

MOUNT HOLYOKE COLLEGE

Music 281, History of Western Music I

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DESCRIPTION OF THE COURSE

281f History of Western Music I

(Writing-intensive course) The first half of a two-semester survey of Western music history, Music 281 examines the musical culture of Europe from the Middle Ages through the mid-eighteenth century, focusing on evolution of style and the changing roles of composers, performers, patrons, and audience.

Meets Humanities I-A requirement.

COURSE SYLLABUS

TuTh 11.00-12:15
Pratt 109

Overview

7 September

Introduction

12 September

The Christian Church in the First Millennium; Roman Liturgy and Chant

*Reading: chapters 2 and 3.

Listening: CD 1, tracks 4-33 (NAWM 3-7).

14, 19 September

Song and Dance Music in the Middle Ages; Polyphony through the Thirteenth Century

Reading: chapters 4 and 5; Weiss/Taruskin, 16, pp. 59-62.

Listening: CD 1, tracks 36-end and CD 2, tracks 1-21 (NAWM 8-23).

21, 28 September

French and Italian Music in the Fourteenth Century

Reading: chapter 6; Weiss/Taruskin, 19, pp. 72-75, and 20, pp. 76-77.

Listening: CD 2, 22-46 (NAWM 24-30).

26 September, Mountain Day

3, 5 October

The Age of the Renaissance; England and Burgundy in the Fifteenth Century

Reading: chapters 7 and 8; Weiss/Taruskin, 21, pp. 79-81.
Listening: CD 2, tracks 49-63 (NAWM 31-36).

10 October no class (mid-semester break)

12 October

Franco-Flemish Composers, 1450-1520

Reading: chapter 9, through p. 206[; Weiss/Taruskin, 26, pp. 97-100].

Listening: CD 2, tracks 70-end and CD 3, tracks 1-8 (NAWM 37-39).

17 October

Franco-Flemish Composers, continued

Reading: remainder of chapter 9 (Josquin Masses to end). ADD:

Weiss/Taruskin, 26, pp. 97-100

Listening: CD 3, tracks 9-15 (NAWM 40-41).

19 October

Sacred Music in the Era of the Reformation

Reading: chapter 10.

Recommended reading: Weiss/Taruskin, 27, pp. 100-107, and 33, pp. 121-4.

Listening: CD 3, tracks 16-45 (NAWM 42-47).

24, 26, 31 October

Madrigal and Secular Song in the Sixteenth Century; The Rise of Instrumental Music

Reading: chapters 11 and 12; Weiss/Taruskin, 38-39, pp. 143-7.

Listening: CD 3, tracks 46-end and CD 4, tracks 1-22 (NAWM 48-62).

2 November no class (AMS meeting, LA)

7 November

New Styles in the Seventeenth Century

Reading: chapter 13; Weiss/Taruskin, 44-45, pp. 169-174

Listening: CD 4, tracks 23-27 (NAWM 63-64).

9 November

The Invention of Opera

Reading: chapter 14; Weiss/Taruskin, 46, pp. 174-8, and 48, pp. 180-184.

Listening: CD 4, tracks 28-50 (NAWM 65-68).

14, 16 November

Music for Chamber and Church in the Early Seventeenth Century

Reading: chapter 15; Weiss/Taruskin, 49, pp. 184-6.

Listening: CD 4, tracks 51-end and CD 5, tracks 1-22 (NAWM 69-76).

21 November

France, England, Spain, and the New World in the Seventeenth Century

Reading: chapter 16; Weiss/Taruskin, 54, pp. 200-204.
Listening: CD 5, tracks 23-55 (NAWM 77-81).

23 November no class (Thanksgiving)

28 November

Italy and Germany in the Late Seventeenth Century

Reading: chapter 17; if time, Weiss/Taruskin, 56, pp. 207-210.

Listening: CD 5, tracks 56-end and CD 6, tracks 1-12 (NAWM 82-84).

30 November, 5 December

The Early Eighteenth Century in Italy and France

Reading: chapter 18; Weiss/Taruskin 65-6, pp. 235-238.

Listening: CD 6, tracks 13-37 (NAWM 85-87).

7, 12 December

German Composers of the Late Baroque

Reading: chapter 19; Weiss/Taruskin 70-73, pp. 246-253, and, if time,
69, pp. 243-6.

Listening: CD 6, tracks 38-end (NAWM 88-92).

Requirements of course:

Preparation for and informed participation in class (30% of grade).

Three papers, topics to be decided upon (40% of grade); first two due dates may change:
12 October (5 PM), 14 November (5 PM), 20 December (noon).

15-minute pop quizzes, or homework assignments (30% of grade).

Class will not meet:

10 October: mid-semester break

2 November: AMS annual meeting

23 November: Thanksgiving break

Texts:

Required purchase:

Norton Anthology of Western Music, 5th? edition, volume 1, J. Peter Burkholder and
Claude V. Palisca, eds. (N.Y., W. W. Norton, 2001). Available at Odyssey Book Shop.

Strongly recommended for purchase:

J. Peter Burkholder, Donald J. Grout, Claude V. Palisca, *A History of Western Music*, 7th
edition (N.Y., W. W. Norton and Co., 2006). Required reading on a regular basis;
available at Odyssey Book Shop.

*Reading assignments refer to this volume unless otherwise indicated.

Also strongly recommended for purchase:

Piero Weiss and Richard Taruskin, editors, *Music in the Western World: A History in Documents* (N.Y., Schirmer Books, 1984). Required reading; available at Odyssey Book Shop.

Additionally:

Norton Recorded Anthology of Western Music, volume 1 (N.Y., W. W. Norton and Co., 2006). Available on the Music 281 website; also on reserve in music library.