SYLLABUS & Outline SCHEDULE

MUSC 6210: Music History & Literature—Beethoven, Before, and After

University of West Georgia (UWG)

Spring 2013

This fully online course will be taught as a mostly asynchronous course, meaning that you will need to complete work for deadlines but you will not have required hours during which you’ll need to be online with the rest of the class. There will be two required SYNCHRONOUS sessions, one near the beginning of the term and the other at the end of the term for the purpose of discussing final projects. Dates and times will be determined during the first two weeks of the course, based on a survey of student availability. For these synchronous sessions students may come to Humanities Bldg, on the UWG campus or participate from a distance via Blackboard/Wimba Collaborate/Classroom.

Instructor: Dr. Elizabeth Kramer
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Office Hours: Mondays 11-noon; Wednesdays 11-noon; Fridays 8:45-9:45a & 11-noon; additional hours as posted online and by appointment; meetings can take place on the UWG campus and/or online using Wimba, Google Hangout (ekrameruwg), Skype (Elizabeth.kramer33), or via phone.

Course Description

Over the past 200 hundred years, many have looked to Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827) as the greatest representative of Western art music. There is no doubt that “Beethoven”—his life, his music, and our perceptions of both—has played a pivotal role in music even to the present day. Although approaching a field through the works of one individual has its limitations, better understanding the music of Beethoven, his predecessors, and those who might be considered his descendants provides significant insight into many important aspects of Western music. This semester we will study the state of Western music before Beethoven, considering its genres, styles, and forms and its influences on the music of Beethoven. We will then study music and ideas about music during the nineteenth century, the time of Beethoven’s greatest impact. Finally we will consider musical paths of the past century and the extent to which Beethoven’s works are still among us.

Learning Outcomes—Students will

(1) present “oral” reports based on research of selected topics
(2) write brief reports based on research of selected topics
(3) write a research paper or complete an approved research project, depending on the selected topics for the course
(4) articulate “orally” and/or in writing an understanding of the topics studied by the student and of the topics presented to the class by other class members and the instructor. That is, the student must demonstrate understanding of

(a) general trends in Western Music History from the Middle Ages to the present;

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(b) in-depth knowledge of Beethoven’s life, music, and influence on Western Music History; 
(c) advanced critical thinking skills, expressed orally and in writing.

Required materials
(1) Lewis Lockwood, *Beethoven: The Music and the Life* (W.W. Norton, 2002), 978-0393050813 [NB: used copies on Amazon.com from $5—the online access to music examples that accompanies new copies of the book is desirable but not required.]

(2) Easy access to a standard History of Western Music textbook (such as Burkholder/Grout, Bonds, Wright, and/or Stolba)

(3) Easy access to a standard guide to Chicago/Turabian style and how it might be used in writing music papers such as found in one or more of the following guides:

(4) Easy access to a computer with internet access and the equipment through which you can take part in synchronous online discussions and presentations. A headset with earphones and a microphone allows most computer users to chat; some of you may be able to connect via smartphone or other online digital device. (UWG campus labs, especially those in the UWG library, are open many hours of the day.)

(5) Easy access to Microsoft Power point and Microsoft Word. Visit UWG student Internet Technology Services at [http://www.westga.edu/its/index_5248.php](http://www.westga.edu/its/index_5248.php) for the Microsoft Campus Agreement that allows UWG students to purchase Microsoft Office (which includes Power point and Word) at a very substantially reduced price, normally less than $15; this software is also available on computers in UWG campus labs

(6) Easy access to a video-capturing software such as the freeware program Jing (available at [http://www.techsmith.com/jing.html](http://www.techsmith.com/jing.html)) with which to make your power point presentations into video presentations.

General Course Expectations

Positive and professional presence
This is a graduate-level learning forum and each of us should conduct ourselves accordingly in all our interactions. Many of you may be very familiar with norms and culture of online learning; then again, this may be your first experience. Please put your best foot forward by:
- Maintaining a positive online presence.
- Reviewing each post for grammatical and spelling errors.

Good communication (also summarized in the Orientation Module)
If you have any questions or concerns, contact me sooner rather than later. Generally I will answer any questions posted in the *Ask Your Instructor* discussion forum within 48 hours, and I will respond to student Mail via CourseDen within 48 hours. In the case of an emergency, feel free to contact me via
UWG email and at my UWG phone number (leave a message if I don’t pick up). All personal information and questions about grades must be conducted via UWG email to protect your privacy rights. If you have an emergency, feel free to contact me via UWG email or UWG phone.

**Timely completion of assignments**

In keeping with the professional culture of the class, please make sure to complete assignments by the assigned due date. To help you in planning, a complete listing of all assignments and due dates are located on the Overview Page for each learning module.

It is important that you keep up with daily assignments. I will automatically accept assignments for up to 24 hours after the assigned time due without penalty. After this time, I will accept your assignments for reduced or no credit. If you find yourself in a situation in which you are having difficulty in meeting a deadline for an assignment, email me and include the circumstances surrounding the need for the extension.

**Academic honor (see link to policies under UWG statements in the Orientation Module)**

Every UWG student is expected to maintain the highest standards of academic honesty and excellence. Academic honesty preserves the integrity of the student and institution and is essential in gaining a true education. The UWG student pledges not to lie, cheat, steal, or engage in plagiarism in the pursuit of his or her studies and is encouraged to report incursions of plagiarism. Failure to comply may result in a failing grade. Turnitin, a program for reviewing scholarly academic work, may be used to assess, critique, and validate originality of work. Students with questions about this policy should discuss them with their instructor before issues arise.

**Disclaimer**

This syllabus should be considered a guide rather than a legal contract between the UWG and the student. The instructor reserves the right to make changes in course content and/or instructional techniques without notice or obligation.

**Other Course Expectations**

**Competency in using online technologies (also summarized in the Orientation Module)**

Before you begin work in this course, you need to be aware of a few technology issues. Please read the following carefully. These issues must be addressed before you begin the coursework. If you have a techno-savvy friend, you might ask them for assistance.

Browser Check: Your browser (Internet Explorer, Firefox, Safari, Chrome, etc.), needs to be a certain version. Browsers that are not supported for CourseDen could (will!) cause you problems in the course. On your course listings page in CourseDen, you will find a link in the upper-right corner of the screen named Check Browser. Please perform this test to see if you are using a browser that is compatible with CourseDen.

- **Scheduled CourseDen down times**: CourseDen has regularly scheduled down times that occur on the weekends. These down times usually occur every other Friday starting at 10pm (e.g., 11 January 2013) and end by Saturday morning at 7am. The deadline for anything due during a downtime is automatically extended to 12 hours (e.g., an assignment due at 11:59p on 11 January 2013 can be submitted until 11:59a on 12 January 2013).

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• **Scheduled UWG internet down times:** the UWG server is often down on Friday evenings. During these times, you should access CourseDen at http://westga.view.usg.edu.

• **Plug-ins:** It is possible that you will need plug-ins in this course, such as Adobe Acrobat Reader and others. Running a check with the browser checker should tell you which plug-ins you have and don't have.

• **Internet Connection:** It is highly recommended that you use an Internet connection faster than 56K. DSL or Cable at home or a high bandwidth connection on a campus are suitable.

You will also need to download Adobe Flash Player free from the Adobe site at [www.adobe.com](http://www.adobe.com) in order to watch many of the video presentations. You may want to disable Real Player during the term, as it has been known to interfere with Adobe Flash technology.

There are also help options on CourseDen. Contact info for the UWG Distance Learning Office is online at http://uwgonline.westga.edu/distance/index_18244.php, They are available from 8a-5p at 678-839-6248 or 1-855-933-8946 or online@westga.edu. After hours try http://help8.view.usg.edu or 1-866-588-5293.

Please familiarize yourself with the CourseDen Learning Management System (LMS). A variety of additional resources can be found on the home page under the Course Resources Link Folder on the CourseDen homepage for this course.

**Discussion Board**

Class discussions will be via the CourseDen Discussion Board. Here are some guidelines and tips:

• Be aware of and follow the guidelines and deadlines for posting initial and peer replies (which may differ depending on the assignment). All times are given as Eastern (USA) Time (using daylight savings time when it is in effect).

• Although the discussion forum is an informal writing format, and conversational language would be expected, you should still use appropriate graduate level vocabulary and syntax and double check your postings for grammar and spelling errors. Do not use text-messaging abbreviations or other abbreviations and acronyms, unless you are certain that will be understood by your recipient(s).
  
  o **Tip:** The ENABLE HTML feature at the top of the discussion forum box will give you formatting and spell check.

• Cite your sources as appropriate.

• Make sure to balance the quality and quantity of your posts.
  
  o As a rule of thumb, initial discussions are usually approximately ½ ¾ page in length, single spaced, and your replies should be 1 – 3 paragraphs.
  
  o Remember the two key words: **thoughtful** and **thorough**.

• Participation is evaluated as “distinguished,” “proficient” or “basic.” I will do my best to respond to as many of your discussion posts as possible. I also look for you to carry on the discussion with each other. Evaluation will rest on your initial posts and carrying on of the conversation as responses appear.

**Peer Review**

The Peer Review process will be a vital tool that will allow us to reflect on our learning, the learning process, and use ‘other eyes’ to help make our learning as effective as possible. Please use the following guidelines:

• Peer Review comments should be submitted using the peer review function of CourseDen.
• Comments should include specific references to things that work and things that might need a second look. Be specific when offering suggestions on how to ‘fix’ an issue. Thoughtfully reread and revise before sending.
• Take all peer suggestions to heart consider their point of view. Remember that we are working towards a pattern of excellence.

Assignments and reports
Longer written assignments should be uploaded as .doc or .docx files to CourseDen or Turnitin.com (as directed in the assignment instructions). They should conform to the style, format, and content guidelines given for each assignment. In general, written assignments should be double-spaced in 11-12 point font with 1-inch margins.

Evaluation

Evaluation (approximate): Course grades will be evaluated out of 1000 points
Weekly participation and preparedness 300 pts
Presentations and short writing assignments 200 pts
Midterm paper 150 pts
Final paper, presentation, revision 350 pts

1000 pts

Students earning above 900 points will receive an A for the class.
Students earning above 800 points will receive at least a B for the class.
Students earning above 700 points will receive at least a C for the class.

Outline SCHEDULE

(Course days begin at 9a and end at 11:59p (ET). This schedule is subject to change.)

Orientation module (week 1)
Module 1: Studying music history (week 2)
Module 2: Music of the middle ages, renaissance, baroque, and Classical periods (weeks 3 & 4)
Module 3: Beethoven and his music (weeks 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11)
Module 4: Wagner (on the Ninth & Op. 131), Brahms (1st), Mahler (re-orchestration & the 2nd) (week 12)
Module 5: Schoenberg, Stravinsky, and Beethoven today (weeks 13 and 14)
Module 6: final presentations about a Beethoven composition not studied with the rest of the class or a composition in which you can trace the influence of Beethoven’s music (weeks 14 & 15)