

**J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College
Course Content Summary**

Course Prefix and Number: MUS 221 **Credits:** 3

Course Title: History of Western Music pre-1750

Course Description:

Presents the chronology of musical styles and significant composers from Antiquity through the Pre-Classical era. Relates the development of music from a socio-historical perspective including parallel movements within the arts. Develops techniques for listening analytically and critically to music. MUS 221 and 222 may transfer as the same course. Lecture 3 hours. 3 credits.

General Course Purpose:

Provide a detailed understanding of the evolution of Western music from Antiquity through Pre-Classical eras.

Course Prerequisites/Corequisites:

None

Student Learning Outcomes:

Upon completing the course, the student will be able to:

Communication

- Effectively communicate music observations through written and/or oral communication

Critical Thinking

- Identify how various social, political, economic, religious, and historical events may influence a composer and the style of music from a given historical period
- Evaluate artistic movements within an era and any corresponding interrelationship with music
- Identify and understand how instruments and music ensembles evolved from the Medieval Period through the Pre-Classical era.
- Identify the development, evolution, and use of the elements of music
- Identify various music forms and understand how those forms influenced the creation of compositions and the listening experience

Personal Development

- Augment listening skills through assignments/assessments designed to listen analytically and critically to music
- Demonstrate proficiency in the development of receptivity to music from different historical periods
- Demonstrate the development of receptivity to compositions of composers representative of a given historical period
- Cultivate personal goals related to music listening, participation, or performance attendance

Medieval Period

- Identify significant historical events
- Identify parallel movements within the arts
- Describe the evolution of notation during this period

- Name significant composers and their works
- Describe the evolution of sacred and secular music styles
- Identify key aspects of sacred and secular music
- Visually identify and recognize the soundscape of instruments and ensembles of this period
- Identify the basic structure of forms and recognize that form while listening to music of this period

Renaissance Period

- Identify significant historical events
- Identify parallel movements within the arts
- Name significant composers and their works
- Describe the evolution of sacred and secular music styles
- Identify key aspects of sacred and secular music
- Visually identify and recognize the soundscape of instruments and ensembles of this period
- Identify the basic structure of forms and recognize that form while listening to music of this period

Baroque/Pre-Classical Period

- Identify significant historical events
- Identify parallel movements within the arts
- Name significant composers and their works
- Describe the evolution of sacred and secular music styles
- Identify key aspects of sacred and secular music
- Visually identify and recognize the soundscape of instruments and ensembles of this period
- Identify the basic structure of forms and recognize that form while listening to music of this period

Major Topics to be Included:

- Personal Development
- Medieval Period
- Renaissance Period
- Baroque/Pre-Classical Period

Effective Date/Updated: August 22, 2023