Course Syllabus

Understanding Music

MUL 2010 / 85156 / Fall 2026

3 Credit Hours/ 3 Contact Hours

No show deadline: Monday, August 31, 2026

Withdrawal deadline: Wednesday, October 14, 2026

Pre-requisites/Co-requisites: None

Contact Information

Instructor

Dr. Jennifer McAtee
Chair, Visual & Performing Arts
jmcatee@gulfcoast.edu
850.872.3887

Office Location: AC 122
Office Hours (Days & Times)
Response Time: 24 hours during business hours

Visual & Performing Arts DivisionChair

Dr. Jennifer McAtee
Chair, Visual & Performing Arts
jmcatee@gulfcoast.edu
850.872.3887

Division Administrative Assistant

Danyelle VanderHeide
Senior Administrative Assistant
dvanderhe@gulfcoast.edu
850.872.3886

Course Information

Catalog Description:

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. Includes selections from the Western canon.

Student Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this course, you will be able to:

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

Course Materials & Resources:

Title: The Enjoyment of Music (This book is required to complete the course.)
Authors: Kristine Forney, Andrew Dell'Antonio, & Joseph Machlis
Publisher: W.W. Norton
ISBN: 9780393872446 (loose-leaf) or 9780393664386 eBook
Additional Required Materials: None

Delivery Method:

This is a web-based course. All online courses at GCSC utilize the Canvas Learning System. Students should read all information presented in the Canvas course site and should periodically check for updates--at least every 48 hours. **Remember:** This course is not one in which students may work at their own pace. Each week, there are learning modules, assignments, online lectures, online discussions, and/or online exams with due dates. Refer to the schedule within this syllabus for more information.

Student Expectations

In this course, communication and feedback will occur through various channels, including GCSC email, Canvas Inbox, Canvas Announcements, Canvas Discussions, Microsoft Teams or Zoom, assignment feedback, and instructor office hours. Review the statements below so that you understand the expectations for communication.

As a student at Gulf Coast State College, you are expected to:

- **Adhere to Course Guidelines:** Follow the guidelines detailed in the course syllabus, along with any additional instructions provided by the instructor. This includes understanding and complying with the course objectives, grading criteria, and academic policies.
- **Maintain Regular Contact:** Keep in touch with your instructor and classmates via your GCSC email or other designated communication channels. Regular contact helps clarify doubts, share ideas, and foster a collaborative learning environment.

- **Active Participation:** Engage actively in class discussions and submit assignments on time. Your active participation is crucial for your academic success and contributes to a vibrant learning community.

As your instructor, my commitment to you is to:

- **Provide Timely Feedback:** I will review and provide feedback on your assignments and submissions promptly. My goal is to help you understand your strengths and areas for improvement, which is crucial for your academic growth.
- **Respond Via Canvas Inbox:** I will respond to your emails or messages within 24-48 hours (excluding weekends), unless otherwise noted. I understand the importance of clear and timely communication in addressing your questions and concerns.
- **Post Regular Announcements:** To keep you updated and help you manage your time effectively, I will send out weekly reminders via announcements. These reminders will include important dates, upcoming assignments, and any changes to the course schedule.
- **Maintain Weekly Office Hours:** I will maintain regular weekly office hours, but I can also be available by appointment. This is to ensure I'm available for any questions or concerns that may come up during the week.

Course Schedule

Week 1: Introduction to Academic Integrity

- Syllabus Quiz: Identify important course information via multiple choice and fill in the blank questions.
- Citation Video: Answer a few questions regarding MLA and APA formatting
- Plagiarism and Music Discussion: Discuss what plagiarism and copyright infringement is in music.
- Plagiarism & Academic Integrity Case Study: Answer multiple choice and fill in the blank questions applying what was learned about academic honesty to real world situations.

Week 2: Elements of Music

- Read Prelude 1 & Chapters 1 – 14 in the textbook and watch videos
- Complete Elements of Music Pt. 1 & Pt. 2 assignments
- Complete Role of Music Discussion
- Complete Listening Tutorials in Norton Courseware

Week 3: Elements of Music

- Read Prelude 1 & Chapters 1 – 14 in the textbook and watch videos
- Complete Elements of Music Pt. 2 quiz
- Complete Music as Art Discussions
- Complete Listening Tutorials in Norton Courseware

Week 4: Medieval Period

- Read Prelude 2 & Chapters 15-19 in the textbook & watch videos
- Complete the Medieval assignment
- Complete the Chivalry & Courtly Love Discussion

- Complete the Comparison Activity 1
- Complete Listening Tutorials in Norton Courseware

Week 5: Renaissance Period

- Read Chapters 19-22 in the textbook and watch videos
- Complete Renaissance assignment
- Complete the Renaissance Man Discussion
- Complete Listening Tutorials in Norton Courseware

Week 6:

- Complete Test 1 covering the Elements of music and the Medieval/Renaissance periods.

Week 7: Baroque Period

- Read Prelude 3 & Chapters 23 - 28 in the textbook and watch videos
- Complete Baroque Pt. 1 & 2 assignments
- Complete the Comparison Activity 2
- Complete Listening Tutorials in Norton Courseware

Week 8: Baroque Period

- Read Prelude 3 & Chapters 23 - 28 in the textbook and watch videos
- Complete Baroque Pt. 2 quiz
- Complete Baroque & Opera Discussion
- Complete Listening Tutorials in Norton Courseware

Week 9: Classical Period

- Read Prelude 4 & Chapters 31-33 in the textbook and watch videos
- Complete Classical Pt. 1 assignment
- Complete the Comparison Activity 3
- Complete Listening Tutorials in Norton Courseware

Week 10: Classical Period

- Read Chapters 34-38 in the textbook and watch videos
- Complete Classical Pt. 2 assignment
- Complete the Beethoven's Pastoral Project discussion
- Complete Listening Tutorials in Norton Courseware

Week 11:

- Complete Test 2 covering the Baroque & Classical periods.

Week 12: Romantic Period

- Read Prelude 5 & Chapters 39-42 in the textbook and watch videos
- Complete Romantic Pt. 1 quiz
- Complete the Comparison Activity 4
- Complete Listening Tutorials in Norton Courseware
- Complete Test 2

Week 13: Romantic Period Continued

- Read Chapters 43 – 45, 47-50 in the textbook and watch videos
- Complete Romantic Pt. 2 quiz
- Complete the Berlioz and Symphonie Fantastique discussion
- Complete Listening Tutorials in Norton Courseware

Week 14: Contemporary Period

- Read Prelude 6 & Chapters 55-57, 63, 66, 71 in the textbook and watch videos
- Complete Contemporary Pt. 1 quiz
- Complete the Yo-Yo Ma & Film Music discussion
- Complete Listening Tutorials in Norton Courseware

Week 15: Contemporary Period

- Read Prelude 6 & Chapters 55-57, 63, 66, 71 in the textbook and watch videos
- Complete Contemporary Pt. 2 assignments
- Complete the assessment prep question
- Complete Listening Tutorials in Norton Courseware

Week 16: Wrap Up

- Complete the Concert Review One-on-One within 7 days of the concert you attend
- Complete the assessment question
- Complete the Final Exam
- Complete the optional bonus opportunities

Grading

GCSC Grading Scale

A: 90 – 100%
B: 80 – 89%
C: 70 – 79%
D: 60 – 69%
F: 0 – 59%

Calculation of Grades

Assignments: 60%
Tests/Final: 20%
Listening Tutorials: 13%
Concert Review: 7%
Total: 100%

Incomplete Grades

Grades of Incomplete in any course can only be assigned to students who have an emergency arise during the last two weeks of the course. To receive an Incomplete, students must:

- Submit a written request to the instructor prior to the last face-to-face class meeting. For online courses, a written Incomplete request must be received no later than the week before the Final Exam period begins.
- Have completed no less than 60 percent of the course requirements and be passing the course at the time the request for an Incomplete is submitted.
-

Important Note: The Incomplete option provides 30 days from the date grades are due to make up any missing work; if work is not submitted during this period, the grade will automatically change to an “F” in Lighthouse.

Course Policies

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 Resources. Appropriate academic accommodations will be determined based on the documented needs of the student. Please visit GCSC's Student Accessibility Resource (SAR) webpage to learn more. For information regarding the registration process, email sar@gulfcoast.edu or call 850-747-3243.

Attendance Policy

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.

You are expected to know the instructor's specific attendance policy, as stated in the syllabus for each course. In the event of absence, you should contact your instructor as soon as possible to indicate the reason and to inquire whether make-up work is possible. (Make-up work is offered solely at the discretion of your professor.)

If your absences in a class become excessive, as stated in the course syllabus, your professor may contact you, indicating that further absence may result in your withdrawal from the course. Your professor can withdraw you from a course for excessive absences without your permission.

Instructors will monitor attendance at the beginning of each semester. If you are not in attendance during this period, you may be withdrawn from the course. You will be financially responsible for the course and a "W or NS" will appear on your transcript. Withdrawal from a course may also have implications for financial aid.

Make-Up Work Policy

Deadlines are critical to your success in this course. Weekly assignments are due Sunday night at 11:59 p.m. Please do not wait until the last minute to complete your work. Technical difficulties are not an excuse for submitting assignments late.

1. I will accept only 2 late weekly assignments during the semester.

2. Partial credit is given for late personal responses to the discussion board as long as they are made by the Sunday deadline listed in the assignment.

3. I do not award late points for assignments after they have been submitted and graded.

4. Concert reviews, tests, and the final exam are not accepted late and cannot be made up without documentation of extenuating circumstances.

It is your responsibility to let the instructor know what two assignments you would like to make up via email and be sure to check your email for confirmation and the due date. **Students may not make up tests or concert reviews. All late work requests must be made by Wednesday, December 2, 2026, by 11:59 p.m.**

Any additional late work will only be accepted in extreme circumstances with a documented emergency. If you have a serious medical condition that impacts your work, please let me know immediately. Be prepared to provide authentic documentation such as hospital dismissal papers, and other similar documents to support your circumstances. Late concert reviews or tests/finals will not be accepted.

Withdrawal Policy

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.). There are two kinds of withdrawals---student and administrative.

- *Student Withdrawal (W1)* - Students wishing to withdraw must complete the online Student Withdrawal Form before the scheduled withdrawal deadline as published in the College catalog. Student withdrawals initiated prior to the scheduled withdrawal deadline will be recorded as a grade of "W." The withdrawal deadline for an off-term or condensed term is one week after midterm.
- *Administrative Withdrawal (W2)* – A faculty member may withdraw a student up to the published withdrawal deadline for violation of the class attendance policy in which case the student will receive a grade of "W." The withdrawal deadline for an off-term or condensed term is one week after midterm.

Students cannot withdraw from developmental studies courses (college-preparatory classes) after the drop/add period without written permission from their instructor and/or their academic advisor.

Academic Integrity

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. GCSC professors report every instance of student academic misconduct to the college for inclusion on the student's records.
Most course syllabi include an academic honesty policy and the consequences for violating this policy. Familiarize yourself with course policies regarding authorized or unauthorized use of AI to avoid the pitfalls of academic dishonesty.

The following definitions will apply:

"Cheating"

includes but is not limited to use of any unauthorized assistance in taking quizzes, tests, or examinations; dependence upon the aid of sources beyond those authorized by the instructor in writing papers, preparing reports, solving problems, or carrying out other assignments; the acquisition without permission of tests or other academic materials belonging to a member of the College's faculty.

"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 as well as the purchase of papers or projects. It can also include overuse of an editing program like Grammarly or submitting work written by an Artificial Intelligence (AI) generator like ChatGPT. Make certain to consult your course syllabi for your instructor's guidelines of AI material.

"Self-plagiarism"

occurs when a student submits the same or considerably similar document to fulfill requirements in different classes. For example, if a student submits a term paper in Religion they originally wrote for an English class, this is self-plagiarism. Once a paper receives a grade in one class, it cannot be submitted again for another class.

"Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI)"

is technology that uses machine learning to create new content, such as text, images or code, based on user input. These systems are trained on vast amounts of data, including large language models and image or code generators. Common examples include ChatGPT, GitHub, Copilot, Google Gemini, Perplexity, and the Grammarly AI function.
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 0) for the test, assignment, or activity, to failure of the course, to suspension or dismissal from the college.

Classroom Recording

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 in the GCSC Student Handbook.

Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy

The use of generative AI tools in academic work requires clear guidelines to maintain academic integrity. Please review the policy selected for this course regarding the use of AI tools such as ChatGPT, Copilot, Grammarly's AI features, and similar platforms for assignments, research, and other coursework.

See the student handbook for further information. Students with questions about acceptable use should consult their instructor. Review the three AI policy statements provided. Choose which policy best matches your teaching approach, then delete the two unused statements, keeping only the one that reflects your course's AI guidelines.

Prohibited Use of AI

The use of AI-generated content is strictly prohibited in all assignments, coursework, and throughout all stages of the work process, such as brainstorming, outlining, or drafting. This includes but is not limited to, tools such as ChatGPT, Copilot, and Grammarly's AI function. Use of AI tools will be treated as 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.

Anti-Discrimination Policy

Gulf Coast State College does not discriminate against any person in its programs, activities, policies or procedures on the basis of race, ethnicity, color, national origin, marital status, religion, age, gender, sex, pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity, genetic information, disability, or veteran status. All questions or inquiries regarding compliance with laws relating to non-discrimination and all complaints regarding sexual misconduct or discrimination may be directed to Amanda Reed, Executive Director of Human Resources/Title II/504/Title IX Coordinator and Employment Equity Officer, Gulf Coast State College, 5230 W. US Highway 98, Panama City, FL 32401; 850-769-1551, ext. 3516. Rules, policies, fees, and courses described in this catalog are subject to change without notice.

Syllabus Policy

For any syllabus posted prior to the beginning of the term, the instructor reserves the right to make minor changes prior to or during the term. The instructor will notify students via e-mail or Canvas announcement when changes are made to the requirements and/or grading of the course.

Student Support Resources

Gulf Coast State College is committed to providing you with the resources you need for success as a student and beyond. View all the academic and student support resources provided at GCSC on the Student Services web page.

Course Technology & Support

To successfully participate in this online course, students must have basic computer and digital information literacy skills and meet the following technology requirements:

- **Computer:** Up-to-date web browser that supports the Canvas learning management system; please refer to the system requirements for compatibility and information on using the Canvas app on mobile devices.
- **Internet Speed**: Minimum bandwidth of 8 Mbps upload/download speed to effectively engage in online activities and access multimedia.
- **Office 365 software:** Available for free download through GCSC Information Technology Services (ITS).

If you need technical support, contact the ITS Help Desk, available 24/7 at (850) 913-3303.