

Pick up a syllabus  
Fill out a student information sheet

# Mu 101: Introduction to Music

Instructor: Dr. Alice Jones

Queensborough Community College

Fall 2017

Section J2 (Tuesdays 3:10-6), H 110



# Welcome to Music 101!

- Fill out an info sheet
- We'll discuss the syllabus at the end of class
- If you finish early, check out the class website: [www.drjonesmusic.me](http://www.drjonesmusic.me)  
(This is the only time it's ok to look at your phone during class for the rest of the semester!)



# Music 101: My expectations

- You are adults who are smart, competent, and capable
  - You have chosen to be here
  - You have obligations and responsibilities in your lives
- Different aspects of this class will be difficult for different people, and everyone can improve their skills
- We'll listen to a lot of music this semester
- I am a guide to help you ask and answer hard questions about yourself and the world of music
- You will treat me, this classroom, and each other with respect
- Technology is a great tool but is also problematic ([www.drjonesmusic.me](http://www.drjonesmusic.me))
- The best way to succeed in this class is to applying yourself as intently and honestly as you can to every opportunity provided you

# Intro to musicology

- Musicology – the study (*-ology*) of music, what it is, and what it means

# Intro to musicology – the takeaway

Musical meaning comes from 3 things:

1. The musical sounds themselves
2. The listener's past experiences and knowledge
  - Reading, travel, art, emotions they've previously experienced
  - Knowledge of how sounds are made
  - Memories or associations with the piece of music or similar music
3. How an individual listens to the musical sounds
  - What they are able to hear
  - What they pay attention to
  - Where they're listening, who they're listening with, the medium of listening
  - Their intentions, their taste, their expectations when listening

# In-class writing

Write a paragraph that answers this question:

What's the most important thing that determines musical meaning (e.g., musical sounds themselves, listener's past experiences, how a listener listens)?

Writing tip: A good paragraph doesn't just answer the question—it supports your idea by showing how you know it's true and saying why the idea matters!

# Listening for differences and details



Ke\$ha, *We R Who We R* (2010)



The Weeknd, *The Hills* (2015)



Franz Schubert, *Die Forelle* (1817)



Anonymous, *Kyrie eleison*



Orlando di Lasso, *Kyrie eleison* from *Missa Bell' Amfitrit, altera* (1610)



Simon and Garfunkel, *Scarborough Fair* (1966)

# Listening for differences and details



Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Duets for Flute and Oboe, “Der Volgelfanger bin ich ja” (1791)

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, *Eine Kleine Nachtmusik*, I. Allegro (1787)



John Philip Sousa, *Stars and Stripes Forever* March (1896)



Lil Wayne and Drake, *Right Above It* (2010)



Philip Glass, *Einstein on the Beach*, “Knee-Play 1” (1975)



# Elements of music

**Melody**

**Rhythm**

**Harmony**

**Texture**

**Form**

**Dynamics**

**Tempo**

Present in all musics of the world:  
pop, classical, folk musics

“Style” refers to how they are  
used

# Intro to musicology – the next step

Music is an indicator of the world in which it was made and listened to.

What can *this* music tell us?

- How something was made
- How something was consumed (used)
- What people valued (believed/understood/cared about/admired/feared)

# Homework

- Reading
  - Syllabus and course calendar
  - Weekly reading is on the class website (melody, texture, dynamics) – there will be a quiz at the start of class
- Accept the invitation to WordPress (the class website)
- Due via email ([music.drjones@gmail.com](mailto:music.drjones@gmail.com)) by the end of Sunday:
  1. Tell me your username for the website
  2. Ask me one question you have about the course after reading the syllabus
  3. Tell me the typo you find in the syllabus (optional, extra credit)
- Participate in Online Discussion #1 (available through Monday)
- Have a great week!



# End quiz

1. When does Online Discussion #1 start?

- a) Today
- b) Tomorrow
- c) Next Monday

2. Everyone hears music in the same way.

- a) True
- b) False

3. What one piece of music (e.g., song) should an alien listen to if they want to understand the world?

(Remember that good writing supports your ideas by saying 1. Why you know something is true, and 2. Why it matters!)