

The Well-Trained Mind Academy
Music History & Appreciation

Course Blackboard site: wtma.blackboard.com

Required Text:

There is no required textbook for this course. All necessary information will be provided during lectures.

Course Description:

Students will work through the major periods of western music history to gain an understanding of how music developed and how it both shaped and reflected the cultural changes of the time.

Course Goals:

This course will allow students:

- To discuss music as it relates to major historical events.
- To see the innovation in each type of music.
- To know the historical value of major composers' contributions to culture.
- To learn how to listen carefully to music and analyze it using vocabulary we have learned.

Grading Breakdown:

12% Class Participation
10% YouTube Listening Quizzes
28% Weekly Listening Observations
10% Discussion Board Questions
15% Exams
10% Research Paper
15% Presentation

Written Assignments:

Each week, students will complete a listening assignment related to the time period and composers we have discussed in class, and they will submit a listening observation paper, responding to questions for each track (1-2 pages). The goal of each listening assignment and observation paper is to have the students describe what they actually hear in the music using appropriate and specific terms and concepts discussed in class. Students will also complete a handwritten timeline of each time period that we discuss. They will complete a research paper (3-5 pages) about a composer or specific composition. They will also give a live presentation at the end of the year about three pieces of popular music, giving examples of how the music demonstrates interesting uses of some of the elements of music we have studied.

Quizzes and Tests:

There will be three exams in this course as outlined in the schedule below.

In addition, there will be weekly quizzes about instruments in the orchestra, with information drawn from YouTube videos. Each quiz consists of 10 fill-in-the-blank questions that fit exactly with sentences used by the musician teaching about their instrument.

Requirements for the course:

Students must be able to print out and upload PDFs.

Another essential component of this class is the listening assignments. We use Spotify to access music lists for these assignments. This program is accessible in many countries, however, it is not available in some. If you live in a country that does not allow Spotify, you may have limited access to the music lists. In this case, you must contact the instructor, and we will make alternate arrangements. These listening assignments are NOT OPTIONAL. *Students will not pass this course if they do not complete these assignments.*

Example Schedule:

Week 1	Elements of Music & Prehistoric Music <i>Uses & Elements of Music, Basic Vocabulary</i>
Week 2	The Ancient Period <i>Instruments & Innovations from Ancient Egypt, Israel, Greece</i>
Week 3	The Medieval Period <i>Chant, Hildegard von Bingen, Innovations (Pitch Notation, etc.)</i>
Week 4	The Renaissance Period <i>Dufay, Josquin des Prez, Old Christmas Carols, Hymns</i>
Week 5	The Baroque Period, Part 1 <i>Corelli & Vivaldi</i>
<i>Exam #1</i>	
Week 6	The Baroque Period, Part 2 <i>J. S. Bach & Handel</i>
Week 7	The Classic Period, Part 1 <i>Haydn & Mozart</i>
Week 8	The Classic Period, Part 2 <i>Mozart & Beethoven</i>
<i>Exam #2</i>	
Week 9	The Classic Period/Transition to Romantic <i>Beethoven, Schubert, Mendelssohn</i>
Week 10	The Romantic Period, Part 1 <i>Chopin, Schumann, Brahms, Verdi</i>
Week 11	The Romantic Period, Part 2 <i>Berlioz, Wagner, Tchaikovsky, Mahler</i>
Week 12	Nationalism & Impressionism in Music <i>Mussorgsky, Dvorak, Debussy, Stravinsky</i>
Week 13	Modern, Part 1 (Classical & Popular) <i>Stravinsky, Messiaen, Aaron Copland, Blues, Ragtime, Jazz</i>
Week 14	Modern, Part 2 (Classical & Popular)

Musicals, John Adams, Philip Glass, John Williams, Leonard Bernstein

Week 15

Rock & Roll (Classical and Rock & Roll), **Presentations**

Elvis, The Beatles, Stevie Wonder, Simon & Garfunkel

Week 16

Presentations

Brief Exam Due

Research Paper Due

The Well-Trained Mind Academy
Intermediate Music Theory

Course Blackboard site: wtma.blackboard.com

Required Text:

Surmani, Andrew and Karen Farnum Surmani. *Alfred's Essentials of Music Theory*. Van Nuys, CA: Alfred Publishing Co., 2004. ISBN 9780739036358

Course Description:

Students will develop a deeper understanding of melody, harmony, rhythm, and notation. They will learn how to create, manipulate, and analyze chord progressions and the formal structure in instrumental works of the past as well as the present. They will engage in a variety of assignments, including book work, ear training, performing, and composing.

Written Assignments:

There will be no papers due in this course. Each week students will complete workbook page assignments, some of which will be submitted. Additionally, there will be regular assignments involving listening, ear training, singing/performing, and playing keyboard, and there will be 4-5 composition projects.

Quizzes and Tests:

Quizzes will be given every 3 or 4 weeks. There are 2 mid-semester exams and 2 end-of-semester exams.

Grading Breakdown:

10% Class participation
18% Workbook Assignments
7% Ear Training & Discussion Questions
15% Quizzes
15% Composition & Performance Projects
15% Midterm Exams (Fall, Spring)
20% Final Exams (Fall, Spring)

Is This Course Right for My Student?

Many parents want to know if this course is the right fit for their child. Please look through this syllabus to get an idea of what topics we will be covering. The workbook used in this class is really 3 workbooks put together, beginning with a basic review of reading music and moving to more advanced music theory concepts. Most students who attend this class either play an instrument or enjoy singing. They do not need to be proficient musicians, but it is helpful if they are comfortable with the basics of rhythm notation as well as pitch notation (at least treble clef). We will cover bass clef the first week. If this is new to your child they can still do well, but they will need to apply themselves in order to master this.

Students can succeed in this class regardless of age: late elementary, middle school, and high school students have all flourished. What is more important is a student's interest and willingness to participate and be challenged. If students are uninterested, they usually do not enjoy or do well in this class. If they are enthusiastic and work hard, they will do well and have a great time, and they will grow as musicians. For students who have a stronger music theory background, the early weeks will be review, but we have many types of assignments, and most students will have some areas that are new and challenging for them. In this course we cover the essentials of music theory - major and minor scales, triads, inversions, harmonic analysis - but we also have fun with solfege, modes, and the Blues scale, as well as challenging ear training assignments and composition and performance projects. Most students also enjoy the interaction with their classmates as they all learn together and encourage one another.

Other Requirements:

This course consists of many different components, including ear training. Students must have access to some kind of keyboard- either a physical piano/keyboard, or a keyboard app on a tablet, or something similar. A physical keyboard is best, but apps are acceptable as long as students are able to play multiple notes at one time (chords) with their physical fingers (not a computer mouse). Students will be required throughout the course to submit short videos of themselves singing and/or playing the piano. They can simply use a smart phone, tablet, or digital camera to record themselves. These assignments are NOT OPTIONAL. *Students will not pass this course if they do not complete these assignments.*

We will occasionally use Spotify to access music selections to supplement the course. This program is accessible in many countries, however, it is not available in some. If you live in a country that does not allow Spotify, you may have limited access to the music lists. In this case, you must contact the instructor, and we will make alternate arrangements.

In addition, students *must* be able to print out and upload PDFs.

Example Class Schedule:

Week 1	Introduction to Music Theory/Pitch Notation
Week 2	Durational Symbols/Time Signatures
Week 3	Articulation/Tempo & More Duration
<i>Quiz #1 Due</i>	
Week 4	Accidentals, Whole & Half Steps
Week 5	Major Scales & Key Signatures
Week 6	Quiz Review, More Major Scales & Chromatic Scale
<i>Quiz #2 Due</i>	
<i>Fall Break</i>	
Week 7	Intervals, Circle of Fifths, Perfect/Major Intervals
<i>Performance Project #1 Due</i>	
Week 8	Midterm Review
Midterm due	
Week 9	Minor/Augmented/Diminished Intervals, Solfège

Week 10	More Time Signatures/Duration/Meter
Week 11	More Duration, Introduction to Triads
<i>Composition #1 Due</i>	
<i>Quiz #3 Due</i>	
Week 12	V7 Chords, Intro to Inversions
Week 13	V7 Inversions, Figured Bass/Lead Sheet
<i>Performance Project #2 Due</i>	
Week 14	Review, Chord Progressions
Week 15	Composing in both clefs
<i>Thanksgiving Break</i>	
<i>Quiz #4 Due</i>	
Week 16	Minor Scales
<i>Composition #2 Due</i>	
Week 17	Fall Final Exam Review
Week 18- Fall Semester Exams (no classes)	
Fall Final Exam & Ear Training Due	
Week 19	Minor Triads, Review
Week 20	Minor Chord Progressions
Week 21	Harmonizing/Composing in Minor
<i>Quiz #5 Due</i>	
<i>Composition #3 Due</i>	
Week 22	Triads Review, Augmented & Diminished Triads
Week 23	Harmonic Analysis
<i>Performance Project #3 Due</i>	
Week 24	Transposition
Week 25	Modes
Week 26	Midterm Review
<i>Spring Break</i>	
Midterm due	
Week 27	Blues Chord Progression & Scale
Week 28	Texture & 4-Part Writing
<i>Performance/Composition Project Due</i>	
Week 29	Half, Full & Deceptive Cadences
Week 30	Plagal Cadences & Review
<i>Quiz #6 Due</i>	
Week 31	Phrases & Binary Form
Week 32	Ternary & Rondo Form
<i>Big Composition #4 Due</i>	
Week 33	Review
Week 34	Review & Compositions
Week 35- Spring Semester Exams (no classes)	
Spring Final Exam Due	