

Let me first say, I'm looking forward to working with all of you this semester. Many of you may be thinking that a semester studying "classical" music is going to be painful, boring and pointless. I promise you that whatever it will be, it will not be any of those things. I try to make it an interesting and enjoyable experience that will expand your knowledge of and appreciation of all music.

You may also be thinking that music is already a big part of your life. In fact, in our society, music everywhere, even in airports, elevators and department stores. Recordings have made it possible to have music anywhere and any time you want it. And the variety of styles and genres available makes it possible for each person to create a musical universe of their own-- and store it in a device small enough to fit in your pocket. Given all this, one might assume that music is well appreciated in our world. So why do you need to take a course about appreciating it? The answer to that question is what I hope we will discover in the next 16 weeks.

What you will be doing this semester is reading, writing, listening and thinking about music. We will be spending a lot of time on European classical music but at the same time we will be considering our own musical culture, the world of jazz, blues, folk and "rock and roll". The details of course procedures, quizzes and exams, papers and Discussions will be provided in the Syllabus which will be available on the first day of class.

The text we will be using is Roger Kamien's "Music; An Appreciation", 7th Brief Edition. It comes with a set of 5CDs. The ISBN number is 007743353X. We will also be using McGraw Hill's Connect website this semester. This site will be used mostly for exams, quizzes but it also has features that will help you get more out of the course. It will especially aid you with the listening

aspects of the course. Listening is often the hardest part of the course particularly for those with little or no musical experience. The listening outlines in Connect will guide you through all of the musical examples in a clear, concise way and are easily understood regardless of your level of musical knowledge. To use Connect, you will need to purchase an access card from McGraw Hill. The cost is \$30. (See the note below.) You can get the card here:

http://mhprofessional.com/product.php?search_crawl=true&isbn=0077377702

If for some reason the link doesn't work, just search McGraw-Hill and go to their website. Then search for the Connect access card for Kamien, Music: An Appreciation, 7th brief edition. You should find it easily enough.

PLEASE NOTE: The WP Bookstore is offering a great deal on this text this year. You can rent the text and CD set from them for \$68.63 for the semester. Since to buy it new—and there are very few used copies, this is a new edition that was just released in July—cost \$152.50 it doesn't make sense not to rent it. Even when you add in the \$30 for the Connect card, you still save quite a bit of money. I highly recommend you take this deal.

You will also need a copy of MSWord 2003, 2007 or 2010. All papers must be formatted in one of those versions.

All of this is much simpler than it sounds so don't panic. My goal is to create an enjoyable, instructive and stress free course. And I will do my best to see that it will be exactly that.

So welcome! Open your ears and your minds and have some fun.