

**Jacksonville State University**  
**College of Arts and Sciences**  
**Updated June 27, 2006**

**MU 233 INTRODUCTION TO MUSIC**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Music fundamentals, literature, and appreciation. (Meets Area II General Studies Requirement)

**TEXT**

*Understanding Music*, Jeremy Yudkin, 4<sup>th</sup> Edition, published by Prentice Hall and accompanying CDs.

**OBJECTIVE**

To analyze, describe, and identify Musical Styles through informed listening while associating these styles with their historical and cultural context.

**TOPICS**

- a) Importance of Music (Cultural significance)
- b) What is Music?
- c) Music Listening (or Listening musically)
- d) Style (Defined—initial style recognized)
- e) Texture (Density; Contributors to texture—rhythm, melody, harmony, instrumentation; Texture types)
- f) Instruments/Voices/Ensembles (Instrument families; how they work; standard ensembles)
- g) Form (Simple Forms-12bar blues, 32 bar form, ABA; Aural recognition of simple forms; Advanced Forms-Rondo, Theme and Variations, Sonata)
- h) Musical Style-Using style to identify, describe, and enjoy music

**COURSE GOALS**

- a) Discuss and define music and describe its cultural significance;
- b) Develop good listening habits;
- c) Develop an understanding of the music textural elements: Density, Melody, Harmony, Rhythm, and Color;
- d) Develop an understanding of instruments/voices and the ensembles in which they are employed;
- e) Develop an understanding of the concept and importance of Form;
- f) Make critical judgments regarding Musical Style utilizing concepts presented in the course.

## CONCERT ATTENDANCE

Attend 3 live concerts and write a review describing the music according to Texture (1<sup>st</sup> concert), Instruments/Ensembles (2<sup>nd</sup> concert), and Form (3<sup>rd</sup> concert). Additional concerts may be reviewed for extra credit, i.e.—Review a concert and received 5 extra points to your lowest test score.

## COURSE OUTLINE

Week 1	Course Introduction/What is Music? Musical Style and Style Periods
Week 2	Listening/ <i>Language of Music</i> Rhythm and Notation
Week 3	Melody/Harmony Texture Types
Week 4	Instruments/Ensembles Instruments/Ensembles-Quiz Review
Week 5	<b>Language of Music Quiz</b> <i>Music as Intrinsic Value: Renaissance/Baroque</i>
Week 6	Classical Classical
Week 7	Romanticism 20th Century and Today
Week 8	20th Century and Today Jazz-America's Music
Week 9	Jazz-America's Music <b>Music as Intrinsic Value Quiz</b>
Week 10	Music as a Social Force: Religion Romance (Human Expression)
Week 11	Romance (Human Expression) War (Propaganda Music)
Week 12	War (Propaganda Music) <b>Music as a Social Force Quiz</b>
Week 13	Review for final
<b>Week 14</b>	<b>Final</b>

## Listening Reviews

### Description

The skill of “Listening” is paramount to the understanding of any Music. As such, “Listening” is a significant component in this course. The students will strengthen “Listening Skills” through discussion and regular practice.

### Written Review Requirements

- a) Listen to the assigned piece(s). Each piece will require multiple “listenings”.
- b) Consider the elements which are assigned to be reviewed (as assigned throughout the semester)
- c) Write an essay describing the elements as you heard them:
  - i. 1-2 pages;
  - ii. single spaced;
  - iii. 11 point, Times-Roman type face;
  - iv. Use correct spelling, sentence structure, and grammar;
  - v. Use CD counter numbers in reference to elements;

### Recorded Examples

Examples will largely be taken from the CDs that accompany the text. However, a few examples will be placed on Reserve in Houston Cole Library, 6<sup>th</sup> floor.

### Live Concerts

The JSU Department of Music presents many live concerts during the semester. Live music offers a much different musical experience over recorded music. Therefore, two of live concerts (to be assigned at a later date) will be required. **No written review will be required.** You must only attend. There will be a short pre/post meeting for those attending to discuss the concert and take attendance.

If you cannot attend a live concert, you may complete two written “Listening Reviews” of recorded music. These reviews will be due prior to the assigned concert. No late written reviews will be accepted. See the instructor for approval of appropriate musical examples.

- Listening examples and elements will be assigned as the semester progresses.
- Listening Review Deadlines must be observed
- Extra Listening will gain you extra points.
- Plan to dress appropriately for live concerts.

- Concert etiquette will be discussed and expected.