

MUMH 4070
Opera Literature
UNT – Fall 2017
TR 11:00 am-12:20 pm, Music 293

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Office hours: TR 9-10 am (or by appointment).

Required Text:

Thomas Forrest Kelly, *First Nights at the Opera* (New Haven and London: Yale University Press, 2004).

Further course material will be made available either online or on reserve in the music library.

Course Summary

Opera is one of the truly successful genres of Western music. From its beginnings in the late sixteenth century, it proved to be popular with (most) of its audiences, as well as with sponsors. Operas not only reflect current musical trends, but also show a deep connection with social, ideological, and political structures of their historical contexts.

In this class, we will investigate those aspects throughout opera's rich history, using a case-study approach. Case studies include Claudio Monteverdi, *L'incoronazione di Poppea*, Georg Friedrich Händel, *Giulio Cesare in Egitto*, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, *Don Giovanni*, Richard Wagner, *Das Rheingold*, Giuseppe Verdi, *Otello*, and Leonard Bernstein, *West Side Story*. Much of the discussions will take place in smaller study groups (aka "Academies").

Objectives

1. To raise awareness of generic properties and problems concerning Opera.
2. To learn applying methods from various areas to musicological research.
3. To foster team-work, and to built collaborative working skills.

Grading

NOTE: All due dates are final. Given a good reason (which I expect to be discussed ahead of the deadline!) I may choose to accept late work, but since the keeping to schedules is part of your performance, there will be a grade reduction relative to the number of days your assignment is late. For your oral presentation, no delay can be accepted.

Grading scale: 100-90% = A, 90-80% = B, 80-70% = C, 70-60% =D, <60% = F. Individual assignments are graded with points according to their relative percentage of the overall grade. For assigned course work, letter grades are given as a way of informing you about your performance.

Assignments

Assignment	Due Date	% of grade
1. 3 Discussion Reviews	9/19, 9/26, 10/3, 10/10, 10/17, 10/24, 10/31, 11/7, 11/14, 11/21, 11/30, 12/5	3x10=30
2. 3 Writing Assignments	10/3, 10/31, and 11/28	3x15=45
3. Peer Comment	10/17	5
4. Attendance / Participation	Throughout	20

In order to facilitate collaborative research, each student will be assigned to one Academy, in which most of in-class discussions will take place.

1. Discussion Reviews: For each of the Academy sessions on 9/14, 9/21, 9/28, 10/5, 10/12, 10/19, 10/26, 11/2, 11/9, 11/16, 11/28, and 11/30, one member of the Academy takes over the duty of writing a review of the discussion that took place; each member is expected to submit 3 Reviews. They are due **in the class period following the respective session**, i.e., 9/19, 9/26, 10/3, 10/10, 10/17, 10/24, 10/31, 11/7, 11/14, 11/21, 11/30, and 12/5. Rather than just reporting the discussion bit by bit, the Reviews should contain general information on the topic under discussion (such as the text the discussion is based on), as well as a discussion of the *results* of the debate. Individual points of view need only be attributed by name in case of divergence of opinion. In such cases, the Review should present both sides of the argument in a fair manner.

2. Writing assignments: written discussion papers on specific topics as set by me in an assignment sheet. Length: 4-5 pages, Times New Roman, 12 pt., double-spaced, 1-inch margins. Deadlines are **10/3, 10/31, and 11/28**.

3. Peer Comment: Write a 1-page response to a colleague's Writing Assignment. Deadline: **10/17**.

4. Attendance / Participation: You are expected to attend this course regularly and punctually. Missing a class, or even late arrival / early departure, will affect your grade! Late arrival or early departure will lose you one point on the Attendance score. If you miss or partially miss more than 3 classes, you will automatically lose your entire participation score; if you miss or partially miss more than 4 classes, you will be dropped from the course with a grade of WF (or F after 11/21). The university recognizes only two reasons for an absence to be excused: for a religious holiday or a university-sponsored event (please refer to your course catalogues, "Authorized Absence" and "Absence for Religious Holidays"). Please note that you must contact me about an upcoming excused absence ahead of time. I may be willing to excuse a student for professional reasons, but you must ask for and receive my permission ahead of time.

Be advised: Since 20% of the grade is based on this section (Participation / Attendance) alone, poor participation and attendance may already make you lose two letter grades!!!

The use of cell phones, pagers, or personal digital assistants (PDAs) will not be tolerated in class. They must be switched off and out of sight. Laptops and tablets will be allowed as long as

they are used for class purposes only – email, messaging, or phone functions must be switched off. The use of Wikipedia in class is strongly discouraged.

Academic Integrity

Students caught cheating or plagiarizing will receive 0 points for that particular assignment or exam. Additionally, the incident will be reported to the Dean of Students, who may impose further penalty. According to the UNT catalog, the term “cheating” includes, but is not limited to: a. use of any unauthorized assistance in taking quizzes, tests, or examinations; b. dependence upon the aid of sources beyond those authorized by the instructor in writing papers, preparing reports, solving problems, or carrying out other assignments; c. the acquisition, without permission, of tests or other academic material belonging to a faculty or staff member of the university; d. dual submission of a paper or project, or resubmission of a paper or project to a different class without express permission from the instructor(s); or e. any other act designed to give a student an unfair advantage. The term “plagiarism” includes, but is not limited to: a. the knowing or negligent use by paraphrase or direct quotation of the published or unpublished work of another person without full and clear acknowledgment; and b. the knowing or negligent unacknowledged use of materials prepared by another person or agency engaged in the selling of term papers or other academic materials.

Link: <http://facultysuccess.unt.edu/academic-integrity>.

Student Behavior in the Classroom

Student behavior that interferes with an instructor’s ability to conduct a class or other students’ opportunity to learn is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated in any instructional forum at UNT. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior will be directed to leave the classroom and the instructor may refer the student to the Dean of Students to consider whether the student’s conduct violated the Code of Student Conduct. The university’s expectations for student conduct apply to all instructional forums, including university and electronic classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. (Also see below, UNT Care Team).

Link: <https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct>.

Access to Information / Eagle Connect

Your access point for business and academic services at UNT occurs at <http://my.unt.edu>. All official communication from the university will be delivered to your Eagle Connect account. For more information, please visit the website that explains Eagle Connect.

Link: <http://eagleconnect.unt.edu/>

Office of Disability Accommodation

The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide you with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You may request accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester

to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. For additional information see the Office of Disability Accommodation.

Link: <http://disability.unt.edu> Phone: (940) 565-4323)

Financial Aid Satisfactory Academic Progress

A student must maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) to continue to receive financial aid. Students must maintain a minimum 2.0 cumulative GPA in addition to successfully completing a required number of credit hours based on total registered hours per term. Students cannot exceed attempted credit hours above 150% of their required degree plan. If a student does not maintain the required standards, the student may lose their financial aid eligibility. Students holding music scholarships must maintain a minimum 2.5 overall cumulative GPA and 3.0 cumulative GPA in music courses.

If at any point you consider dropping this or any other course, please be advised that the decision to do so may have the potential to affect your current and future financial aid eligibility. It is recommended that you to schedule a meeting with an academic advisor in your college or visit the Student Financial Aid and Scholarships office to discuss dropping a course being doing so.

Link: <http://financialaid.unt.edu/sap>

Retention of Student Records

Student records pertaining to this course are maintained in a secure location by the instructor of record. All records such as exams, answer sheets (with keys), and written papers submitted during the duration of the course are kept for at least one calendar year after course completion. Course work completed via the Blackboard online system, including grading information and comments, is also stored in a safe electronic environment for one year. You have a right to view your individual record; however, information about your records will not be divulged to other individuals without the proper written consent. You are encouraged to review the Public Information Policy and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) laws and the university's policy in accordance with those mandates.

Link: <http://ferpa.unt.edu/>

Student Perceptions of Teaching (SPOT)

Student feedback is important and an essential part of participation in this course. The student evaluation of instruction is a requirement for all organized classes at UNT. The short SPOT survey will be made available **during the second half of November** to provide you with an opportunity to evaluate how this course is taught. For the Fall 2017 semester you will receive an email from "UNT SPOT Course Evaluations via *IASystem* Notification" (noreply@iasystem.org) with the survey link. Please look for the email in your UNT email inbox. Simply click on the link and complete your survey. Once you complete the survey you will receive a confirmation email that the survey has been submitted. For additional information, please visit the spot website at www.spot.unt.edu or email spot@unt.edu. The survey is anonymous.

Responding to Students in Distress: UNT CARE Team

Please visit the CARE Team website to tips to recognize students in distress and what you need to do in cases of extreme behavior or references to suicide.

Link: <http://studentaffairs.unt.edu/care>

Schedule of Classes and Assignments

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TOPIC</u>	<u>ASSIGNMENT DUE</u>
8/28 Tue	Introduction	
8/30 Thurs	<u>What is Opera:</u> Opera as Drama I	<u>Read:</u> Tim Carter, “What is Opera?,” in <i>The Oxford Handbook of Opera</i> , edited by Helen M. Greenwald (Oxford and New York: Oxford University Press, 2014), 15-32.
9/5 Tue	<u>What is Opera:</u> Opera as Drama II	
9/7 Thurs	<u>Opera History:</u> The Beginnings	<u>Read:</u> David R. B. Kimbell, <i>Italian Opera</i> (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1991), 19-52.
9/12 Tue	<u>Opera History:</u> Claudio Monteverdi	
9/14 Thurs	Academy I: <i>Incoronazione di Poppea</i>	<u>Read:</u> Ellen Rosand, <i>Opera in Seventeenth-Century Venice: The Creation of a Genre</i> (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1991), 10-34.
9/19 Tue	<u>Opera History:</u> Venetian Opera	
9/21 Thurs	Academy II: <i>Incoronazione di Poppea</i>	<u>Read:</u> Ellen Rosand, Article “Incoronazione di Poppea”, in Grove Music Online (The New Grove Dictionary of Opera). <u>Listen:</u> Monteverdi, <i>L'incoronazione di Poppea</i> , Act 1.
9/26 Tue	<u>Opera History:</u> <i>Opera seria</i>	

9/28 Thurs	Academy III: <i>Giulio Cesare in Egitto</i>	<u>Read:</u> Kelly, <i>First Nights at the Opera</i> , 3-51.
10/3 Tue	<u>What is Opera:</u> Opera and Reform	Writing Assignment I
10/5 Thurs	Academy IV: <i>Giulio Cesare in Egitto</i>	<u>Read:</u> Kelly, <i>First Nights at the Opera</i> , 55-61. <u>Listen:</u> Handel, <i>Giulio Cesare in Egitto</i> , Act 1.
10/10 Tue	<u>Opera History:</u> The Classical Era	
10/12 Thurs	Academy V: <i>Don Giovanni</i>	<u>Read:</u> Kelly, <i>First Nights at the Opera</i> , 65-111.
10/17 Tue	<u>What is Opera:</u> National Opera	Peer Comment
10/19 Thurs	Academy VI: <i>Don Giovanni</i>	<u>Read:</u> Kelly, <i>First Nights at the Opera</i> , 115-130. <u>Listen:</u> Mozart, <i>Don Giovanni</i> , Act 2.
10/24 Tue	<u>Opera History:</u> Moving into the 19 th Century	
10/26 Thurs	Academy VII: <i>Das Rheingold</i>	<u>Read:</u> Kelly, <i>First Nights at the Opera</i> , 231-279.
10/31 Tue	<u>Opera History:</u> Wagnerism	Writing Assignment II
11/2 Thurs	Academy VIII: <i>Das Rheingold</i>	<u>Read:</u> Kelly, <i>First Nights at the Opera</i> , 283-313. <u>Listen:</u> Wagner, <i>Das Rheingold</i> , First Tableau.
11/7 Tue	<u>What is Opera:</u> Singers	
11/9 Thurs	Academy IX: <i>Otello</i>	<u>Read:</u> Kelly, <i>First Nights at the Opera</i> , 317-363.
11/14 Tue	<u>Opera History:</u> Tradition and Revolution	

11/16 Thurs	Academy X: <i>Otello</i>	<u>Read:</u> Kelly, <i>First Nights at the Opera</i> , 367-387. <u>Listen:</u> Verdi, <i>Otello</i> , Acts 3 and 4.
11/21 Tue	<u>Opera History:</u> Opera post-1945	
11/23 Thurs		<i>Thanksgiving Break</i>
11/28 Tue	Academy XI: <i>West Side Story</i>	Writing Assignment III <u>Read:</u> Thomas Forrest Kelly, <i>Music Then and Now</i> (New York: Norton, 2013), 498-525.
11/30 Thurs	Academy XII: <i>West Side Story</i>	<u>Listen:</u> Bernstein, <i>West Side Story</i> (complete)
12/5 Tue	<u>What is Opera:</u> “Operatic” vs. “Dramatic”	
12/7 Thurs	Conclusion	