Three Masters: Beethoven, Brahms, Debussy

Spring, 2017

IDH 3931-117D

Mon. Period 5 (11:45-12:35)

Little Hall, 119

1 Credit

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Office hours: by appointment

**OBJECTIVES:** The premise of the course is that genuine appreciation of art music requires a thorough understanding of the specific work to which one listens. Many people are unaccustomed to listening to large-scale classical works and have not learned how to break such works down into recognizable sections. In this course, students will learn how to listen to three contrasting works, and develop tools to prepare themselves for similar experiences in the future. In-depth study, discussion, and analysis of three works, which they will hear in concert at the Phillips Center, will provide the opportunity for students to cover the works in detail.

Presentations at the end of the term will involve students choosing a major classical work (not one of the three covered in class) and applying skills they have learned to provide, in essence, a “pre-concert lecture” on the chosen work. The 30-50 minute presentations will seek to describe the work’s important and noteworthy aspects, including information about the composer, the genesis of the work, any applicable outside influences, structural analysis of the work itself, etc. Students will be graded on their preparation and participation in class, attendance of the concert, and the success of the presentation.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

* Attendance of:
  1. Royal Scottish National Orchestra
  2. March 19, 2017, 7:30pm, Phillips Center
     + - 1. Debussy – *Prelude to the Afternoon of a Faun* Brahms – *Violin Concerto* Beethoven – *Symphony no. 5*
* Students should plan to attend every class meeting. Much information must be covered before the concert on March 19.
* Note taking, assigned readings, etc.
* Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results/>.

**TEXT and MATERIALS:**

* Solomon, Maynard. *Beethoven* (Revised Edition). Schirmer Trade Books. 2001.
* Swafford, Jan. *Johannes Brahms: A Biography*. Knopf. 1997.
* Other readings from Boulez, Snyder, *et al*. (supplied by the instructor or placed on reserve).

**GRADING:**

* 50% of the **final grade** will be based on a capstone project, described below.
* 25% of the **final grade** will be based on attendance of the concert on March 19.
* 25% of the **final grade** will be based on student participation, completion of assigned readings, etc. Quizzes may be given to determine whether readings have been completed.
* Unexcused absence from the scheduled concert performance will result in a grade no higher than “C.”
* Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found at: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>.
* UF’s Grading Policy may be found here: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>.

**Noteworthy Dates:**

Monday, January 16—NO CLASS (MLK Holiday)

Monday, March 6—NO CLASS (Spring Break)

Wednesday, April 19—LAST DAY OF CLASSES

Thursday, April 27, 10:00AM-Noon—Final Exam time (if necessary)

**Class Schedule:**

January 9 Welcome, syllabus, introductory items, presentation guidelines

January 23 Lecture on elements of music, nomenclature, & analysis; Discuss Solomon ch. 1-5

January 30 Lecture on Beethoven Symphony no. 5; Discuss Solomon ch. 6-10

February 6 Lecture on Sym. no. 5 (cont’d); Discuss Solomon ch. 11-14 & 16

February 13 Lecture on Brahms Violin Concerto; Discuss Swafford Prologue, Introduction, ch. 1-2

February 20 Lecture on Violin Cto. (cont’d); Discuss Swafford ch. 3-5, & 7

February 27 Lecture on Debussy’s music; Discuss Swafford ch. 9, 14, &17

March 13 Review, Discussion of Concert Etiquette, Discuss Debussy readings (Boulez, Snyder)

March 19 Concert of the Royal Scottish National Orchestra, Curtis M. Philips Center, 7:30 PM

March 20 Concert discussion and reflection, Presentation Q & A

March 27 Form and Analysis, Presentation prep

April 3 Presentation prep, last chance Q & A

April 10 Final presentations

April 17 Final presentations

April 27 Final Exam at 10:00 AM (if necessary)

The schedule may change due to any number of factors. In an effort to treat all students fairly, IF there are any changes, they will be communicated clearly to the students. A certain amount of leniency may be granted regarding due dates or assignments in the event that changes are made to the schedule.

**Academic integrity:** UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.” The Honor Code (http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.

**Americans with Disabilities Act**: Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.