

Oxford College of Emory University

Fall 2002

Music 389R

From Literature to Opera:

Classic Literary Works in Operatic Transformation

Dr. Maria Archetto

Office: Few 204

Office Hours: Mon through Fri 2:00-3:00 p.m. and by appointment

Welcome to Music 389R. It is your responsibility to read this syllabus, retain it for reference, and to follow all course policies. You are responsible for all material covered in class and for all assignments given. All of your work in this class is governed by the **College Honor Code** (See [Oxford College Catalog](#).)

Music 389R meets Mondays/Wednesdays/Fridays from 10:40-11:30 a.m. in Few Choral Rehearsal Room. Our class conference is **389 Music Archetto** on Learnlink. The syllabus and other information will be posted on the conference. Please check the conference often and use it to direct questions and comments to me and your fellow students at any time.

Course Content

Music 389R uses text, audio, and video resources to explore the history of opera in Western culture. It may be used to fulfill: a Humanities requirement at Oxford College and an elective for the Music major and minor at Emory College. Classes are in a combination of lecture and discussion format. Tests consist of objective and essay questions requiring the identification and analysis of selected compositions, as well as demonstration of knowledge of basic music vocabulary and major figures and trends in opera history.

Required texts (available in the bookstore)

Parker, Roger. *The Oxford History of Opera*. (Oxford and N.Y.: Oxford U. Press, 1996)

Scott, Walter. *The Bride of Lammermoor*. (London: Penguin Classics, 1995)

Shakespeare, William. *The Merry Wives of Windsor*. (N.Y.: Washington Square Press, 1964) (Folger Library edition)

Verga, Giovanni. *Cavalleria Rusticana and Other Stories*. (London: Penguin Books, 1999)

Assigned listening/viewing materials will be found on reserve in the library.

Course Goals

The main goals of the course are:

- to develop your abilities in listening to Western classical opera
- to develop your abilities in the critical analysis of opera
- to increase your understanding of the place of drama and music in Western culture

to develop your aesthetic sense by improving your perception and appreciation of beauty in literature and music
to improve your writing skills, with special focus on writing in the field of music

Course Requirements and Policies:

The successful student in Music 389 will come to class well prepared. This means at least two hours of studying for each hour of class time. All tests and assignments are graded on quality of content and level of writing style (content includes the quality of ideas and information, writing style includes organization of material and accuracy of spelling and grammar.) It is your responsibility to attend class, ask questions, and participate in discussions, and to find out about work missed because of absence.

Grades will be assigned using the "plus-minus" system. There are no "make-up" tests or exams except in documented cases of severe illness or emergency as verified by a medical professional and determined by the professor. If you fail to appear in class for a test or exam during the time specified, you will receive a grade of "0." Be sure to inform the professor (in advance, if possible) of your inability to be present for a test.. All assignments are due at the beginning of class on the due date. Late assignments will receive a reduced grade. Extensions may be requested, if this is done by 5 p.m. before the due date.

Grading distribution:

Three tests: (60% of grade)
Final examination (15%)
Presentation and Paper (20%)
Self-evaluation (5%)

Option to earn credit for participation in Oxford Chorale

You may earn up to 20% of your grade in Music 389 for participation in Oxford Chorale. An audition is required. If you commit to this option, you are excused from one test.

Music 389 Syllabus

You are expected to attend all classes. Excessive absences will affect your final grade negatively. See the College policy on class attendance including the policy on religious holidays (Oxford College Catalog) You are allowed three absences without penalty for illness and emergencies. Further absences will affect your grade negatively.

Please be on time for class. Late arrivals are discourteous to the professor and other students. If you arrive after 10:45 a.m., you will be marked late. If you are late twice, this will equal one absence.

Please do not bring food (including chewing gum) or drinks into the classroom. You may bring water or cough drops.

Tentative Course Outline:

Date	Topic	Reading Assignment
8/28, 8/30	The Birth of Opera:	Parker, Chapter 1
	From Renaissance polyphony to Baroque monody	
9/2	NO CLASS-Labor Day	
9/4, 9/6	A Short History of Opera	Parker, Chapter 2
9/9-9/13	Orfeo: Poliziano and Monteverdi	Parker, Chapter 3
9/16, 9/18	Orfeo	Parker, Chapter 4
9/20	Test 1	
9/23-9/27	The Bride of Lammermoor: Scott and Donizetti	Parker, Chapter 5 Scott, The Bride of Lammermoor Pages 1-120
9/30-10/4	Lucia di Lammermoor	Parker, Chapter 6 Scott, pages 121-224
10/7-10/9	Lucia di Lammermoor	Parker, Chapter 7 Scott, pages 225-286
10/11	Test 2	

Music 389R Syllabus

10/14	No class-Fall vacation	Parker, Chapter 8
10/16,10/18	Falstaff: Shakespeare and Verdi	Shakespeare, The Merry Wives of Windsor Acts I -II
10/21, 10-25	Falstaff	Parker, Chapter 9 Shakespeare, Acts III-IV
10/28-11/1	Falstaff	Parker, Chapter 10
	Shakespeare, Act V	
11/4-11/8	Falstaff	Parker, Chapter 11
11/11-11-13	Falstaff	Parker, Chapter 12
11/15	Test 3	
11/18-22	Cavalleria Rusticana:	Verga, pages 27-33
11/25	Cavalleria Rusticana Corrected draft of paper due	

11/27 and 11/29 No class-Thanksgiving recess

12/2-12/4 Cavalleria Rusticana

12/6 No class at 10:40 a.m. Class attendance requirement is met by attending the Oxford Chorale Holiday Concert on 12/5 or 12/6 at 8 p.m. Please print your name and "Music 101 on the back of your ticket. Tickets for class members are \$2.00 each.

12/9 Review session

Course evaluations

Self evaluation due

Final draft of paper due

12/16 Final Exam from 2-5 p.m. in Few Choral Rehearsal Room. See final exam schedule printed by the Records and Registration Office for College policy on final exams.