MUS F200X-F91 Maymester 2013
Aesthetic Appreciation: Interrelation of Art, Drama, and Music

M-F 12:00 – 4:30 pm
Gruening 202
3 Credits

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Introduction: Welcome to *Aesthetic Appreciation: Interrelation of Art, Drama, and Music*. I am pleased to work with you and I created this syllabus as a guide to assist you in understanding the course format. If at any time you have any questions, please feel free to ask, in person or via email/phone. It is a privilege and an opportunity to help you succeed in this course.

Required Textbook: No Text required at this time. We will discuss this in the course (see section on portfolio).

Course Prerequisites: 2.5 GPA; Placement in ENGL F111X or higher; sophomore standing or permission of instructor.

Course Premise: The premise of this course is that artistic behavior is a human activity that interests nearly all of us. Artistic activity has roots in creativity and it is also a way of knowing the world. Furthermore, there are different ways to participate in artistic behavior, different societal reasons for being artistically active, and myriad reasons we enjoy the arts and seem to need to behave in these terms for celebration and survival.

Human behavior as artistic behavior can be explored. In this class, we plan to investigate historical responses to art, music & drama, and what it currently means to participate in the arts while also being a perceptive audience—whether as performers, concert goers, or people involved with arts media across the board.

The University of Alaska Fairbanks course description reads:
Understanding and appreciation of art, drama and music through an exploration of their relationship. Topics include the creative process, structure, cultural application and diversity, the role of the artist in society, and popular movements and trends.

Course Goals and Methods: This course aims to 1) familiarize students with artistic activity and cultural developments within but not limited to Western culture; 2) provide opportunities for artistic experiences both in terms of creation and appreciation; 3) explore the interrelationship of art, music and drama; and 4) provide insight into the function of the arts within societal and cultural human behavior. The course components section of this document outlines and circumscribes such activities.

Student Learning Outcomes:

Through course completion, students will:
1) be able to identify and describe the six elements of music and the elements of art and theatre.
2) be able to identify prominent style characteristics and genres from antiquity to present times.
3) understand the historical and cultural context behind shifts in artistic thinking and artistic activity.
4) be able to participate in artistic activity as an informed participant
5) synthesize the course content into a final project presentation.

**Instructional Methods:**

This course focuses on artistic activity as experience (creativity), group discussion, (course readings/listening), and culminates in a Final Project Presentation.

**Course Components:** There are three to five types of graded activities in addition to the final exam/project. Each activity will be explained in further detail as the course progresses. Look forward to guest artists visiting the course, a campus arts walking tour, a potential museum visit, and live performances.

**Portfolio:** Students are required to keep a portfolio that contains all working notes, sketches, artistic endeavors and recorded ideas germane to this course. The portfolio will be turned in and graded at the end of the course.

**Final Project:** Students are required to choose and complete a final project for the course that involves thinking in the arts including the creative act. More information on the final project will be distributed as we progress.

**Grading:** I convert the points you earn in the course to a final grade based on the following scale:

- 92+ A
- 90-91 A-
- 88-89 B+
- 82-87 B
- 80-81 B-
- 78-79 C+
- 72-77 C
- 70-71 C-
- 68-69 D+
- 62-67 D
- 60-61 D-
- 59 or lower F

Rubrics will be provided for each assignment when we begin that section of the course. Coursework is evaluated based on originality, mastery and usage of musical concepts, and reflection. For example, a project like instrument making might not result in a completed, working instrument, but your insight into the processes and rationale for how a repeat project might succeed would be more valuable than a working project with no explanation.

**Attendance:** I believe that everybody taking this course is an adult. Because each class is essentially a week’s worth of study, missing a class without a reasonable emergency-based excuse is not an option. Each student is allowed one unexcused absence. After one, you will effectively lower your grade by one full letter grade for each absence. If you plan to miss a class, let me know 24 hours in advance. Otherwise, consider your absence unexcused.
For example:  
1 unexcused absence = A  
2 unexcused absences = B  
3 unexcused absences = C  
4 unexcused absences = D  
5 unexcused absences = F

**Course Policies:**

Education is a privilege and an opportunity and we must treat it with the utmost regard at all times. I expect your work to be original, honest and solely yours. The best rule to remember is that if you use an idea that isn’t yours, cite it. Consequences for academic honesty infringement are serious and range from an F grade on a paper to an F grade for the course. Please examine the UAF Student Code of Conduct for more information: [http://www.uaf.edu/catalog/current/academics/regs3.html](http://www.uaf.edu/catalog/current/academics/regs3.html)

**UAF Attendance Policy:**

**General Absences:** If you miss class, you are responsible for conferring with your instructor as soon as possible concerning your absence, and to discuss the possibilities for arranging alternative learning opportunities. Note that some departments drop students who miss the first day of class and who fail to obtain their instructor’s prior approval for the absence.

**UAF Sanctioned Absences:** If you are scheduled to miss class for an academic requirement or to represent UAF in an official capacity (e.g. NCAA athletic competition, music ensemble performances), you must notify your instructor in writing by the first Wednesday of the semester in which the absences will occur. The notification should list all scheduled absences, and bear the signature of a UAF school official. Instructors are encouraged to make reasonable accommodations for students who miss class to participate in these official UAF-recognized activities. However, it is your responsibility to follow-up the notification of absence by discussing alternative learning opportunities with your instructors before the end of the drop/add period (typically the second Friday of the semester). Doing so will allow you to drop the class and to add another if, after a good faith effort, you and your instructor cannot arrange for comparable learning opportunities that will enable you to be successful in the class.

**The Writing Center:** [http://www.alaska.edu/english/studentresources/writing/](http://www.alaska.edu/english/studentresources/writing/) helps students develop writing skills. The instructor may recommend the writing center to students if needed.

**Disabilities Services:** The University of Alaska Fairbanks is committed to equal opportunity for students with disabilities. Students with disabilities are encouraged to
contact the coordinator of Disability Services (Mary Matthews) at 907.474.5655; 208 Whitaker Building.