HUMA2101

Enjoyment of Western Opera

Lecture: Monday and Wednesday 10:30-11:50, Online Zoom Meeting

INSTRUCTOR: Professor Isaac Droscha, OFFICE: 2359
PHONE: 23587768 EMAIL: droscha@ust.hk

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 on CANVAS

1. YouTube has MANY wonderful excerpts and complete performances of opera, and this website will be used extensively (http://www.youtube.com (Links to an external site)/).
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.
OPERA REVIEW:

Students will be asked to view either a live opera performance or specified recorded performance and submit a review of a minimum of 750 words. A watch party may be setup online for group viewing.

ATTENDANCE:

Attendance will be taken 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). The Zoom meeting log will be used to record attendance. To receive full credit you must attend 95% of the online session and participate in the lecture. This includes verbally or chat posting.

EXAMS:

Midterm date: conducted online. March 30th during class time (date subject to change)

ONLINE QUIZZES:

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

Quiz 1 – March 4
Quiz 2 – March 18
Quiz 3 – March 25
Quiz 4 – April 15
Quiz 5 – April 29

DISCUSSION POSTS:

You be asked to periodically post your opinion about the productions, the singing, the staging, etc. of the operas throughout the term. These are graded on completion.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Components</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Nature of Assessments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exam</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>Individual</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mid-term (October 17th)</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>Individual (Mostly MC questions)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opera Review</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>Individual</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group Project</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>Teacher assessment + Peer evaluation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discussion posts</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>Teacher assessment</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Attendance 10% Individual
5 Online Quizzes 10% Individual (MC and some fill in the blank)

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.
1. 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/vpaao/integrity/Links to an external site.

“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/vpaao/conduct/Links to an external site./good_learning_experience.pps

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

La Favola d'Orfeo  Rigoletto
Giulio Cesare   La Traviata
Castor et Pollux  Otello
The Enchanted Island  Der Ring des Nibelungen
Le Nozze di Figaro  Carmen
Don Giovanni  Werther
Il barbiere di Siviglia  Pagliacci
La Cenerentolla  Cavalleria Rusticana
Les Huguenots  La Boheme
Turandot
Salome
Wozzeck

Nixon in China
Einstein on the Beach
The Dream of the Red Chamber