SYLLABUS

Description

This course provides an overview of twentieth-century piano music and examines its relationship to the cultural and intellectual climate of the time. By means of score study, listening, readings, and presentations, the student will acquire analytical skills and develop historical concepts necessary to the understanding and performance of this literature.

Objectives

By the conclusion of the course, the student will demonstrate the ability to

1. analyze scores of pieces studied
2. aurally identify musical examples studied
3. perform a selected composition by a twentieth-century composer
4. present a written document that examines the historical and aesthetic background of the work, selected for performance, and provide its stylistic analysis

Textbooks


Course Requirements and Grading

1. 30% Class assignments
2. 20% Performance of a piece
3. 20% Written document
4. 30% Final exam in two parts: aural identification of musical examples and written answers to questions regarding materials studied in class
Evaluation Criteria

1. Completeness: The work incorporates materials required by the assignments and in-class exercises.
2. Quality: The work is prepared in a way that exhibits a high quality of understanding and mastery of the assignment.
3. Pertinence: The work incorporates techniques and practices from this class, as well as texts and handouts.

Academic honesty

Please refer to the Student’s Handbook for the College’s policy.

Attendance

Since participation in the class constitutes a substantial part of the work of the course, unexcused absences will lower grades as follows.

2 unexcused absences: 10%
3 unexcused absences: 20%
4 unexcused absences: 30%
5 unexcused absences: 40%
6 unexcused absences: failed course

Excused absences require a doctor’s note or a note from the Student’s Affairs Office.

Note: Absent students are responsible for all assignments. A doctor’s excuse does not excuse the student from submitting required material. Consistent lateness (late for class 6 or more times) will lower the grade by 10%.

Schedule

Week 1: The Twentieth-Century to Mid-Century: an overview.

Week 2: The music of Debussy, Ravel, Satie and The Six

Week 3: Vienna and Germany: the music of Schoenberg, Berg, Webern, Hindemith

Week 4: National Schools: Hungary and Czechoslovakia. The music of Bartok, Janacek, Martinu

Week 5: Russia: the music of Scriabin and Rachmaninov

Week 6: Russia: the music of Stravinsky, Prokofiev, Shostakovitch

Week 7: Iberia, Poland, Great Britain
Week 8: The United States: the music of Ives, Cowell

Week 9: The United States: the music of Copland, Barber, Gershwin

Week 10: The United States and Latin America: the music of Diamond, Harris, Ginastera, Villalobos

Week 11: From Mid-to the End of Twentieth Century: an overview. The Europeans: Messiaen, Boulez, Ligeti, Stockhausen

Week 12: The United States: the music of Cage, Crumb, Rochberg, Reich, Glass

Week 13: Performance of the selected composition and presentation of the written Document. Final exam and evaluations