

FOOTHILL COLLEGE  
FINE ARTS & COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION

MUSIC 2A                                      COURSE OUTLINE                                      DEGREE APPLICABLE

1.     Catalog Description  
MUS 2A                                      MUSIC HISTORY                                      4 UNITS

Four hours lecture, two hours laboratory

Introduction to the music of Western culture. Historical periods include the Ancient World and the Medieval, Renaissance, and Baroque eras. Composers include Josquin, Lassus, Palestrina, Monteverdi, Purcell, Vivaldi, Handel, and Bach.

2.     Expected Outcomes  
The student will be able to:
- A. identify various musical styles; use knowledge to extend and enrich music comprehension and enjoyment.
  - B. apply knowledge of musical style from Western culture to identify various pieces of music by historical period and genre.
  - C. comprehend the historical development of musical style in Western culture in relation to the political, economic, social, religious developments and values of the time.
  - D. expand repertoire of concert music through familiarity with a broad sampling of works, composers, styles and genres.
  - E. discern good performance from bad from the perspectives of artistic quality and appropriate historical performance practice.
  - F. read and analyze most important primary source materials written by philosophers, theorists and diarists of the period.
  - G. survey musical practices in other cultures with particular emphasis on musical form, instruments, genres and social/cultural functions of music.
  - H. compare music of Western culture with that of other world cultures.
3.     Special Facilities and/or Equipment Needed
- A. Classroom with adequate audio equipment: phonograph, cassette player, CD player, and piano.
  - B. Inclusive collection of recordings.
  - C. Well-equipped listening laboratory with phonorecords, tapes and CDs for individual listening and adequate musical scores for reference while listening.
  - D. Set of individual musical scores or an omnibus of musical scores for classroom analysis.
4.     Expanded Description of Course Content
- A. Music fundamentals - melody, rhythm, harmony, texture, timbre, ornamentation.
  - B. Style characteristics and function of music from the Ancient World through the Baroque period. Comparison and contrast to music of other world cultures.

C. Study of specific musical works:

1. Sacred vocal music (plainchant, early polyphony, masses, motets, oratorios, passions and cantatas).
2. Secular vocal music (Troubadour songs, Italian and English madrigals, opera)
3. Instrumental music (preludes, fugues, toccatas, passacaglia, fantasias, dance suites, sonata da chiesa and sonata da camera).
4. Composer biographies (Josquin, Lassus, members of the Florentine Camarata, Palestrina, Monteverdi, Purcell, Vivaldi, Handel, and Bach).

D. Identification of major themes of the culture at each period in history (divine authority, redemption, freedom, artistic creativity and originality, political, social, religious ideologies, gender roles), their definition in other periods in Western culture and their parallels in other world cultures.

5. Repeatability Criteria  
None

6. Methods of Evaluation  
A. Completion of writing assignments  
    1. weekly precis of lectures  
    2. worksheets co-ordinated with text  
B. Exams (Two Midterms and Final)

7. Text(s)  
Stolba, K. Marie. The Development of Western Music: A History. Madison, Wisconsin: Brown and Benchmark Publishers, 1998.

8. Authorized Discipline(s)  
Music

Revised 4/24/98  
EFB