



# Course Syllabus

## Understanding Music

MUL 2010 / 85155 / Fall 2026  
3 Credit / Contact Hours  
No pre-requisites/co-requisites required

## Contact Information

### Instructor

Dr. Steven DiBlasi  
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By Appointment or See Posted Schedule  
Response Time of 48 hrs. or less

### Division Chair

Dr. Jennifer McAtee  
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## 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 works from the western canon.

### Student Learning Outcomes:

- 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:

*The Enjoyment of Music*, 14<sup>th</sup> Edition by Forney, Dell'Anotonio, and Machlis, 2022, W.W. Norton & Company, ISBN 978-0-393-87243-9

### Delivery Method:

This course meets face-to-face. Course material, assignments, and announcements may be offered via Canvas as a supplemental approach to learning at the discretion of the instructor. Please make sure that you have access to a computer with a webcam and internet service in the event a change in course delivery is needed.

**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 and within Canvas 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

Dates	Module	Description
<b>Weeks 1-4</b>	1	<b>The Materials of Music</b> Establish and define the vocabulary of music's individual components, instruments, ensembles, and functions in society Textbook Readings: Prelude 1 and Chapters 1-14 Assessments: Discussion on Musical Preferences, Step One of the Project, Activities on Vocabulary and Active Listening, and Quiz
<b>Weeks 5-7</b>	2	<b>The Middle Ages, Renaissance, and Baroque Eras</b> Listen, analyze, and place in context the music and composers from c. 450 - 1750 Textbook Readings: Preludes 2-3 and Chapters 15-30 Assessments: Interview activity, Step Two of Project, and Quiz
<b>Weeks 8-10</b>	3	<b>Eighteenth-Century Classicism and The Nineteenth Century</b> Listen, analyze, and place in context the music and composers from c. 1750 - 1900 Textbook Readings: Preludes 4-5 and Chapters 31-54 Assessments: Midterm and Quiz
<b>Weeks 11-13</b>	4	<b>Twentieth-Century Modernism and Postmodernism</b> Listen, analyze, and place in context the music and composers from c. 1900 - Present Textbook Readings: Preludes 6-7 and Chapters 55-74 Assessments: Step Three of Project and Quiz
<b>Weeks 14-15</b>	5	<b>Musical Narratives</b> Listen, analyze, and identify the unique historical and current trends in film music and ludomusicology Textbook Readings: Review Chapters 18, 29-30, 51, 63, and 71 Assessments: Film scoring activity and Quiz

<b>Week 16</b>	6	<b>Review</b> Review the course content in preparation for the final and complete/submit student projects/presentations Assessments: Step Four of Project and Final Exam
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## Grading

### GCSC Grading Scale

Each faculty member will explain the grading system employed in each course (see below). Students are responsible for obtaining a clear understanding of this process. Final grades are available the week after the end of each term. Students may access grades in Student Dashboard through MyGCSC. All grades will be posted in the student grade book in Canvas and will be assigned according to the following scale:

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

### Calculation of Grades

Grades will be taken frequently and in a variety of styles in an effort to provide an equitable experience for each student. Assessments will come from discussions, class participation, listening and low-risk quizzes, student presentations or papers, and exams. Your final grade will be an average of all of these. An outline of the values and percentages of each assessment would include the following areas:

- Attendance / Participation – 50 pts total  $\approx$  20% of final grade
- 5 activities and/or discussions – 10 pts each – 50 pts total  $\approx$  20% of final grade
- 1 student project – 50 pts total  $\approx$  20% of final grade
  - Four-step grading process for the presentation with each step counting for 12.5 points each (see full rubric in Canvas)
- 5 low-risk quizzes – 10 pts each – 50 pts total  $\approx$  20% of final grade
- 2 exams – 25 pts each – 50 pts total  $\approx$  20% of final grade

A tentative outline of the due dates of each of the assessments can be seen in the Course Outline (above) and more information about each of the assessments (including grading rubrics) can be found on Canvas.

## 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](mailto: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

Regular participation in class materials is expected. Course materials for classes are released in an intentional order and within a specific time frame that aligns with assessment dates. Although frequent, low-risk assessments can help make the grading process more equitable, it would be preposterous to believe all of the information covered in class could make its way on to a grade somewhere. However, new information rarely does well in a vacuum. The connections we make in discussion boards, listening activities, and personal explorations will make the heavier graded portions of our content all the more accessible to you. As such, extended, uncommunicated absences will result in a lower final grade. **When absences are communicated in advance of due dates and equitability can be maintained with your colleagues, make-up work may be permitted.**

## 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.

One of the primary reasons behind the strict prohibition of AI-generated content in this course is to offer support, assistance, and value to your own thoughts/experience, communication style, and work efforts. The uniqueness of your response to our work together has exceptional value and supporting that individuality is important.

## 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 in 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.