09%	90.91%

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

Comments
He was really available all the time for extra help and was obviously very passionate about the subject matter.
slides and context on music we were listening to (because there was such a wide range) helped
I really enjoyed the office hours time where I could run my ideas through my teacher.
When he made us ask questions, and answered them in length.
The lectures were very informative and I also really appreciated the annotations that Florian made on the readings.
His interest in our work and thorough lectures.
The instructor's use of musical examples to illustrate the abstract fundamentals of genres contributed the most to my learning as it was a constructive way to see the effect of genre on a piece itself. There was also an openness within discussions where everyone's individual opinions and thoughts could be heard and respected, which broadened my overall perspective on the topics that we discussed.
– Florian playing through some examples of the music pieces we were focusing on each week was very helpful in prompting discussion.
– Florian's extended explanations of certain concepts and even demonstrations on the piano helped to engage us and also understand things a bit more.
– Florian's encouragement to share thoughts, no matter how developed they might have been, was very helpful in terms of participating.
– During our midterm final project draft, Florian's open invitation to discuss our paper topics was very helpful.
Florian chose the material we studied well, and always offered helpful insight on them in lectures.

What could the instructor modify to help you learn more?

Comments
Nothing much.
sometimes discussion in class didn't feel super structured
Personally I would enjoy more of listening to music in class, not only to the ones that we had to listen on our own but also to new pieces that are related to the ones we listened to before class.
I think it would have been helpful if towards the beginning of the course, we focused more on how to describe music (even the basic concepts like tone, pitch, and other ideas that might not be salient to students without technical music experience).
A few discussions or some other break in the lecture format.
I think that my instructor could be a bit more clear on defining certain terms and ideas expressed within the genre-centric aspects of the course.
I can't really think of anything really; I think Florian's teaching style and setup of the class content worked very well for me, especially having joined the course later than others in the class.

The Instructor . . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Organized the course clearly.	4.73	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	27.27%	72.73%	0.00%
Presented lectures that enhanced your understanding.	4.82	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	18.18%	81.82%	0.00%
Facilitated discussions that were engaging and useful.	4.36	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	9.09%	45.45%	45.45%	0.00%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the course.	4.73	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	9.09%	9.09%	81.82%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	4.91	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	9.09%	90.91%	0.00%
Helped you gain significant learning from the course content.	4.82	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	18.18%	81.82%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	5.00	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%
Motivated you to think independently.	4.73	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	9.09%	9.09%	81.82%	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.	4.82	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	18.18%	81.82%	0.00%

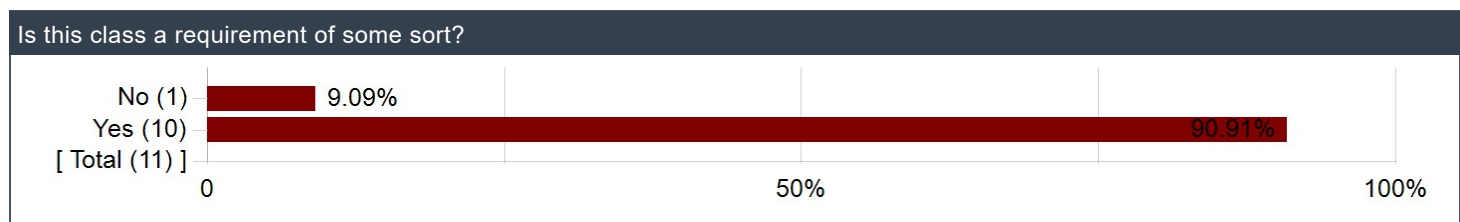
How much did the following elements of the course contribute to your learning gains?

	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%	100.00%	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%

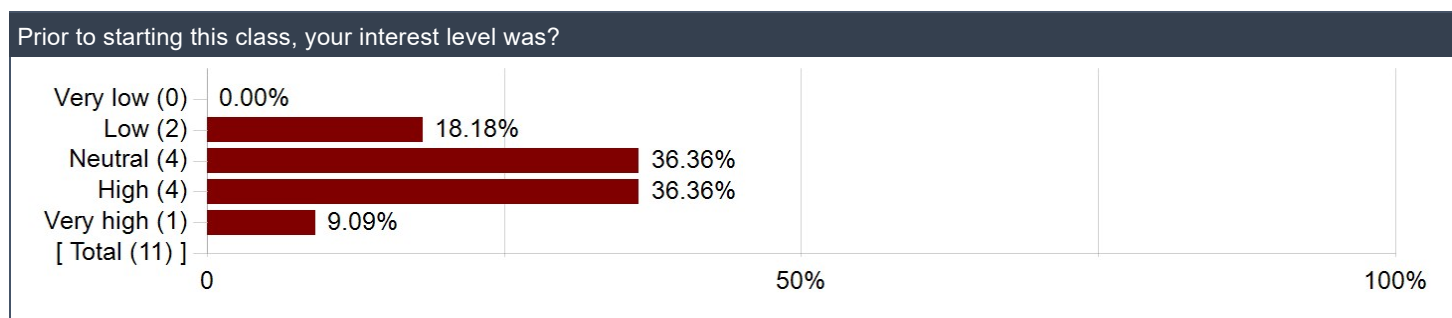
Other course elements not mentioned above:

Comments
Concert Trips – Great gain

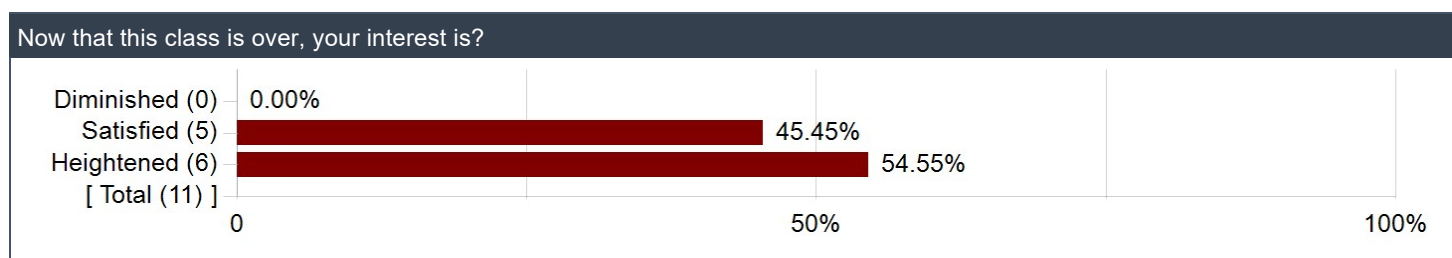
Is this class a requirement of some sort?



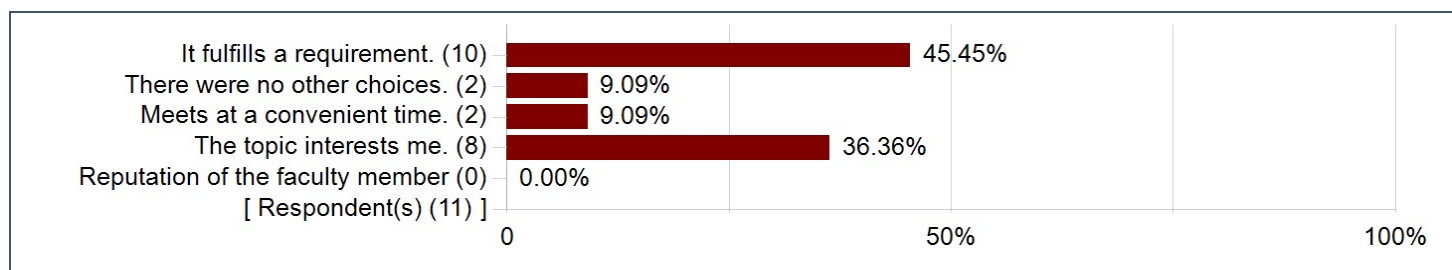
Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?



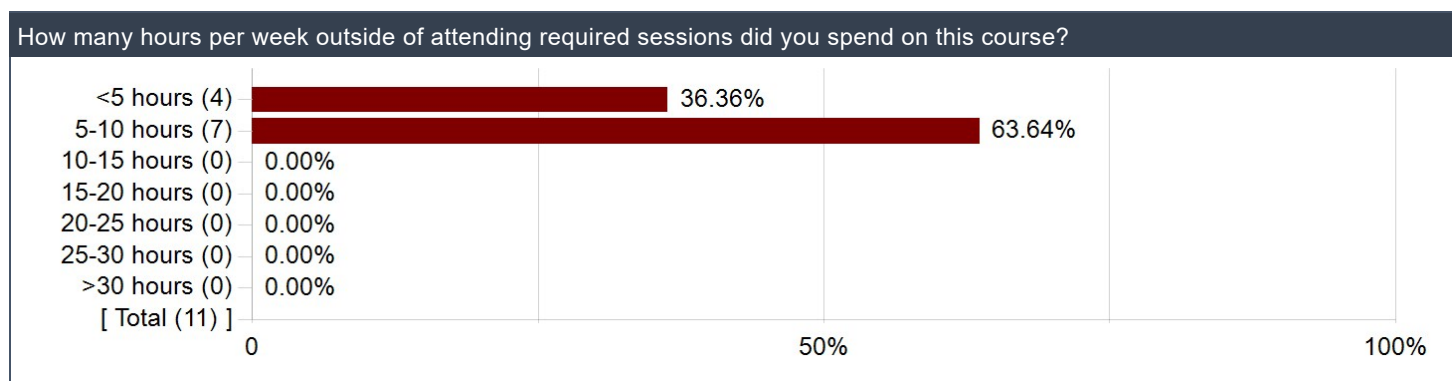
Now that this class is over, your interest is?



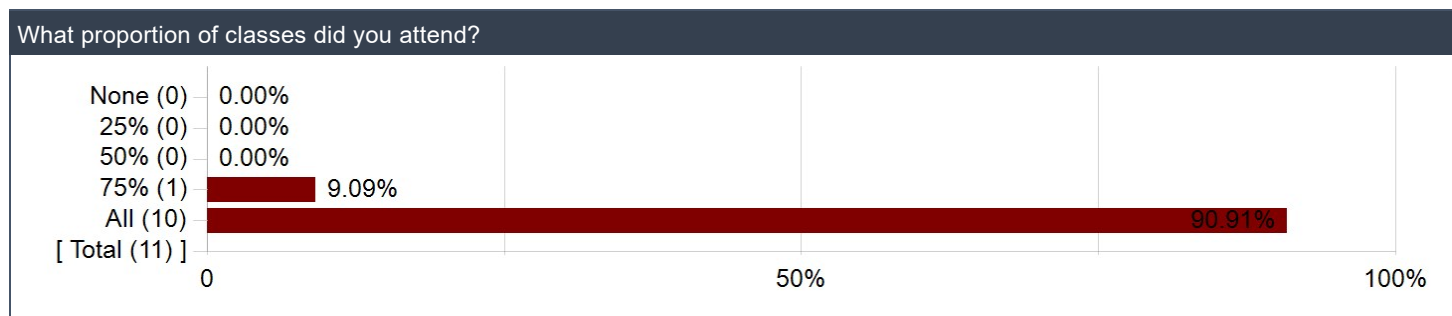
Why did you choose to take this course? (Select all that apply)



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 lot more difficult than I expected, but was worthwhile in the end.
Not too difficult and grading is not harsh. Musical background is not required at all.
It was decently challenging.
The course itself is difficult, but we are able to learn to successfully participate in class.
Not difficult content wise, but the workload was heavier than I expected it to be.
Not difficult for me considering my background in music composition, production and analysis.
I have a background in music so focusing on musical analysis was not too challenging for me. Although some of the readings were a bit dense and unclear to me at times, it did not interfere with my overall understanding of the course content.
This class is not very difficult compared to some of the other arts courses offered, or even other courses where the study of texts, art, or music is the focus; so long as one makes an effort to engage with the readings and music assigned as much as possible and shows up to class, the class will be very easy to do well in.
Not difficult at all if you do the readings and put effort into the writing assignments.

Which of the four two-week units did you enjoy the most?

Comments
From a Whisper to a Scream
Esther Phillips!
I really enjoyed the first unit as it immediately piqued my interest.
I enjoyed listening to the Mozart pieces the most, because personally I enjoy listening to classical music.
Ester Phillips!
Most likely the Theon Cross unit,
I enjoyed weeks 6 and 7 the most.
While all of the units were interesting, I very much enjoyed the Theon Cross unit where we explored the idea of hybridity of genres.
The unit on Mozart.

Please explain (briefly) what made this two-week unit particularly enjoyable for you:

Comments
I think it was more accessible musically to most of the class so our discussions felt more productive.
as someone with very little music knowledge, having music with lyrics and being able to analyze those in conjunction with the sonic elements was a more doable task, and the album was a good listen!
As I said above, I enjoy listening to classical music.
I loved the album and I thought that it was really interesting to contrast Phillip's work with the original tracks
The difference in core genre and the lead up to the incredible concert at the Logan center.
This period was enjoyable to me as we got to focus on the jazz artist Theon Cross and his unique take on jazz, putting the tuba on display in ways I was completely unfamiliar with.
Aside from the genre of jazz being one of my favorites, I enjoyed the discussions we had about music that included elements of multiple genres, and of course, the concert we attended at the Logan Center was incredibly engaging and enjoyable.
I have never been particularly fond of Mozart's music, but this unit taught me much more about the intricacies I knew nothing about in his works. Was really interesting to learn and Florian did a great job at conveying the information.

Please name one classroom activity (listening, discussion, quiz, etc.) that you found particularly engaging:

Comments
Any of the group listenings where we listened to small sections of a song/piece and discussed them in detail
Listening to music as soon as we entered the classroom.
I enjoyed the quizzes that we had in class that we could submit answers anonymously, because we could always ask and answer to questions without any risks.
Class discussions
All of them were equally engaging to some degree.
I loved the class activity where we were tasked to draw a visual map/representation of the progression of one of Theon Cross' songs off of Intra One.
Listening to and comparing different musical pieces during class (ex: when we compared Jon Sass' live tuba loops to Theon Cross's looping on Intra—I with tracks like 'We Go Again', or when we compared Esther Phillips' and Gil Scott Heron's interpretations of the same song)
The Theon Cross concert was absolutely fantastic – definitely the best after–class event I've ever done at this school.

Please name one assignment (outside of class meetings) that you found particularly engaging:

Comments
Written assignment on Mozart and posterity
Assignment #3: Theon Cross on record/in concerto
I enjoyed researching and writing for the final assignment the most, mostly because it was one of the assignments where we had unlimited freedom to choose the topic to write about.
The midterm/final paper – I like how much flexibility we have, and it was nice to get guidance mid way through writing (although I think that the prompt might have been too broad)
The final assignment, as it gave us free reign to speak to whatever music interested us.
The first canvas discussion prompt where we were tasked to justify our reasoning for identifying a chosen piece of music with a particular genre was a challenging yet introspective introduction to the course.
The first discussion post we did where we chose one song and tried to analyze the elements and implications of genre attached to it was very engaging, not only because we were able to choose songs we liked/enjoyed, but also because it was interesting and enlightening to look at the song from the lens of genericity.
The assignment in which we made arguments for or against Marissen's essay on anti–Judaism in Bach's music was great – I particularly enjoyed the St. John Passion, and getting to engage with it through the writing of experts was very interesting.