



**MUL 2010**  
**Understanding Music**  
*3 Credits*  
*Spring 2026*

**Instructor: Dr. David Stringer**  
Doctor of Music, FSU  
Master of Music, FSU  
Bachelor of Music, Stetson University

**GCSC Email Address:** [dstringer@gulfcoast.edu](mailto:dstringer@gulfcoast.edu)

**Email Response time:** I respond to emails normally within 24 hours with the exception of weekends and holidays. Email or Canvas works.

**Office Hours:** T-TH: 10:00-10:30 am (VPA 0148).

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Chair, Visual and Performing Arts  
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Senior Administrative Assistant  
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**Class Meeting Times:**

**11:00-12:15 Tuesday & Thursday (14596) Room: J.R. Asbell 0202**

**OR**

**12:30-1:45 Tuesday & Thursday (15506) Room: J.R. Asbell 0202**

**Course Description:**

This course will introduce students to the world of music and will include a survey of music elements, a chronological study of musical styles, composers, and forms. In addition, this course contains a “listening-based survey” of music literature and film scores. The course will run from January 9, 2026, through May 8, 2026.

**Catalog Description:** (Offered fall and spring). (Meets Fine Arts Humanities requirement). In this course, students will survey the history of Classical music from Antiquity to the Modern period, focusing on Western Music. The curriculum may also integrate a variety of popular and global styles where appropriate.

**Prerequisites:** None

## Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Students will discuss and analyze music using terminology appropriate for the course.
2. Students will demonstrate fundamental knowledge of the works of significant composers.
3. Students will identify connections between music and the other arts.
4. Students will identify historical styles and periods based on instruments and performance practices utilized.

### Learning Outcomes:

- Students will apply defined musical elements (dynamics, tone color, rhythm, melody, harmony, texture, and form) to describe characteristics of specific historical and/or cultural frameworks.
- Students will identify and define the elements of music. Weekly quizzes in Canvas will be given on the terms discussed in class.
- Students will learn the major musical historical periods and be able to identify specific compositions from each period (Middle Ages, Renaissance, Baroque, Classical, Romantic, Modern).
- Students will provide a written report of one concert attended this semester.

## Grading

### Basis for Grading is weighted as shown below:

➤ Chapter Quizzes	50%
➤ Midterm Exam	10%
➤ Final Exam	10%
➤ Attendance/Participation	15%
➤ Concert Report	15%

**AI Use Policy:** Limited Assistive Use Only: Students may use basic assistive technologies for spelling, grammar, and formatting (e.g., PaperRater or SpellCheckPlus); however, the use of AI tools (e.g., ChatGPT, Copilot, Grammarly's AI function, etc.) for generating, rewriting, or enhancing content is not permitted. All work must reflect the student's original ideas and writing. Representing work created by AI as one's own is a violation of academic integrity and may result in penalties, including a zero on the assignment and additional disciplinary actions as outlined in the college's academic integrity policy.

**GCSC Grading Scale:** The college catalog will be used to convert the numerical average to a letter grade. The college grading scale is: A (100-90), B (89-80), C (79-70), D (69-60), and F (59-0).

### Chapter Quizzes:

Each chapter covered in class will have a corresponding quiz in Canvas for you to complete. There are typically 20 questions, drawn from definitions and concepts in the book. The quizzes are due the week AFTER the chapter is covered in class. You will have 2 attempts for each quiz, using an open book, and your quiz responses will be shown. The weekly quizzes will LOCK and not be available after each Tuesday's due date.

**Attendance/Participation:** The material covered in class is interactive and requires student participation. People experience music differently, and varying opinions enhance your understanding of pieces/songs. I expect regular attendance and will take roll in every class. Missing more than 4 classes may negatively impact grades. Please be on time and ready to go! It is extremely important to keep up with the chapter reading **before** coming to class. This is not a course where the assignments can be completed at any point in the semester. This is a chronological course; the information each week builds on previous information. Occasional pop quizzes will be added to the attendance/participation grade.

**Attending Musical Performance:** Students must attend ONE musical performance this semester. This can be an event on or off campus, but it must be LIVE. Anything off campus must be pre-approved by the instructor. The review should be written using the musical terms and vocabulary presented in class. An example of a concert report can be found in Appendix III of the book (page A-23).

**Exams:** The Midterm and Final Exams will be online and taken in Canvas. There are typically 75 questions and open-book.

**Midterm Exam covers chapters 1-30.**

**Final Exam covers chapters 31-71**

**FINAL AND MIDTERM EXAMS MUST BE DONE ON TIME AND THERE WILL BE NO MAKE-UPS**

### **Course Rules/Policies/Important Dates:**

- Make-up quizzes are only permitted with proper documentation and are at the discretion of the instructor.
- Students may make up **no more than three assignments**, which must be approved by the instructor in advance. All other missed assignments will be graded as a zero.
- Be courteous in your emails and I will give you the same kind of response in return.
- Students are expected to be respectful to other students and their professors during class.
- The module titled "Classroom Policy" is a polite refresher on classroom etiquette.
- **No using distracting devices during class.**
- Enjoy your journey through music history!

**Course Materials:** Students will need to obtain new textbooks that contain online access codes.

**The Enjoyment of Music, Fourteenth Edition**  
Kristine Forney, Andrew Dell'Antonio, Joseph Machlis  
W. W. Norton & Company, Inc.  
ISBN: 978-0-393-87664-2  
(Loose-leaf Edition)

<https://wwnorton.com/books/9780393872439/>

## Syllabus Policy Statements

### Recording Class Lectures

In accordance with federal and state privacy laws, students may record class lectures for their own personal educational use, in connection with a complaint to the college, or as evidence in internal or external legal proceedings. Students may not publish or upload the recordings or any components thereof without the knowledge and written permission of the faculty member. Failure to obtain permission to publish could lead to the students' having to pay damages, attorney fees, and court costs. For more information about what can be recorded, please see the guidelines on pages 36-38 in the GCSC Student Handbook <https://www.gulfcoast.edu/current-students/student-handbooks/2021-2022-student-handbook.pdf>.

### Accessibility Statement

Gulf Coast State College supports an inclusive learning environment for all students. If there are aspects of the instruction or design of this course that hinder your full participation, reasonable accommodations can be arranged. Prior to receiving accommodations, you must register with Student Accessibility Services. Appropriate academic accommodations will be determined based on the documented needs of the student. For information regarding the registration process, email [sar@gulfcoast.edu](mailto:sar@gulfcoast.edu) or call 850-747-3243.

### Attendance & Withdrawal Policy

<b>Attendance:</b>	Regular class attendance and participation are significant factors that help to promote success in college. Students are expected to attend all class meetings of all courses for which they are registered.
<b>Student Withdrawals:</b>	Students wishing to withdraw from a course must complete a withdrawal form and submit the form to the Office of Enrollment Services before the scheduled withdrawal date as published on the college calendar. Student withdrawals initiated prior to the scheduled withdrawal deadline will be recorded as a grade of "W".
<b>Consequences of Withdrawals:</b>	Two withdrawals are permitted per credit course. After that, a grade will be assigned. Please be concerned about withdrawals. When admitting students into certain programs, universities may calculate withdrawals as grades. It is your responsibility to verify the effects of enrollment and/or withdrawal upon your financial assistance (financial aid, scholarships, grants, etc.).

### Academic Integrity Policy

- Honest participation in academic endeavors fosters an environment in which optimal learning can take place and is consistent with the college's mission.
- Academic misconduct, including cheating or plagiarism, is destructive to the spirit of an educational environment and therefore will not be tolerated.
- "Cheating" includes but is not limited to use of any unauthorized assistance in completing course work.
- "Plagiarism" includes, but is not limited to, the use by paraphrase or direct quotation of the published or unpublished work of another person without full and clear acknowledgment.
- Sanctions for incidences of academic misconduct, depending on the severity of the incidence and/or its repetition, may range from receiving an F grade (or zero) for the test, assignment, or activity, to failure of the course, to suspension or dismissal from the program or the college.

**All coursework must be created only by the student and no other person or entity, including ChatGPT or any AI programs.**