

An informational “promo” for this course may be found at

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tne3_eG0ItE

CALIFORNIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
Division of Humanities & Social Sciences

Spring 2010
Time tbd
Prof. Tom Neenan

Mu 140 The Great Orchestras: Their History, Repertoire and Conductors

Office: 116 Dabney
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Office Hours: M & W, 1:00 – 2:15 or by appointment
Course website on Moodle

Format

The course will be largely student run with weekly presentations by members of the class plus analysis and discussion of recorded orchestral performances on CD and DVD.

Course Materials

Course materials include books and journal articles either available through the library system or distributed in class. A nominal copying fee will be charged for materials distributed in class.

Regular Class Attendance is mandatory

Students absent from more than **six** hours of class will FAIL the course unless a written excuse from the Dean's office can be provided – no exceptions. Your **attentive** presence in class is absolutely required. Student presentations and interaction are a primary component of the course and are a primary factor, along with the essays, in determining a final grade.

Prior Musical Experience Not Required

This course is intended and designed for students who have no musical background or experience. Although many students will have some musical background, those without such background are at no disadvantage.

Exams & grading

- Students are required to write **two** 1,500-word essays during the term. Essay topics are suggested but students are free to suggest topics of interest (subject to approval by the instructor).
- Students will be required to offer two or three presentations in class, either alone or as part of a collaborative group. The exact number of presentations and presentation topics will be worked out during the first two weeks of class and will depend on the number of students enrolled and students' musical backgrounds. Students with little or no musical background will be given presentation topics suitable for them.
- You are required to write a concert report after attending the required concert (or, if necessary, a make-up concert). The concert report counts toward the writing component of the course and should be no less than 1,000 words. A Concert Report Guidelines is available on the website. Students are encouraged to download the guidelines and prepare to listen to the concert by doing some preliminary research on – and listening of – the music to be heard.

Concert attendance

You must attend the following concert unless you have a bona fide class conflict which can be supported by a note from the Dean's office: Sunday, February 13. Los Angeles Philharmonic and Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra, music by Gerswin and Marsalis. Leave Caltech at 11:45 – meet at San Pasqual and Hollisten. Lunch to be provided. 2:00 pm concert. Return around 5:00 pm. Cost: \$15.