

Pick up a syllabus
Fill out a student information sheet

Mu 101: Introduction to Music

Instructor: Dr. Alice Jones

Queensborough Community College

Spring 2018

Sections H2 (T 2:10-5), H3 (W 2:10-5), L3 (W 5:10-8)



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
(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)
- 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 4 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
4. The performer
 - Who they are (identity, social status, needs, desires, goals)
 - The choices they make while performing

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, or the performer)?

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)



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.

How you listen to a piece of music (and being aware of your strengths and limitations as a listener!) can help you explore the bigger question of “What can *this* music tell us?”

- How something was made
- How something was consumed (or used, functioned in people’s lives)
- What people valued (or believed, understood, cared about, admired, feared)
- What *you* value (or believe, understand, care about, admire, fear)

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 2 different invitations to WordPress: the class website and the website for this section of Mu 101
- Due via email (music.drjones@gmail.com) by the end of Sunday (11:59pm): Tell me your username for the website
- Participate in Online Discussion #1 (available through Sunday) – Online Discussion #2 starts on Monday, February 5
- Due at the second class you attend: Syllabus Quiz
- 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's something that surprised you in today's class?