

## Music History 202: Western Music History to 1700

### Syllabus

San Francisco Conservatory  
Fall 2008  
TTh 9:00/10:00  
Room 319

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Office hours: Wed 9-11 or by appointment

#### Course Rationale:

This course is designed to give students a relevant sampling of the known repertoire of Western music from the 8<sup>th</sup> century to the beginning of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. The Conservatory requires this course of all undergraduates for the following reasons: First, to expose students to music of great beauty and to unfamiliar systems of aesthetics. The music for this portion of the three-semester survey is usually the least familiar in terms of content, style and function, and it thus demands a flexible and imaginative understanding of music and its role in society. Second, this first semester, even more so than the other two, increases student awareness of the relationship between changes in musical style and systems of notation and theory. For much of the course, music history closely parallels the history of music notation. Understanding the development of notation gives students a better understanding of how concepts of the musically “possible” (or given music-historical “worldviews”) interact with the development of styles and genres. Finally, music history is traditionally taught to impart a sense of the larger tradition of music, particularly notated music, in the Western world, and of our membership within a larger community of musicians over time. By the close of the semester, we will encounter the origins of many of the musical institutions and genres that still form the classical music world, such as the first orchestras, operas, oratorios, sonatas, and concertos

#### Materials:

##### Required texts:

Burkholder, J. Peter and Claude Palisca. *Norton Anthology of Western Music*. 5<sup>th</sup> ed. Volume I: Ancient to Baroque. Norton, 2006. (NAWM)  
*Norton Recorded Anthology of Western Music*. Volume I: Ancient to Baroque. Norton. 2006.

##### Suggested text:

Weiss, Piero and Richard Taruskin, ed. *Music in the Western World: A History in Documents*. Prentice-Hall, 1984.

These materials are available in multiple copies on library reserve.

Course website: [www.sfcmlhistory.com](http://www.sfcmlhistory.com)

Readings, handouts and assignments will be posted online.

### **Grading:**

Grades will be determined on the basis of the following:

Quizzes	20%
Assignments	10%
Attendance/Participation	10%
Exams	60%

### **Attendance:**

Attendance is essential! Much of the material will only be covered in class. Moreover, attendance is an explicit part of the final grade.

### **Assignments:**

Assignments are posted below by week and generally come from the Norton Anthology. Both the listening and the reading associated with the listening (and any other readings) should be done BEFORE you come to the class that they are associated with. You are responsible for identifying the listening selections for the exams, so try to keep up. As a motivator, there are several scheduled quizzes.

Homework assignments are generally due on Tuesday of any given week. These are to be handed in \*on time\* and will be corrected but not graded. Their effect on a final grade will be entirely due to timeliness.

### **From the 2007-2008 Collegiate Catalogue:**

“All students have an obligation to behave honorably and to respect ethical standards in carrying out their academic assignments. Academic dishonesty, such as cheating or plagiarism, will be handled by the Dean. The student may be subject to disciplinary action and/or dismissal.”

## Order of Assignments (and other events)

### Part I: The Middle Ages (800-1400)

Date	Topic	Homework
4 Sep	Early Christian liturgy and chant	
9 Sep	Styles of chant/the office	NAWM 3a-e, 4 Homework assignment 1 due
11 Sep	Medieval theory and modes	Reading: Weiss Chapters 12, 14
16 Sep	Early sacred polyphony	NAWM 15-16 Reading: Weiss Chapter 16 Homework assignment 2 due
18 Sep	School of Notre Dame Quiz I	NAWM 17-19
23 Sep	Early Motet; Development of Isorhythm	NAWM 21 Homework assignment 3 due
25 Sep	Ars nova and the later motet	NAWM 24 Reading: Weiss Chapter 18
30 Sep	Machaut: rondeau and Mass	NAWM 25, 26 Homework assignment 4 due
2 Oct	Landini and the Italian Trecento	NAWM 30 Reading: Weiss Chapter 19
Oct 7	<b>Exam I</b>	

### Part II: The Renaissance (1400-1600)

Oct 9	Dunstable and Dufay	NAWM 32, 36 Weiss Chapter 21
Oct 14	Cyclic mass and Josquin	NAWM 39, 40a Reading: Weiss Chapter 26 Homework assignment 5 due

Oct 16	The Reformation	NAWM 42 (all); 44 Reading: Weiss Chapter 27, 29
Oct 21	Counter Reformation and Palestrina Quiz II	NAWM 45a,b Reading: Weiss Chapter 36-37
Oct 23	<b>Fall Break</b>	
Oct 28	Printing/Early Madrigal	NAWM 50, 52 Reading: Weiss Chapter 38 Homework assignment 6 due
Oct 30	Later Madrigal/French chanson/ 16 <sup>th</sup> century instrumental music	NAWM 54, 58, 61, 62 Reading: Weiss Chapter 42
Nov 4	Opera antecedents	Homework assignment 7 due
Nov 6	<b>Exam II</b>	

### **Part III: The Early Baroque (1600-1700)**

Nov 11	Caccini/Textural changes/Artusi controversy	NAWM 63, 64 Reading: Weiss Chapters 44-45 Homework assignment 8 due
Nov 13	Orfeo	NAWM 66 (entire) Reading: Weiss Chapters 46-47
Nov 18	Venetian Opera	NAWM 68 Homework assignment 9 due
Nov 20	Early cantata	NAWM 69
Nov 25	Oratorio Quiz III	NAWM 71a, b Reading: Weiss Chapter 52
Nov 27	<b>Thanksgiving</b>	
Dec 2	17 <sup>th</sup> century instrumental music	NAWM 74, 76, 78 Reading: Weiss Chapters 55-56 Homework assignment 10 due
Dec 4	Lully opera	NAWM 77
Dec 9	later cantata/da capo aria	NAWM 82 Homework assignment 11 due
Dec 11	later sonata/concerto grosso	NAWM 83
Dec 16	<b>Exam III</b>	