Montgomery County Community College
MUS 208
Western Music History 1: Medieval to Baroque
3-3-0

COURSE DESCRIPTION:
An exploration of the music and culture of Western civilization from ancient times to 1750. Students will study both the sacred and secular music of the Medieval, Renaissance, and Baroque periods, including (but not limited to) Gregorian chant, Troubadour songs, Madrigals, Motets, Masses, monody, opera, oratorio, cantata, suite, sonata, and concerto. Each musical genre will be examined on the basis of its intrinsic characteristics as well as in connection with the aesthetic, social, philosophical, political, and economic environment in which it was created. Students will be expected to have a basic understanding of standard musical notation.

REQUISITES:
Previous Course Requirements
- ENG 010A Basic Writing or ENG 011 Basic Writing II or ESL 011 ESL Basic Writing II
- REA 011 Fundamentals of College Reading or REA 017 Vocabulary and Reading Comprehensive Development II

Concurrent Course Requirements
None

COURSE COMMENT:
MUS 120 (Fundamentals) is recommended but not required as a prerequisite.
Fall Only

LEARNING OUTCOMES Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:	LEARNING ACTIVITIES	EVALUATION METHODS
1. Explain the influence of ancient Greek musical thought on the music of the medieval, renaissance, and baroque periods.	Readings Discussion Listening Assignments Score Study Research Project	Written Essays Written Objective Tests, Quizzes, and Homework Assignments In-Class Discussion

2. Identify and describe the musical characteristics of major genres of medieval, renaissance, and baroque music.	Readings Discussion Listening Assignments Score Study Research Project	Written Essays. Written Objective Tests, Quizzes, and Homework Assignments In-Class Discussion
3. Describe the cultural environment that gave rise to the major genres of medieval, renaissance, and baroque music.	Readings Discussion Listening Assignments Score Study Research Project	Written Essays Written Objective Tests, Quizzes, and Homework Assignments In-Class Discussion
4. Identify major figures in medieval, renaissance, and baroque music history and explain their importance.	Readings Discussion Listening Assignments Score Study Research Project	Written Essays Written Objective Tests, Quizzes, and Homework Assignments In-Class Discussion

At the conclusion of each semester/session, assessment of the learning outcomes will be completed by course faculty using the listed evaluation method(s). Aggregated results will be submitted to the Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs. The benchmark for each learning outcome is that *70% of students will meet or exceed outcome criteria*.

SEQUENCE OF TOPICS:

1. Course introduction
2. The Ancient and Medieval Worlds
3. The Renaissance
4. General characteristics of early Baroque music and society
5. Vocal music in the early Baroque
6. Instrumental music in the early Baroque
7. National styles
8. Developments in the later 17th century
9. The late Baroque style in the early 18th century

LEARNING MATERIALS:

Required

Burkholder, J. Peter, Donald Grout, and Claude Palisca. (2019). *A History of Western Music* (10th ed.). New York: W.W. Norton.

Recommended

Burkholder, Peter, and Claude Palisca. (2019). *Norton Anthology of Western Music: Volume 1*. New York: W. W. Norton.

Other learning materials may be required and made available directly to the student and/or via the College's Libraries and/or course management system.

COURSE APPROVAL:

Prepared by: Jill Meehan Date: 9/2025

VPAA or designee Compliance Verification: Date: 10/2025



This course is consistent with Montgomery County Community College's mission. It was developed, approved and will be delivered in full compliance with the policies and procedures established by the College.