



**MUSIC IN SOCIETY  
MUS 121-37Z  
(Fourteen-Week Course)**

**INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION**

Name: Dr. Louise Billaud, Professor of Music  
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***IMPORTANT:***

- The recommended browser to use with the current version of Canvas is Google Chrome or Mozilla Firefox. Other browsers are inconsistent in their performance with Canvas. When taking tests or quizzes, use a wired connection.
- Set up notifications using the NRCC Canvas Quick Start Guide under Canvas Modules to ensure receipt of course announcements or inbox messages from your professor.

**COURSE INFORMATION**

Description: Explores the language of music through an introduction to basic elements, forms and styles across time. Acquaints students with composers' lives and influential creative individualities, discovering representative works and milestones in western society. Develops techniques for listening analytically and critically. Reviews historical development and significance of art music within the context of evolving societal structures.

Credits: 3  
Prerequisites: None  
Graded Submissions: 5 Discussion Forums, 6 Playlists, 7 Listening Journals, 15 Assignments  
Assessments: 3 Exams  
Online Activities: Required

**COURSE PURPOSE**

Understand and recognize the role of art music within the context of society throughout Western history. Enhance knowledge of significant musicians and musical works. Identify various components within a composition or performance that influence the overall listening experience.

**COURSE MATERIALS**

This is a "zero" course, meaning all course materials are provided free of charge through Canvas.

**Note:** NRCC assumes no liability for virus, loss of data, or damage to software or computer when a student downloads software for classes.

*The Student's Guide to Online Learning* is available at <http://www.nr.edu/online/pdf/studentguide.pdf>.

## COURSE INFORMATION

**Prepared By:** Dr. Louise Billaud

**Approved By:** Mrs. Sarah Tolbert-Hurysz

### I. INTRODUCTION

**All coursework is ONLINE through CANVAS.**

There is no pre-requisite for this class and the credits are transferable.

#### **Advice**

- Read carefully Course Information, FAQs, and Panopto Lecture Advice under Modules.
- Follow instructions in the NRCC Canvas Quick Start Guide to set up notifications.
- Quick ways to find deadlines:
  1. Click View Course Calendar on the Home Page.
  2. Each Module contains posted deadline dates
- Check regularly your VCCS email, Canvas Inbox and Announcement page to access my weekly communications.
- The course begins with the Language of Music Module. Just work your way through each module paying careful attention to the due dates.
- Communication is key! Students are encouraged to address any questions or concerns to the professor via email or through the Canvas Inbox. If you prefer to meet “in person” let me know and we can schedule a Zoom meeting. I am here to help you succeed!

#### **Honor System**

- Students enrolled in this course agree to adhere to the NRCC Academic Honor Code in the NRCC Catalogue. Students will see the following statement prior to taking an exam:

*As a student adhering to the NRCC Honor Code, when you click on this exam you automatically agree to use no notes and complete the exam without the aid of any outside sources. Thank you in advance for your honesty and integrity.*

### II. COURSE OBJECTIVES

Upon completing the course, the student will be able to:

#### Communication

- Effectively communicate music observations through written and/or oral communication

#### Critical Thinking

- Identify and explain how various elements of a composition (melody, harmony, rhythm, pitch, timbre and texture) contribute to personal perception
- Evaluate a music performance (live, audio, or video) by analyzing various components/evidence that influenced viewpoint

#### Cultural and Social Understanding

- Demonstrate knowledge of the role of music in society
- Recognize/describe how music influences individuals and/or society
- Recognize/describe how individual and societal factors influence music creation

#### Personal Development

- Augment listening skills through assignments/assessments designed to listen analytically and critically to music
- Demonstrate the development of receptivity to music from different historical periods
- Cultivate personal goals related to music listening, participation, or performance attendance

### **III. GENERAL EDUCATION STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES INCLUDED IN COURSE**

General education at NRCC provides the educational foundation necessary to promote intellectual and personal development. Upon completing the associate degree, graduates will demonstrate competency in student learning outcomes in 1) civic engagement, 2) critical thinking, 3) professional readiness, 4) quantitative literacy, 5) scientific literacy, and 6) written communication.

This course includes the following general education student learning outcomes:

- Identify the problem or complex issue and its various parts.
- Identify central issues and assumptions of a problem or issue.
- Seek and evaluate the information needed to fully understand the problem or complex issue.
- Identify complexities of an issue, relevant perspectives and/or important relations when taking a position on a complex issue or problem.
- Analyze various perspectives of a problem or complex issue in order to reach a well-reasoned conclusion or solution.
- Communicate a controlling idea in a manner appropriate to the audience and occasion.
- Demonstrate appropriate workplace and classroom demeanor and behavior e.g., attendance (for online classes this means regular engagement), submissions of assignments by set deadlines and appropriate dress.
- Effectively communicate orally.
- Interact with honesty and integrity.

### **IV. COURSE CONTENT**

Students successfully completing this course will have, at a minimum, a functional knowledge of the following:

#### Elements of Music

- Demonstrate a knowledge of the basic elements of music, e.g., unity and variety, pitch, dynamics, timbre, duration and texture

### Building Blocks of Sound

- Identify types of notes and note names on a score
- Identify notes on a keyboard
- Identify instruments from the basic instrument groups (strings, woodwinds, brass, percussion, keyboard) as well as vocal timbres

### Structures of Music

- Demonstrate understanding of basic forms and structures of music, e.g., binary and ternary forms, sonata form, theme and variations
- Recognize the form of a given piece of music

### Historical Periods and Composers

- Demonstrate knowledge of distinguishing aspects of music history periods
- Identify various composers and their works
- Recognize historical-social context of each music history period

## V. GRADING/EVALUATION

The final grade for the course is determined by the grade percentages below.

Exam (3 total)	25%
Journals (7)	30%
Playlists (6)	15%
Discussions (5)	15%
In-class and E-mail assignments (15)	15%
<b>Weighted Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

Grading Scale:

A	90-100
B	80-89
C	70-79
D	60-69
F	59 and below

## VI. WITHDRAWAL POLICY

### **Student Initiated Withdrawal Policy**

A student may drop or withdraw from a class without academic penalty during the first 60 percent of a session. For purposes of enrollment reporting, the following procedures apply:

- If a student withdraws from a class prior to the termination of the add/drop period for the session, the student will be removed from the class roll and no grade will be awarded.
- After the add/drop period, but prior to completion of 60 percent of a session, a student who withdraws from a class will be assigned a grade of "W." A grade of "W" implies that the student was making satisfactory progress in the class at the time of withdrawal, that the withdrawal was officially made before the deadline published in the college calendar, or that the student was administratively transferred to a different program.
- After that time, if a student withdraws from a class, a grade of "F" or "U" will be assigned. Exceptions to this policy may be made under documented mitigating circumstances if the student was passing the course at the last date of attendance.

A retroactive grade of "W" may be awarded only if the student would have been eligible under the previously stated policy to receive a "W" on the last date of class attendance. The last date of attendance for an online course will be the last date that work was submitted.

Late withdrawal appeals will be reviewed and a decision made by the Coordinator of Admissions and Records.

### **No-Show Policy**

A student must either attend face-to-face courses or demonstrate participation in online courses by the last date to drop for a refund. A student who does not meet this deadline will be reported to the Admissions and Records Office and will be withdrawn as a no-show student. No refund will be applicable, and the student will not be allowed to attend/ participate in the class or submit assignments. Failure to attend or participate in a course will adversely impact a student's financial aid award.

### **Instructor Initiated Withdrawal**

A student who adds a class or registers after the first day of class is counted absent from all class meetings missed. Each instructor is responsible for keeping a record of student attendance (face-to-face classes) or performance/participation (online classes) in each class throughout the semester.

When a student's absences equal twice the number of weekly meetings of a class (equivalent amount of time for summer session), the student may be dropped for unsatisfactory attendance in the class by the instructor.

Since attendance is not a valid measurement for online, a student may be withdrawn due to non-performance. A student should refer to his/her online course plan for the instructor's policy.

When an instructor withdraws a student for unsatisfactory attendance (face-to-face class) or non-performance (online), the last date of attendance/participation will be documented. A grade of "W" will be recorded during the first sixty percent (60%) period of a course. A student withdrawn after the sixty percent (60%) period will receive a grade of "F" or "U" except under documented mitigating circumstances when a letter of appeal has been submitted by the student. A copy of this documentation must be placed in the student's academic file.

The student will be notified of the withdrawal by the Admissions and Records Office. An appeal of reinstatement into the class may be approved only by the instructor and dean.

## **VII. CHEATING/PLAGIARISM POLICY**

A grade of "F" will be awarded for the semester to any student caught cheating. This includes plagiarism, which is defined as "To present another's words or ideas as one's own or without attribution" (American Heritage Dictionary, 2019). Remember that plagiarism includes using words or ideas from Internet sites, as well as copying from print sources.

## **VIII. DIVERSITY STATEMENT**

The NRCC community values the pluralistic nature of our society. We recognize diversity that includes, but is not limited to, race, ethnicity, religion, culture, social class, economic status, age, gender, sexual orientation, personal identity and physical or mental capability. We respect the variety of ideas, experiences and practices that such diversity entails. We commit to ensuring equal opportunity and sustaining a climate of civility for all who work or study at NRCC, or who otherwise participate in the life of the college.

## **IX. DISABILITY STATEMENT**

If you are a student with a disability and in need of accommodations for this course, please contact the Center for Disability Services (CDS) for assistance. CDS is located within the Advising Center in Rooker Hall. For more information about disabilities services, see [Center for Disability Services Policies and Procedures](#).

# New River Community College

## General Health Guidelines and Student Expectations

Fall 2021 Semester

Given the recent COVID-19 pandemic and other transmissible illnesses common during the fall months, it is imperative that we follow specific health-related best practices.

As a condition for attending class or otherwise using NRCC facilities, you will be expected to follow the practices outlined below.

As a student, I agree to the following conditions:

1. I will not come to class or use NRCC facilities if I feel sick or stay on campus once I start feeling ill, regardless of symptoms. I will contact my instructor by text or email so that he/she is aware and can make instructional accommodations if necessary. I will stay in touch regularly with my instructor until I return to class.
2. If I am diagnosed with COVID-19, I will not come to class, and I will advise my instructor immediately of my diagnosis. I will stay in touch with my instructor as I am able and will not return to class until I have fully recovered.
3. If I am not fully vaccinated against COVID-19, I should wear a protective face covering (mask) while attending classes or using NRCC facilities.
4. I will practice appropriate handwashing and respiratory etiquette (cover my mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing and use tissues and throw them away).
5. In the event of health threats or changes in guidelines, I understand in-person classes may be moved online, fully or partially, and I will need to be prepared to access technology and the internet with as little as 24 hours' notice.

By continuing my enrollment in class(es), **I agree to meet each of the expectations outlined above.**

New River Community College encourages all students to fully vaccinate against COVID-19 and other transmissible illnesses. Information about vaccinations can be found on the Virginia Department of Health website at [www.vdh.virginia.gov](http://www.vdh.virginia.gov).