

HUMA3101  
Enjoyment of Western Opera – FALL 2017  
Lecture: LTL, CYT Bldg  
TUE, THUR 16:30 – 17:50

INSTRUCTOR: Professor Isaac Droscha,  
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**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This course aims to make opera more enjoyable and understandable. This survey course will examine the development of Western opera and selected Western operas with their related literary texts. By watching and analyzing opera, the students will learn to understand the relationship between music, literature, drama, and culture. Prior knowledge or experience of Western opera or classical music is not required.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES AND INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

On completion of the course, the students will be able to

- describe the development of Western opera
- understand the interrelationship between music, literature, drama and culture
- understand the elements of exoticism in western opera
- analyze the structure of scenes
- critique production quality
- coordinate team activities
- give and take direction and constructive criticism
- communicate orally applicable to presentation
- express their own talent and creativity

**COURSE MATERIALS**

Course materials will be available at CANVAS

**PERFORMANCE:**

All students will be involved in an evening performance/presentation, details to be announced. TBA date being considered is November 29.

**OPERA REVIEW:**

Students will be asked to view a live opera performance and submit a performance review of a minimum of 1500 words. Several Opera companies and arts festivals will be performing a variety of repertoire in Hong Kong this term. This can be planned to attend as small groups (perhaps dinner before or after)!

Current offering:

Opera Hong Kong: *Aida* by Giuseppe Verdi – October 10-15  
MusicaViva: *L'elisir d'amore* by Gaetano Donizetti – September 29 & 30  
*La Boheme* by Giacomo Puccini – December 8-10

### ATTENDANCE:

Attendance will be taken randomly 13 times throughout the twelve weeks after the add-drop period. You may miss three classes without penalty, but starting from your fourth absence, one percent will be deducted for each absence (10% maximum deduction).

### EXAMS:

NO make-up exam or test will be offered. If you miss the midterm, the total score will be transferred to the final exam (i.e. the weight of final exam will become 50%).

Midterm date: OCTOBER 24<sup>th</sup>, IN CLASS (date subject to change).

### ONLINE QUIZZES:

These five quizzes are designed to help you prepare for the exams. They are based on the lectures slides, the operas, and the reading.

Quiz 1 - Due Sept 21, 11:59PM

Quiz 2 - Due Oct 3, 11:59PM

Quiz 3 - Due Oct 12, 11:59PM

Quiz 4 - Due Nov 2, 11:59PM

Quiz 5 - Due Nov 16, 11:59PM

Components	Percentage	Nature of Assessments
Exam	30%	Individual (MC questions and short questions)
Mid-term (October 17 <sup>th</sup> )	20%	Individual (Mostly MC questions)
Opera Review	15%	Individual
Group Presentation	10%	Teacher assessment + Peer evaluation
Performance	5%	Teacher assessment
Attendance	10%	Individual
5 Online Quizzes	10%	Individual (MC and some fill in the blank)

1. YouTube has MANY wonderful excerpts and complete performances of opera, and this website will be used extensively (<http://www.youtube.com/>).
2. The Metropolitan Opera offers online viewing of their operas. There is a free trial and monthly rate available. The Library currently provides a database subscription which we will use for viewing.

### ACADEMIC HONESTY:

If you are being dishonest in the course, the penalty is an F for the COURSE.

Cheating: a) If you look at other students' papers or materials (ex. notes) during exam or test.

b) If you claim credit for other students' work in group projects.

Plagiarism: If you copy sections from a source without referencing it.

Excerpt from <http://www.ust.hk/vpaa/integrity/>

“If you are discovered cheating, however minor the offence, the course grade will appear on your record with an X, to show that the grade resulted from cheating. This X grade stays with your record until graduation. If you cheat again and “earn” another X grade, you will be dismissed from the University. In serious cases, your department may ask the Student Disciplinary Committee to look at the case. The Student Disciplinary Committee can require you to do campus community service; take away your eligibility for a degree with honors, or scholarships and prizes; suspend you from the University, or simply dismiss you right away.”

LEARNING ENVIRONMENT:[http://www.ust.hk/vpaa/conduct/good\\_learning\\_experience.pps](http://www.ust.hk/vpaa/conduct/good_learning_experience.pps)

OPERAS TO BE STUDIED FROM WILL BE SELECTED FROM THE FOLLOWING:

*La Favola d’Orfeo*

*Giulio Cesare*

*Le Nozze di Figaro*

*Don Giovanni*

*Il barbiere di Siviglia*

*La Cenerentolla*

*Rigoletto*

*La Traviata*

*Otello*

*Der Ring des Nibelungen*

*Carmen*

*Pagliacci*

*Cavalleria Rusticana*

*La Boheme*

*Turandot*

*Wozzeck*

*Nixon in China*

*The Dream of the Red Chamber*

**Date****Details**

Tue Sep 5, 2017

LECTURE 1 - Introduction –  
Read Introduction from famous first  
nights by [Introduction from famous first  
nights by Thomas forest kelly.pdf](#)  
and [Introduction from Short History  
of Opera by Grout.pdf](#). Both are  
available in the [Introduction](#) module.

4:30pm to 5:50pm

Thu Sep 7, 2017

LECTURE 2 - Listening to Opera -  
For Thursday Sept. 8, please watch Act  
I of *Il barbiere di Siviglia*. Use the Met  
player subscription to watch *Il barbiere  
di Siviglia* using the subscription -  
(there is more than one version please  
watch *Il barbiere di Siviglia* from MAR  
24, 2007) Also, please read the  
following selection on Rossini and 18th  
century opera from the online version  
of The Oxford Illustrated History of  
Opera: click on the link BUT read  
online only, do not download the book  
on loan from the library. Read pages  
170 – 171 and 173 - 177 for  
background on the composer. Review  
the libretto and Synopsis for *Il barbiere  
di Siviglia* only as needed, which can be  
found in the module.


4:30pm to 5:50pm



Tue Sep 12, 2017

LECTURE 3 - Il barbiere di  
Siviglia/Voice types –  
For Thursday Sept. 14 in the [Il barbiere  
di Siviglia](#) module: please watch Act II  
of *Il barbiere di Siviglia*. Use the Met  
player subscription to watch *Il barbiere  
di Siviglia* using the subscription -  
(there is more than one version please  
watch *Il barbiere di Siviglia* from MAR  
24, 2007) Jeering, catcalls, and a  
wandering cat - the birth of Rossini's  
Barber of Seville - from Gramophone  
Magazine in the module. Read Review  
the libretto and Synopsis for *Il barbiere  
di Siviglia* ONLY AS NEEDED, which  
can be found in the module.

4:30pm to 5:50pm

Date	Details	
Thu Sep 14, 2017	LECTURE 4 - Il barbiere di Siviglia/Role types – If you have not already done so, please finish watching <u>Il barbiere di Siviglia</u> .	4:30pm to 5:50pm
Tue Sep 19, 2017	LECTURE 5 - Il barbiere di Siviglia – Complete <u>Quiz 1</u> before 11:59PM on September 16. Please watch the tracks from the lecture slides for next time, which are based on timings in the video OR watch approximately 27:00 min - 1:10:00 min of the video in the <u>La favola de L'Orfeo</u> module. Please review the synopsis first unless you plan to watch the entire opera. Also, please read <u>Claudio Monteverdi, La favola d'Orfeo - from Kelly's Famous First Nights.pdf</u>	4:30pm to 5:50pm
Thu Sep 21, 2017	LECTURE 6 - The invention of opera and La favola d'Orfeo – Watch Act V of <i>La Favola d'Orfeo</i> from 1:23:30 in the video in the <u>La favola de L'Orfeo</u> .	4:30pm to 5:50pm
	Quiz 1	due by 11:59pm
Tue Sep 26, 2017	LECTURE 7 - The beginnings of opera and La favola d'Orfeo – Watch Act I (and Act II if you like) of <u>The Enchanted Island</u> . You can find it using the metropolitan opera player. Please read <b><u>Article from The Gurdian - The Enchanted Island: the isle is full of mash-ups</u></b> in the module. Review the <b><u>Synopsis from the Met site</u></b> AS NEEDED.	4:30pm to 5:50pm
Thu Sep 28, 2017	LECTURE 8 - baroque opera and The Enchanted Island – Complete quiz before 11:59PM on October 3. Finish <u>The Enchanted Island</u> Please Read the article <u>Article from The Huffington Post - 'The Enchanted Island' At The Metropolitan</u>	4:30pm to 5:50pm

Date	Details	
	<p><u>Opera Is A Baroque Opera Mash-Up</u>Links to an external site and the two reviews <u>Review form the New York Times - Shiny Bibelot From Shakespeare, Handel &amp; Co.</u> and <u>Review from the Financial Times</u> Thing about which review you agree with and which seems fair.</p>	
Mon Oct 2, 2017	HOLIDAY - NATIONAL DAY ALL DAY	
Tue Oct 3, 2017	<p>LECTURE 9 - Opera Reviews and The Enchanted Island – Watch Act I of <u>Don Giovanni</u> using the metplayer. Also, read <u>Wolfagan Amadeus Mozart, Don Giovanni - from Kelly's First Nightst at the Opera.pdf</u>  pages 65 - 111 in the <u>Don Giovanni</u> module.</p>	
	Quiz 2	due by 11:59pm
Thu Oct 5, 2017	HOLIDAY - DAY FOLLOWING THE MID-AUTUMN FESTIVAL ALL DAY	
Tue Oct 10, 2017	<p>LECTURE 10 - Opera of the Classical period and Don Giovanni – Please watch Act II of <u>Don Giovanni</u> using the Metplayer. Videos for two additional versions can also be found in the module (one uses the library service of NAXOS and the other is youtube.) Please also read <u>Kierkegaard's Don Giovanni - from Weiss' History in Documents.pdf</u></p>	
Thu Oct 12, 2017	LECTURE 11 - Don Giovanni – Complete <u>Quiz 3</u> before 11:59PM on October 17 4:30pm to 5:50pm	
Tue Oct 17, 2017	LECTURE 12 - Don Giovanni 4:30pm to 5:50pm	

Date	Details	
Thu Oct 19, 2017	LECTURE 13 - Review and Catch-up	3pm to 4:20pm
Tue Oct 24, 2017	<p>MIDTERM EXAM – Midterm will be during Class in CYT LTL. For next class watch the first Act of <u>Rigoletto</u> on the Metplayer. Read pages 177 - 198 from the Oxford Illustrated History of Opera Online using the library link. REMEMBER to read using the online Access and DO NOT "check out" the item digitally or it will not be available to your classmates.</p>	due by 4:30pm
	Quiz 3	due by 11:59pm
Thu Oct 26, 2017	LECTURE 14 - Musical Forms, Drama, and Rigoletto	4:30pm to 5:50pm
Sat Oct 28, 2017	HOLIDAY - DAY FOLLOWING THE CHUNG YEUNG FESTIVAL	ALL DAY
Tue Oct 31, 2017	LECTURE 15 - Rigoletto – review the recordings for the pieces for the final concert. Listening to your individual parts.	4:30pm to 5:50pm
Wed Nov 1, 2017	*Rehearsal 1	6:30pm to 7:30pm
Thu Nov 2, 2017	<p>LECTURE 16 - Falstaff and the dissolution of structure – Complete <u>Quiz 4</u> before 11:59PM on November 7. Please read the reading <u>Der Ring des Nibelungen.pdf</u>  <a href="#">in the module</a>. Also read <u>Wagner's theory on drama.pdf</u>  <a href="#">in the module</a>. Watch the recordings on the content page labeled <i>Der Ring des Nibelungen</i> in the recording section of the module.</p>	4:30pm to 5:50pm
Mon Nov 6, 2017	*Rehearsal 2	6:30pm to 7:30pm
Tue Nov 7, 2017	LECTURE 17 - The Music Drama and	4:30pm to 5:50pm

Date	Details	
	Wagner – Please read <a href="#">Richard Wagner, Das Rheingold - from Kelly's First Nights.pdf</a>	
	Quiz 4	due by 11:59pm
Thu Nov 9, 2017	LECTURE 18 - Motives, structure, and Wagner – Watch Acts I and II of <a href="#">Carmen</a> using the Metplayer. Also, please read <a href="#">Nitchze wagner reading.pdf</a>	4:30pm to 5:50pm
Mon Nov 13, 2017	*Rehearsal 3	6pm to 7pm
Tue Nov 14, 2017	LECTURE 19 - Music, Character, and Carmen – Watch Acts III and IV of <a href="#">Carmen</a> .	4:30pm to 5:50pm
Thu Nov 16, 2017	LECTURE 20 - CARMEN	4:30pm to 5:50pm
Tue Nov 21, 2017	LECTURE 21 – La Boheme – Complete <a href="#">Quiz 5</a> before 11:59PM on November 21. Read <a href="#">Excerpt on Puccini - from Grouts Short History of Opera.pdf</a>	4:30pm to 5:50pm
	GROUP ASSIGNMENT	due by 11:59pm
Thu Nov 23, 2017	LECTURE 22 – La Boheme	4:30pm to 5:50pm
	Quiz 5	due by 11:59pm
Sat Nov 25, 2017	*Rehearsal 4	11am
Tue Nov 28, 2017	LECTURE 23 - Rehearse	4:30pm to 5:50pm
Wed Nov 29, 2017	*FINAL PERFORMANCE	5:00pm to 9:30pm
Thu Nov 30, 2017	LECTURE 25 - 20th and 21st Century	4:30pm to 5:50pm



<b>Date</b>	<b>Details</b>
	Opera CLASS ATTENDANCE due by 4:30pm
Tue Dec 19, 2017	OPERA REVIEW due by 11:59pm
	FINAL EXAM – December 13 – 4:30PM-6:30PM