

MUSI 3970 (Oratorio: History, Literature, and Analysis)

Dr. Matthew Hoch

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calls/emails answered within 48 hrs.

office hours: by appointment

Credit hours: 3.0 credit for all majors.

Contact hours: Tuesday and Thursday, 11:00–12:20 (3 contact hours per week)

Prerequisites: Music major or permission of the instructor

Course Philosophy and Purpose:

An introduction to orchestrated repertoire for soloists and choral forces from the baroque era to the present day. Over the course of the semester, the student will become familiar with the most of the important works in the repertoire, analyze the works musically, and understand the works within historical, cultural, and literary contexts. In this course, the term “oratorio” is considered broadly, including sacred Latin and secular works for soloists, chorus, and orchestra in addition to oratorios that follow a strict Biblical narrative, as these works are also a part of the oratorio soloist’s repertoire.

Course Description:

This course explores the oratorio genre from the early baroque era to the present day. Sacred Latin works, cantatas, and secular concert works similarly scored for orchestra and soloists will also be considered. Major works by Monteverdi, Handel, Bach, Haydn, Mozart, Beethoven, Mendelssohn, Brahms, Elgar, and Britten will be examined within a historical and cultural context, with special emphasis on performance practice, orchestration, and text-to-music relationships.

Textbooks and Materials:

Shrock, Dennis. *Choral Repertoire*. Oxford University Press, 2009. (required)

Shrock, Dennis, ed. *Choral Scores*. Oxford University Press, 2015. (recommended)

Additional public domain study scores will be distributed electronically. The student is strongly encouraged to regularly bring a computer or tablet to class to access these scores.

Course Format and Procedures:

Class activities:

1. The instructor will lecture on major works and distribute relevant information for each topic
2. The class will actively listen to selections while following along with relevant scores
3. The class will discuss major works within an historical and cultural context
4. The students will gain command of the essential oratorio canon
5. The students will write about music and the instructor will give appropriate feedback

Homework: Will consist of reading relevant sections of *Choral Repertoire* for each lecture as well as taking or studying class notes. One major writing project will also be assigned.

Tests and Quizzes: There will be three objective tests, each divided into two parts: written (short answer) and listening (identification and essays). Each test will comprise 25% of grade. A semester written project will constitute the final 25% of grade.

Attendance Policy:

Attendance at all class meetings is expected. Work missed due to an unexcused absence cannot be made up. An excess of two unexcused absences may affect the student's final course grade. Classes missed due to illness, family emergency, etc. will be excused at the instructor's discretion. Requests for excuse should occur before the class meeting whenever possible. Requests for excuse for illness must be accompanied by some official documentation stating the extent of the illness. Appointments such as medical, dental, etc. must not be made during class meeting times. In accordance with University policy, students observing religious holidays will not be disadvantaged when advanced arrangements are made with their instructors to make up course work missed. This course adheres to the University Policy on Class Attendance found in the Student Policy eHandbook at <http://www.auburn.edu/studentpolicies>.

Grading:

1. Grading Scale:
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|-----------------|
| A = 90-100% |
| B = 80-89% |
| C = 70-79% |
| D = 60-69% |
| F = 59% or less |

2. Grading percentages will be as follows:

Examination #1 (baroque oratorio):	25% of grade
Examination #2 (classical and romantic oratorio):	25% of grade
Examination #3 (modern oratorio):	25% of grade
Term Paper: Analysis of a Major Work	25% of grade

Students may withdraw from the course up to midterm. Written exams may be comprised of objective and subjective items, such as listening, multiple choice, fill-in-the-blank, true-false, and short answer/essay. Students are encouraged to meet with the instructor if questions arise.

Students found cheating on a quiz, exam, or homework will receive a grade of zero. Academic dishonesty is an offense that will be reported to the Academic Honesty Committee. Please read Title XII: Student Academic Honesty Code of the Tiger Cub.

Early Alert Grade :

You will receive an Early Alert Grade one week prior to mid semester (31st class day). The Early Alert Grade represents your current performance on class work graded at that point in the semester. Check the grading scale for this course so that you are aware of what percentage of the total points is represented by your Early Alert Grade. If your Early Alert Grade is a "D", "F", or "FA" you will receive an email from the Retention Coordinator. Early Alert Grades can be viewed by logging into AU Access and opening the tiger i tab. Select "Student Records" and open the "Midterm Grades" window from the drop down box. If the grade seems inaccurate, please contact the instructor.

Emergency Contingency Statement:

If normal class and/or lab activities are disrupted due to illness, emergency, or crisis situation (such as an H1N1 flu outbreak), the syllabus and other course plans and assignments may be modified to allow completion of the course. If this occurs, an addendum to your syllabus and/or course assignments will replace the original materials.

Classroom Behavior Policy:

The AU Policy on Classroom Behavior is strictly followed in the course; please refer to the Policy on Classroom Behavior found in the Student Policy eHandbook at <http://www.auburn.edu/studentpolicies>.

Academic Honesty Policy:

All portions of the Auburn University Student Academic Honesty code (Title XII) found in the Student Policy eHandbook will apply to this class. All academic honesty violations or alleged violations of the SGA Code of Laws will be reported to the Office of the Provost, which will then refer the case to the Academic Honesty Committee. The Academic Honesty Policy can be found here:

<https://sites.auburn.edu/admin/universypolicies/Policies/AcademicHonestyCode.pdf>

Accommodations:

Students who need accommodations are asked to electronically submit their approved accommodations through AU Access and to make an individual appointment with the instructor during the first week of classes, or as soon as possible if accommodations are needed immediately. If you have not established accommodations through the Office of Accessibility, but need accommodations, make an appointment with the Office of Accessibility, 1228 Haley Center, 844-2096 (V/TT)

Makeup Policy:

Arrangement to make up missed exams, quizzes or teaching experience due to properly authorized excused absences must be initiated by the student within one week from the end of the period of the excused absences. Except in unusual circumstances, such as continued absence of the student or the advent of University holidays, a make-up exam will take place within two weeks from the time that the student initiates arrangements for it. Except in extraordinary circumstances, no make-up exams will be arranged during the last three days before the final exam period begins. Late submission of written assignments will be accepted only for excused absences. Students, with a properly authorized excused absence, who do not make arrangements to make up missed exams, quizzes or in-class assignments within the time frame indicated above will receive a grade of zero for the missed exam, quiz, or teaching experience.

Final Exam Schedule:

According to the Office of the Registrar, “the final examination for courses carrying fewer than three hours credit may be administered on the last lecture day.” The final examination will be given on the last day of class. There is no comprehensive/cumulative final for Singer’s Diction.

Note of Agreement and Acceptance:

This syllabus is an agreement between the instructor and student to provide mutually and completely a worthy learning experience. By remaining registered in this course, the student has recognized the obligations set forth in this syllabus for satisfactory completion of the course.

CLASS CALENDAR

Reminder: Assignments are due at the next class after they are assigned.
This schedule is just an outline/roadmap; additional works may be discussed.
Quizzes may be administered periodically and are not necessarily announced.

Class date	Topic
08/18/15	Introduction to the oratorio genre
08/20/15	Early Italian oratorio Monteverdi: <i>Vespers</i>
08/25/15	Handel: Oratorios and other major choral works
08/27/15	Handel: <i>Messiah</i>
09/01/15	Bach: Introduction and Cantatas
09/03/15	Bach: <i>St John Passion</i>
09/08/15	Bach: <i>St Matthew Passion</i>
09/10/15	Bach: <i>B Minor Mass</i>
09/15/15	Review: Baroque Oratorio; PAPER TOPIC IDEA(S) DUE
09/17/15	Listening Test: Baroque Oratorio
09/22/15	NO CLASS (Dr. Hoch in Mississippi)
09/24/14	Haydn: <i>Creation</i> and <i>The Seasons</i>
09/29/14	Mozart: <i>C Minor Mass</i> and <i>Requiem</i>
10/01/14	NO CLASS (choral festival)
10/06/14	Beethoven: <i>Missa solemnis</i> and other major choral works
10/08/14	Schubert: Masses; Schumann: secular concert works
10/10/14	Mendelssohn: <i>Elijah</i> , <i>St Paul</i> , and <i>Die erste Walpurgisnacht</i>
10/13/14	Brahms: <i>Ein deutsches Requiem</i>
10/15/14	NO CLASS (fall break); PAPER OUTLINE DUE
10/20/14	Berlioz: <i>Requiem</i>
10/22/14	Verdi: <i>Requiem</i>
10/27/14	Review: Classical and Romantic Oratorio
10/29/14	Listening Test: Classical and Romantic Oratorio
11/03/14	Fauré and Duruflé: <i>Requiems</i>
11/05/14	Stainer: <i>The Crucifixion</i> ; Maunder: <i>Olivet to Calvary</i>
11/10/14	Elgar: <i>The Dream of Gerontius</i> ; Walton: <i>Belshazzar's Feast</i> ; Tippett: <i>A Child of Our Time</i> ; Finzi: <i>Intimations of Immortality</i>
11/12/14	Honegger: <i>Roi David</i> and <i>Jeanne d'Arc au bûcher</i>
11/15/14 (Sunday)	PAPER ROUGH DRAFT DUE
11/17/14	Hindemith: <i>When Lilacs Last in the Dooryard Bloom'd</i>
11/19/14	Britten: <i>War Requiem</i>
11/24/14	NO CLASS (Thanksgiving week)
11/26/14	NO CLASS (Thanksgiving week)
12/01/14	Sandström: <i>Messiah</i> ; FINAL PAPER DUE
12/03/14	Review: Modern Oratorio
FINALS WEEK:	Listening Test: Modern Oratorio

*THIS SYLLABUS IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE AND ADJUSTMENT.
STUDENTS WILL BE NOTIFIED IN WRITING OF ANY CHANGES THAT OCCUR.*