

MUMH 4070

Operatic Literature



MWF 11-11:50
Music 290
University of North Texas
College of Music
Fall 2018

Instructor – Dr. Peter Mondelli
Office – Music 308
Office Hours – WF 10-11
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What is opera? And how might we explain its power to captivate for more than four centuries? This class will address the genre's biggest questions by surveying it thematically – inquiring into how its unique combination of voices, instruments, staging, and drama have commented on humanistic concerns like love, death, power, and forgiveness. As such, this will not be a traditional music history course. It is modelled, rather, on literature: we will treat these works as our texts and seek to understand how they work artistically, emotionally, thematically, even philosophically. We will, to be sure, turn to historical contexts when needed, but will do so with an eye toward bigger questions. How does opera work? And what, perhaps, does it tell us about who are, and who we want to be?

Reading and Listening

There is no required text. All required readings will be made available on Blackboard.

All required listening will be available online, primarily through the “Opera on Video” resource.

Reading and listening assignments should be completed before class.

Attendance and Class Participation

Regular attendance is expected. I will keep a record of absences, and will reserve the right to withdraw or fail any student who misses more than seven classes. Of course, I recognize that personal and professional lives can get hectic, and am willing to make accommodations *with advance notice*.

Regular participation is also expected. This is an upper-level course; therefore, you should expect to learn as much from each other as from me and the readings. You should come to class prepared to discuss the topic at hand. I intend to keep the day-to-day workload light in order to facilitate more in-depth discussions. These conversations cannot happen, however, if you have not put in work outside of class. Your level of preparedness and participation will figure heavily into your final grade.

Response Papers

During the term, you will turn in three short (~2 page) response papers. These papers will give you a chance to address some of the issues in class in greater depth.

Final Paper

For the end of the term, you will write a longer (~7-10 page) final paper on the topic of your choice. I will check in on your progress during the semester, so as to avoid (as much as possible) a last-minute rush.

Grading

Attendance and class participation	40%
Response Papers	30%
Final Paper	30%

Academic Integrity

Students caught cheating or plagiarizing will receive a “0” 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:

- ❖ 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 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)
- ❖ any other act designed to give a student an unfair advantage.

The term “plagiarism” includes, but is not limited to:

- ❖ the knowing or negligent use by paraphrase or direct quotation of the published or unpublished work of another person without full and clear acknowledgment
- ❖ 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.

Student Behavior

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.

Access to Information – Eagle Connect

Your access point for business and academic services at UNT occurs at 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.

ODA Statement

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.

Financial Aid and 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.

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/Canvas 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.

Counseling and Testing

UNT's Center for Counseling and Testing has an available counselor whose position includes 16 hours per week of dedicated service to students in the College of Music and the College of Visual Arts and Design.

The counselor for music students is:

Myriam Reynolds
Chestnut Hall, Suite 311
(940) 565-2741
Myriam.reynolds@unt.edu

Course Overview

Week 1 - Introduction

Unit 1 – Understanding the Genre

Week 2

Janáček's *Jenůfa*

Week 3

Donizetti's *Lucia di Lammermoor*

Unit 2 – Opera and Literature

Week 4

Britten's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*

Week 5

Massenet's *Werther*

Unit 3 – Love and Death

Week 6

Wagner's *Die Walküre*

Week 7

Debussy's *Pelléas et Mélisande*

Week 8

Saariaho's *Amour de loin*

Unit 4 – Power and Politics

Week 9

Mozart's *Le Nozze di Figaro*

Week 10

Monteverdi's *L'Incoronazione di Poppea*

Week 11

Verdi's *Don Carlos*

Unit 5 – Opera and Controversy

Week 12

Shostakovich's *Lady Macbeth of Mtsensk*

Week 13

Adams's *The Death of Klinghoffer*

Unit 6 – Staging and Filming

Week 14

Handel's *Giulio Cesare*

Week 15

Rossini's *La Pietra del Paragone*