

CALIFORNIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
Division of Humanities & Social Sciences

Spring 2011
Organizational Meeting: M, 4:00
Prof. Tom Neenan

DRAFT SYLLABUS

Mu123 – Life and Music of Beethoven

Office: 116 Dabney
Extension: 4072
Secretary: Sinikka Elvington, 301 Dabney (ext. 1724)
E-mail: neenan@hss.caltech.edu
Office Hours: M & W, 1 – 2:00 pm or by appointment
Course website on Moodle

This course is designed to maximize participation and critical thinking, while minimizing busy-work.¹

Course Description

This course is intended as an overview the life, times and music of Ludwig van Beethoven. Emphasis will be given to experiencing and discussing Beethoven's music using audio and video recordings.

Academic Dishonesty

Any student caught cheating on a quiz or listening evaluation, or engaging in any other form of academic dishonesty will receive a grade of "F" for the course.

Special Needs

Any student with disabilities or other special needs that may require special accommodations for this course should make this known to Professor Neenan in the first week of class.

Course Materials

Required Text: Lewis Lockwood, *Beethoven: The Life and Music*, W.W. Norton, 2005, paper.

Attendance

Regular Class Attendance is expected. Class meeting will include presentations by students plus listening/viewing, analysis and discussion of Beethoven's music. Class meeting will begin with students completing an ungraded Daily Question where you write down the name of a piece of music you listened to since the previous meeting and comment on what you liked or disliked about it. The Daily Question is your attendance record and should be filled out even if you haven't listened to any music between meetings. **Students arriving more than five minutes late may turn in the Daily Question but will receive only 5 points. Any student absent for more than six hours of class without a written excuse from the Dean's Office will fail.**

¹ The course format is based on models by Caltech professor Lynn K. Paul and the work of Maryellen Weimer and others.

Course assignments

In this course, assignments are handled differently: you select what work you wish to complete, with the exception of the following required activities:

- 1) Moodle profile
- 2) Syllabus quiz
- 3) Long essay
- 4) Presentation in class
- 5) Report on required concert by the Los Angeles Philharmonic, Sunday, May 8

Review the following options bearing these rules in mind:

1. In order to receive credit for an assignment, at least 50% of the total points for that assignment must be earned; otherwise, *no points* will be recorded for the assignment.
2. In most cases, once the due date for an assignment has passed, that assignment cannot be completed.

Moodle Profile and Syllabus Quiz (Required)

Join Mu140 on Moodle and complete your personal profile. Make sure to have a few details about yourself in the description and be sure to include what if any music background you have. Do you play a musical instrument or sing? If so, for how long? Do you play – or have you played – in an orchestra or chamber ensemble? **Students with a music background have no advantage over those without any music background.** The purpose of requesting the above information is to assist Professor Neenan in tailoring presentation assignments and evaluating forum posts, reports and essays.

You will earn 10 points if you complete your profile before class on Wednesday, March 30. You will earn 5 points if you complete the profile after March 30. Take the Syllabus Quiz before Monday, April 4. You get 3 chances on the quiz and the maximum grade is 10 points.

Listening activities

There are a number of options for listening to music for credit.

1. Complete a Recording Report. Reports may relate to recordings available on DVD, CD, iTunes or elsewhere. In any case, topics and completion dates must be agreed upon with Professor Neenan. It is the student's responsibility to consult with Professor Neenan not only on the topic of the report but also on the content and completion date of each report.
2. Attend live concerts and write a report on the concert.
 - Students are required to attend a **concert at Walt Disney Concert Hall by the Los Angeles Philharmonic on Sunday, May 8**, and to write a Concert Report following the concert. Transportation and lunch will be provided. Cost: \$15.
 - You may elect to attend up to one additional concert and write a Concert Report on the concert. Proposed concerts must be approved by Professor Neenan.
 - A Concert Report Guideline will be found on Moodle and should be used in writing all reports.
 - Concert reports are due within one week of the concert that is the subject of the report. Reports submitted late will be subject to a 10 point deduction.

As Recording Reports and Live Concert Reports count toward the required writing component for advance humanities credit, students must approach the writing of reports as a serious *writing* activity. Consult the Concert Report Guidelines before you begin your research or writing.

In-Class Presentation (required)

Students make a 25 - 30 minute presentation in class on a topic of interest related to any of the topics covered in the course calendar or a topic suggested by the student. You must begin your Individual Presentation Checklist by **April 11**. Topics and presentation plans will be done in dialogue with Prof. Neenan. Students may combine into a two-person team for in-class presentations, pending Prof. Neenan's approval. Team presentations should be 40 - 45 minutes. Each team member must participate fully in all aspects of the Presentation Checklist assignments and the presentation itself.

Long Essay (required)

All students are required to write an essay of between 2,000 and 3,000 words. The schedule for submitting outlines, drafts, peer reviews and the final paper will be worked out with Prof. Neenan during the first or second week of class. Students are encouraged to avail themselves of assistance from the staff at the Hixon Writing Center. The Purdue Owl Project (<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/>) has excellent resources that will assist you in writing an outline, first and final draft of your essay. The suggested topic of this essay is "Beethoven as Janus: Classicism meets Romanticism in the Music of the 'Heroic' Period." Students who wish to do so may suggest other topics of interest for the long essay. All essay topics must be approved in advance by Professor Neenan.

Weekly Quizzes

Quizzes are open-book and relate to the reading material for the week upcoming. You have 30 minutes to answer the questions on each quiz (10 or more multiple choice and true/false questions). Each quiz is worth up to 30 points and involves **2 steps** that must be completed within a 5 – 7 day time period **prior** to the class discussion pertaining to the reading(s) on which the quiz is based.

Step 1: Before you begin your quiz, you must complete an honor agreement with Professor Neenan for that specific quiz. Each agreement is located on Moodle, along with the quiz, under the week in which the reading(s) will be discussed. Agreements and quizzes are available for a limited time starting up to 7 days **prior** and **ending one hour prior** to the scheduled class discussion of the chapters. **You must complete your agreement BEFORE you take the quiz. If the agreement is not completed, you will not receive credit for the quiz.**

Agreement Statement:

I have elected to take Quiz *x*;

By checking yes below, I am agreeing to:

- a) not copy any quiz items;
- b) not access any resources other than the assigned reading;
- c) not talk about the quiz outside of in-class discussions;
- d) complete the quiz within 30 minutes.

If I violate either of these agreements, I agree not to submit my quiz for credit (or if it is accidentally submitted, I will notify Professor Neenan that the quiz should not be added to my grade).

Step 2: After completing the agreement, you may take the quiz.

Developing a Game Plan for the Course

For purposes of planning, identify the assignments you are considering and the total points possible.

Keep in mind that this is an advance humanities credit course and requires 4,000 words of composition. In order to fulfill the writing requirement, you **must** satisfactorily complete a long essay of 2,000 or 3,000 words, the Concert Report (1,000 words) and, if required, one of the following:

- Second Concert Report (1,000 words)
- Recording Report (1,000 words).
- You may not opt to write a 4,000 word essay.

Be realistic. It is highly unlikely that you will get all the points possible for the assignments. Check your total with point totals needed for each grade. Be sure that you are planning to do enough assignments to get the grade you desire in the course. Keep track of your points as the course progresses so that you will know if you need to add more assignments. You will have access to your current grade total on Moodle.

	Max. Points/ea	Max. Total Points
(Required) Moodle Profile	10	10
(Required) Syllabus Quiz	10	10
(Required) Long Essay (2,000 or 3,000 words) ²		
Long Essay Outline	100	100
Long Essay First Draft	200/300	200/300
Long Essay Final Draft	100/200	100/200
Recording Report (1,000 word minimum)	100	100
Live Concert Report (one required) (1,000 word minimum)	100	200
In-class Presentation	300	300
Weekly Quiz	30 (minimum) ³	270+
Attendance/Daily Question – 18 total	15	270
Daily Questions Turned in Late – minus 5 points		
Daily Questions will be collected five minutes after the beginning of each meeting. Students may turn the daily question in late but will only receive 5 points for the day.		

Total Possible Points 1560+

Tentative guide of grades

A	1200 - 1560
B	1050 - 1199
C	950 - 1049
D	850 - 949

² Maximum points for a 2,000 word essay = 400 points; maximum points for a 3,000 word essay = 600 points. Prorating of essays is not possible. Students failing to turn in an outline or a first draft will not receive credit for the Long Essay and therefore will fail the class for failing to meet the writing requirement for advance humanities credit.

³ Quizzes will be worth a minimum of 30 points. Some quizzes may contain more than 30 possible points, yielding additional potential points.

Note: Students may take the course P/F. However, students will not pass if they fail to satisfactorily complete the required writing components for advance humanities credit or if they exceed the maximum number of allowable absences.

COURSE CALENDAR

Date Week	Weekly Topics Any topic listed below may be the subject of a student presentation. Additional topics, as suggested by the student are possible, subject to approval.	Assignments and Activities <i>L = Lockwood</i>
<i>Week 1</i>	O.M., Class Structure & Organization Introduction to the music of Beethoven Elements of the Classical Style	Complete Moodle Profile <i>L 1 - 52</i>
<i>Week 2</i>	Influence of Haydn and Mozart First Masterworks	Complete Syllabus quiz before class, Monday of Week 2 Week 1 quiz due Monday of Week 2 Week 2 quiz due Friday of Week 2 <i>L 53 - 123</i>
<i>Week 3</i>	The “New Way” First Orchestral Masterworks First Chamber Music Masterworks	Week 3 quiz due Monday of Week 3 <i>L 124 - 180</i>
<i>Week 4</i>	Beethoven and the Napoleonic Age Third – Sixth Symphonies	Week 4 quiz due Monday of Week 4 Long Essay Outline Sketch due April 18 <i>L 181 - 237</i>
<i>Week 5</i>	Mature Concertos and Stage Music	Week 5 quiz due Monday of Week 5 Long Essay Outline due April 25 <i>L 238 - 279</i>
<i>Week 6</i>	Important Piano and Chamber Works of the Middle Period	Week 6 quiz due Monday of Week 6 <i>L 280 - 332</i>
<i>Week 7</i>	Transition to the Late Style; Personal Crisis	Week 7 quiz due Monday of Week 7 Field Trip to LA Philharmonic, May 8 <i>L 333 - 365</i>
<i>Week 8</i>	Late Piano Music and the Missa Solemnis	Week 8 quiz due Monday of Week 8 LA Philharmonic Concert Report due May 16 <i>L 366 - 399</i>
<i>Week 9</i>	Late Quartets and the Ninth Symphony	Week 9 quiz due Monday of Week 9 Peer Review, Long Essay First Draft, May 23 <i>L 400 - 490</i>