COURSE SYLLABUS: MUS 103, Section 3 & 4: Introduction to Music  
Spring 2010

class Time: Section 3 – MWF 8:00 – 8:50 a.m., Music Building Room 148
Section 4 – MWF 9:00 – 9:50 a.m., Music Building Room 148
Office Hours: MWF 10:00 – 10:50 p.m., or by appointment.


Please note: Students will be asked to attend concerts, for which there may be a ticket charge. Tickets for most concerts are available at the UM Box Office in the Student Union (open M-F, 10-4) or the Ford Center Box Office (open MWF, noon-4). Discounted student tickets are usually available in advance of the performance, but not at the door. Student tickets are almost always $10 or less, so it will be to your advantage to plan ahead.

Purpose. Students in this course will develop an understanding of music as one of the fine arts by sharpening and enhancing their listening skills. Students will learn to use musical terminology to describe the structural elements of music, and will apply this knowledge to music listening both inside and outside of class. This course focuses primarily on the historical development of Western concert traditions, but includes music representing a variety of musical styles. No previous musical knowledge is expected and the ability to read music is not required.

Objectives. Upon completion of this course, students will:
1. Understand basic elements of musical style and structure, as presented in readings, lectures, listening examples, and live performance.
2. Know about important genres of concert music that have developed in Western culture, in addition to other types of popular or traditional music.
3. Consider music in its historical and cultural context, linking it to events in history and developments in the other fine arts, such as literature and the visual arts.
4. Communicate effectively in writing and in discussion about technical and expressive elements in music.

Grade Distribution. Final semester grades will be determined as follows:

- Unit Examinations (3) 45% (15% each)
- Final Exam (partially cumulative) 20%
- Weekly Quizzes / Writing Assignments 15%
- Concert Attendance / Concert Reviews 20%

Grades.  A = 90-100%  B = 80-89%  C = 70-79%  D = 60-69%  F = 59% or below.

Reading and Listening. Regular assignments will consist of reading from the textbook and listening assignments that correspond with the reading. The listening assignments are as important as the reading, and both should be done in advance of each class. The listening assignments will be found on-line, through the Naxos recording database. The Naxos service is available from the UM Libraries homepage (http://www.olemiss.edu/dcpts/general_library/) by clicking on “Articles and Databases” and then on “Naxos Music Library.” Detailed instructions
for using the Naxos service will be available on the course Blackboard site. If you choose to use this service at a campus computer lab, you will need to bring a set of headphones to do your listening. If you choose to do your listening elsewhere, please read the Blackboard instructions carefully: your instructor will try to help you, but it will be your responsibility to configure your computer’s media player and web browser appropriately.

**Class Attendance.** Perfect attendance should be the goal of every student, and active involvement in class is an important ingredient for success in this course. Additional listening examples and technical explanations will be presented in each class session. The expressive and structural elements of music can only be learned through direct hearing and guided assistance.

Students will be allowed six absences with no penalty. I will assume that all absences are for a necessary and unavoidable circumstance, such as illness or family emergency. **No distinction will be made between “excused” and “unexcused” absences. After the maximum number of absences has been reached, a deduction of four percent of the semester grade will be imposed for each additional absence.**

If you are part of a **school-sponsored activity** that causes you to miss class, please notify me before any such absences occur and I will consider whether accommodations can be made. I will require the contact information for a university faculty or staff member with whom I can discuss your absences. If you are absent, it is your responsibility to find out what material you missed, from your colleagues or during my office hours.

Students who arrive after attendance is taken will be counted late. **Excessive tardiness may, at the instructor’s discretion, result in additional absence penalties.** A departure from class before class is over will be counted as an absence. Students who experience difficulties related to this attendance policy should arrange to meet with me to discuss these difficulties as soon as they occur.

**Please turn OFF all cell phones when entering class.** It is expected that you will treat your instructor and fellow class members with respect and courtesy at all times. You are welcome to take notes on your laptop, but please refrain from logging on to the internet. This serves as a distraction to you, and more importantly a distraction to those seated around you. **If you are taking notes on a laptop, please sit in the front two rows of the classroom.**

**Students with Disabilities.** It is University policy to provide, on a flexible and individual basis, reasonable accommodations to students who have disabilities that may affect their ability to participate in course activities or meet course requirements. Students with disabilities, verified by the Office of Student Disability Services, are encouraged to contact their instructors to discuss their individual needs for accommodations.

**Blackboard.** This course will use the Blackboard (Bb) on-line system. The syllabus, assignment schedule, outside reading assignments, exam study materials, and some supplementary listening examples and readings will be posted solely on Bb. I will also post occasional reminders and send e-mails through the Blackboard system. These e-mails will go to
your university e-mail address; if you use a different e-mail account, you will need to put a forward on your university address to be sure you receive all course updates.

**Academic Integrity.** The University of Mississippi’s policy on academic integrity states that “the University is conducted on a basis of common honesty. Dishonesty, cheating, or plagiarism, or knowingly furnishing false information to the University are regarded as particularly serious offenses.” In most cases, a student found in violation of the University’s principles of academic honesty will be given a zero for the assignment or exam for a first offense, and an automatic failure for the class for a second offense. Particularly egregious examples of academic dishonesty may be dealt with more severely at the instructor’s discretion.

**Communication.** E-mail is the best and most reliable way to contact me outside of class. If at any point in the semester, you have questions or concerns related to this course, please do not hesitate to come visit me, either during my office hours or by making an appointment. I look forward to working with each of you.

**Papers, Examinations, and Weekly Quizes**

Assignments turned in late will be lowered one letter grade for each class period that has elapsed since the due date. (A paper due on Monday, September 22 that is turned in a week late on Monday, September 15 would lose two letter grades for two class periods late.)

Missed exams and weekly quizzes will count as a zero, unless prior arrangements have been made for a school-sponsored event. Please plan to be in class for all tests and quizzes. There is a tentative schedule posted on Bb. Any changes to these dates will be given at least a week in advance.

One quiz grade will be dropped at mid-term and again at the final if the student was present for each quiz during that term (January 20th - March 10th, and March 22nd - April 30th).