



**MUSIC IN SOCIETY  
MUS 121-37Z  
(Fourteen-Week Course)**

**Prepared By:** Dr. Louise Billaud

**Approved By:** Dr. Sarah Tolbert-Hurysz

**INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION**

Name: Dr. Louise Billaud, Professor of Music  
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[Music Department Website](#)

If you are unable to access this document or experience any difficulties viewing its content, please contact me, the instructor of this course, for assistance.

**ONLINE STUDENT RESPONSIBILITY:**

- ☑ The recommended browser to use with the current version of Canvas is Mozilla Firefox or Google Chrome. Other browsers are inconsistent in their performance with Canvas. When taking tests or quizzes, use a wired connection.
- ☑ Check your VCCS email regularly and respond/keep in touch with your instructor.
- ☑ Students are responsible for addressing and overcoming any technology-related issues that are affecting their ability to participate or complete their college course work. If you are having problems meeting this requirement, please contact your instructor, your student services advisor, or the college's help desk.
- ☑ Please note that cell phones may be inadequate to manage and complete online assignments and are not recommended as students' primary device for course work.

The [Student's Guide to Online Learning](#) is available on the [Online Learning website](#).

## **REGULAR AND SUBSTANTIVE INTERACTION:**

I, the instructor of the course, will support your learning throughout the semester by communicating and collaborating with you on a regular basis. This communication may be in the form of participation in office hours, direct course instruction, response to questions, email messages, discussion board posts, announcements posted in Canvas, or providing content specific feedback on graded work.

## **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Description: Explores the language of music through an introduction to basic elements, forms and styles across time. Acquaints students with composers' lives and influential creative individualities, discovering representative works and milestones in western society. Develops techniques for listening analytically and critically. Reviews historical development and significance of art music within the context of evolving societal structures. This is a passport and UCGS transfer course.

Credits: 3  
 Prerequisite: None  
 Graded Submissions: 5 Discussions, 7 Journals, 15 Assignments  
 Assessments: 3 Exams  
 Online Activities: Required

## **COURSE MATERIALS**

This is a “zero” course, meaning all course materials are provided free of charge through Canvas.

**Note:** NRCC assumes no liability for virus, loss of data, or damage to software or computer when a student downloads software for classes.

## **COURSE INTRODUCTION**

This is an online course designed specifically for students whose learning styles are best served by providing instructional opportunities beyond the traditional classroom setting.

Understand and recognize the role of art music within the context of society throughout Western history. Enhance knowledge of significant musicians and musical works. Identify various components within a composition or performance that influence the overall listening experience.

**All coursework is ONLINE through CANVAS.**

There is no pre-requisite for this class and the credits are transferable.

## Advice

- Read the Course Information Module and set up notifications using the Quick Start Guide.
- Deadlines: Click View Course Calendar on the Canvas Home Page or view deadline dates within each course module.
- Check regularly your VCCS email, Canvas Inbox, text messages, and Announcement page to access communications.
- Contact the professor if you have any questions via email, through the Canvas Inbox, or during office hours. We can also schedule a Zoom meeting.
- The course begins with the Language of Music Module. Just work your way through each module paying careful attention to the due dates.

## Honor System

By enrolling in this course students agree to the following code of conduct:

- Answers to assessments/exams, assignments, and discussion forums will be my own work.
- I will not provide my solutions to assessments, exams, or assignments to anyone else.
- I will adhere to the NRCC Academic Honor Code in the NRCC Catalogue.
- Students will use no notes or outside sources to complete the exams.

## COURSE OUTCOMES

At the conclusion of this course a student should be able to:

### Communication

- Effectively communicate music observations through written and/or oral communication

### Critical Thinking

- Identify and explain how various elements of a composition (melody, harmony, rhythm, pitch, timbre and texture) contribute to personal perception
- Evaluate a music performance (live, audio, or video) by analyzing various components/evidence that influenced viewpoint

### Cultural and Social Understanding

- Demonstrate knowledge of the role of music in society
- Recognize/describe how music influences individuals and/or society
- Recognize/describe how individual and societal factors influence music creation

### Personal Development

- Augment listening skills through assignments/assessments designed to listen analytically and critically to music
- Demonstrate the development of receptivity to music from different historical periods
- Cultivate personal goals related to music listening, participation, or performance attendance

## **GENERAL EDUCATION STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES INCLUDED IN COURSE**

General education at NRCC provides the educational foundation necessary to promote intellectual and personal development. Upon completing the associate degree, graduates will demonstrate competency in student learning outcomes in 1) civic engagement, 2) critical thinking, 3) professional readiness, 4) quantitative literacy, 5) scientific literacy, and 6) written communication.

This course includes the following general education student learning outcomes:

- Identify the problem or complex issue and its various parts.
- Identify central issues and assumptions of a problem or issue.
- Seek and evaluate the information needed to fully understand the problem or complex issue.
- Communicate a controlling idea in a manner appropriate to the audience and occasion.
- Demonstrate appropriate workplace and classroom demeanor and behavior e.g., attendance (for online classes this means regular engagement), submissions of assignments by set deadlines and appropriate dress.
- Interact with honesty and integrity.

## **COURSE CONTENT**

Students successfully completing this course will have, at a minimum, a functional knowledge of the following:

- Elements of Music
  - Demonstrate a knowledge of the basic elements of music, e.g., unity and variety, pitch, dynamics, timbre, duration and texture
- Building Blocks of Sound
  - Identify types of notes and note names on a score
  - Identify notes on a keyboard
  - Identify instruments from the basic instrument groups (strings, woodwinds, brass, percussion, keyboard) as well as vocal timbres
- Structures of Music

- Demonstrate understanding of basic forms and structures of music, e.g., binary and ternary forms, sonata form, theme and variations
- Recognize the form of a given piece of music
- Historical Periods and Composers
  - Demonstrate knowledge of distinguishing aspects of music history periods
  - Identify various composers and their works
  - Recognize historical-social context of each music history period

## **GRADING/EVALUATION**

The final grade for the course will be determined as follows:

### **Grading Categories:**

<b>Descriptions</b>	<b>Percent of Grade</b>
Exam (3)	25%
Journals (7)	30%
Discussions (5)	20%
In-class / Inbox assignments (15)	25%
<b>Weighted Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

### **Grading Scale:**

<b>Grade</b>	<b>Percent</b>
A	90-100
B	80-89
C	70-79
D	60-69
F	59-0

## **WITHDRAWAL POLICY**

### **Student Initiated Withdrawal Policy**

A student may drop or withdraw from a class without academic penalty during the first 60 percent of a session. For purposes of enrollment reporting, the following procedures apply:

- a) If a student withdraws from a class prior to the termination of the add/drop period for the session, the student will be removed from the class roll and no grade will be awarded.
- b) After the add/drop period, but prior to completion of 60 percent of a session, a student who withdraws from a class will be assigned a grade of "W."
- c) After that time, if a student withdraws from a class, a grade of "F" or "U" will be assigned. Exceptions to this policy may be made under documented mitigating circumstances if the student was passing the course at the last date of attendance. The last date of attendance for an online course will be the last date that work was

submitted.

A grade of withdrawal implies that the student was making satisfactory progress in the course at the time of withdrawal, or that the withdrawal was officially made before the deadline date published in the college calendar, or that the student was administratively transferred to a different program.

Students requesting a late withdrawal due to documented mitigating circumstances should contact the Coordinator of Admissions and Records.

### **No-Show Policy**

A student must either attend face-to-face courses or demonstrate participation in online courses by the last date to drop for a refund. Course attendance requires the student's active participation in an instructional activity related to the course, such as attending a class lecture or lab, or by participating in an online class with an assignment submission, completion of a test or exam, or other substantial course activity. A student who does not meet this deadline will be reported to the Admissions and Records Office and will be withdrawn as a no-show student. No refund will be applicable, and the student will not be allowed to attend/ participate in the class or submit assignments. Failure to attend or participate in a course will adversely impact a student's financial aid award.

### **Instructor Initiated Withdrawal**

A student who adds a class or registers after the first day of class is counted absent from all class meetings missed. Each instructor is responsible for keeping a record of student attendance (face-to-face classes) or performance/participation (online classes) in each class throughout the semester.

When a student's absences equal twice the number of weekly meetings of a class (equivalent amount of time for summer session), the student may be dropped for unsatisfactory attendance in the class by the instructor.

Since attendance is not a valid measurement for online, a student may be withdrawn due to non-performance. A student should refer to his/her online course plan for the instructor's policy.

When an instructor withdraws a student for unsatisfactory attendance (face-to-face class) or non-performance (online), the last date of attendance/participation will be documented. A grade of "W" will be recorded during the first sixty percent (60%) period of a course. A student withdrawn after the sixty percent (60%) period will receive a grade of "F" or "U" except under documented mitigating circumstances when a letter of appeal has been submitted by the student. A copy of this documentation must be placed in the student's academic file.

The student will be notified of the withdrawal by the Admissions and Records Office. An appeal of reinstatement into the class may be approved only by the instructor and dean.

## **CHEATING/PLAGIARISM POLICY**

A grade of “F” will be awarded for the semester to any student caught cheating. This includes plagiarism, which is defined as “To present another's words or ideas as one's own or without attribution” (American Heritage Dictionary, 2019). Remember that plagiarism includes using words or ideas from Internet sites, as well as copying from print sources.

## **NON-DISCRIMINATION STATEMENT**

This college promotes and maintains educational opportunities without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, ethnicity, marital status, pregnancy, childbirth or related medical conditions including lactation, age (except when age is a bona fide occupational qualification), veteran status, or other non-merit factors. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the college's non-discrimination policies: Dr. Mark C. Rowh, Vice President for Workforce Development and External Relations and Equal Opportunity Officer, 217 Edwards Hall, 540-674-3600, ext. 4241.

Inquiries concerning Title IX (sexual harassment, sexual assault/domestic violence/dating violence, and stalking) may be directed to Tammy Smith (Title IX Coordinator for Students), Interim Dean of Student Services, 268 Rooker Hall, 540-674-3600, ext. 4203, tsmith@nr.edu. For employees, Melissa Anderson, Vice President for Finance & Administration Office, is the Title IX Coordinator for Employees, Godbey Hall Room 22, 540-674-3600, ext. 3660, manderson@nr.edu.

Inquiries concerning ADA and Section 504 may be directed to The Center for Disability Services, 275 Rooker Hall, V/TTY 540-674-3619, Videophone 540-585-4724.

## **DISABILITY STATEMENT**

If you are a student with a disability and in need of accommodations for this course, please contact the Center for Disability Services (CDS) for assistance. CDS is located within the Advising Center in Rooker Hall. For more information about disabilities services, see [Center for Disability Services](#).

## **ACADEMIC SUCCESS CENTER (TUTORING CENTER)**

NRCC offers free tutoring in every subject through the Academic Success Center, our one-stop campus resource for help with coursework. In addition to course-specific tutoring, the Academic Success Center houses the NRCC Writing Center, where students may work with tutors on issues specific to writing, whether for a course, a resume, a job application, or for pleasure.

Students may receive tutoring and/or writing assistance on an as-needed basis (walk-in), or

via scheduled appointments. Students unable to come to campus may participate in online sessions by appointment. In addition, online tutorials for many courses are available on the website or through the Canvas portal “NRCC Tutoring Services” that students will find under “My Organizations.”

Tutoring is available during the week Monday-Friday. To schedule an appointment or meet with a tutor, visit the Academic Success Center in Godbey Hall (G131) on campus in Dublin, or the Christiansburg site (C202); students may also call (540) 674-3664 or complete an online tutor [request form](#). For more information, including hours, visit the Academic Success Center [webpage](#).

## **GENERAL HEALTH GUIDELINES AND STUDENT EXPECTATIONS**

In guarding against the transmission of infectious illnesses, it is imperative that we follow specific health-related best practices.

As a condition for attending class or otherwise using NRCC facilities, I, as a student, agree to the following conditions:

1. I will follow all CDC, state, and local guidelines pertaining to diseases and health conditions. More information can be found at the links below.
  - a. [CDC Diseases and Conditions](#)
  - b. [Virginia Department of Health](#)
  - c. [New River Health District](#)
2. In the event of health threats or changes in guidelines, I understand in-person classes may be moved online, fully or partially, and I will need to be prepared to access technology and the internet with as little as 24 hours' notice.

By continuing my enrollment in class(es), **I agree to meet each of the expectations outlined above.**

New River Community College encourages all students to fully vaccinate against transmissible illnesses. Information about vaccinations can be found on the [Virginia Department of Health website](#).