EXPANDED COURSE DESCRIPTION

MUSIC
School of the Arts, Media, Performance and Design
Music Department
FA / MUSI 3370 3.0 SECTION A
OPERA
FALL 2017 / WINTER 2018

Last Modified Date: 09/05/2017

COURSE CALENDAR DESCRIPTION

Offers a history of opera from its origins to the 20th century, exploring the interrelationship of music and drama. Production and staging techniques are discussed, and students are required to attend and comment critically upon all aspects of at least one live operatic performance.

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INSTRUCTOR(S)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Section / Format / Term</th>
<th>Contact Email</th>
<th>Contact Phone</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bogle, Stephanie</td>
<td>Sec. A / LECT / F</td>
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SPECIAL FEATURES

Course Instructor: Course Director: Stephanie Bogle
E-mail: stephanie.bogle@sympatico.ca
Tel: 416 466-2945
Consultation Hours to be arranged

Time and Location: Tues. 7:00 -9:00 (120)  ACW 002

Expanded Course Description:
Organization of Course:
Opera 3370 covers a short history of opera from its origin to the 20th century, exploring the interrelationship of music, drama and art. Course Topics will include an overview of operatic development and its music, forms, singing and performance traditions. The course will include the study of the beginnings of opera with the Florentine Camerata and move through the various periods and styles from the Baroque Opera to Classical Opera and then onto the Romantic Period dealing with the styles of Italian Belcanto and Verismo Singing, French Opera as well as Wagner ‘s German Music Drama and the nationalistic movement in Slavic Opera culminating with the study of the Modern Opera Era and present day Opera.

Specific operas and productions will be studied and various scores, recordings, video and reference books will be used as an aid in class.

Listening Lists of Operas will be assigned and recordings are reserved for this course in the SMIL Ross Library for student study. The student will present an oral presentation in class on an opera and students are encouraged to participate in class discussions of opera and performance.
The class will also attend a live performance of the COC at the new opera House “The Four Seasons” to experience this art form in its setting.

**Objectives of Course:**

**Brief Statement of Purpose:**

The purpose of this course is to gain repertoire knowledge of opera and build musical awareness. It will also assist the students in developing an understanding of the musical, socio economic and philosophical movements in opera and art and develop a critical overview for opera and its performance.

**Learning Objectives**

- develop ability to listen and recognize musical style and composers in opera

- develop critical appreciation of opera and broaden musical knowledge

- be able to discuss and describe structures, forms, traditions, voice in opera

- understand the political, social, philosophical, literary influences on opera

**Course Text / Readings**

**Required Textbook**

A Short History of Opera 4th edition
Donald Grout & Hermine Wiegel Williams
Columbia University Press

**Other references**

The Oxford Illustrated History of Opera
Roger Parker
Oxford University Press C 1951 soft cover

A Listener’s Guide
Jack Sacher
Schrimer Books -Simon and Schuster 1997
ISBN 0- 02-872272-8

The History of Opera
Stanley Sadie

The New Grove Dictionary of Opera
Stanley Sadie
Macmillan WW Norton

The Viking Opera Guide
Amanda Holden
Viking Press
A list of other readings with be given out in class

**Evaluation**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Test Type</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First Listening Test</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>October 10 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second listening Test</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>November 28 2017</td>
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<tr>
<td>Review of an Opera</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>October 31 2017</td>
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Oral Commentary on an Opera          20%      TBA individually
Essay on Opera                                               30%      November 14 2017
Class Participation, Attendance term                      10%     Fall

Requirements:

1. **Listening tests: October 10 2017 (15%) and November 28 2017 (15 %)**
   Tapes and scores are reserved and available for listening in the Ross Library SMIL.
   Please refer to the listening lists with call numbers that are handed out.
   For the listening tests, students will be required to name the composer, the opera, the period, (Classical, Baroque, Romantic, Modern) and give two style characteristics of the composer and the opera excerpts as well as name important operatic terms
   Every week there are reading and listening assignments listed on the Weekly Topic Outline

2. **One Essay on an Opera Topic: November 14 2014: (30%)**
   The essay topic will be chosen from a list of topics presented by the course director
   The student must choose one topic from the given list to discuss in essay form and the essay information must be related to the studied course material and operatic repertoire.
   The essay should be at least 2500 words or about 10 pages.
   Musical examples should be given and referenced with photo-copies.
   A bibliography and footnotes must be included for all quotes from books and internet references.

3. **Oral Commentary: Date to be assigned in the first class: (20%)**
   The student will be assigned an to present on the first day of class according to the WEEKLY TOPIC OUTLINE and the Oral Presentation must be presented the week assigned for the topic studied. **If the class topics get behind the student must be prepared to present the following week or the week of the topic studied**

**Oral Commentary Requirements:**

The Oral commentary should be concise and to the point with your information and limited to 12-15 minutes. The student will be marked on their ability to present the information clearly and bring out the important points about the opera concisely.

This means the student must know their material and be able to talk about it and not just read the written notes. Questions will be asked to test their knowledge of the work and topic.

- The Student must know and have listened to the whole opera.

- The student must provide a DVD or CD of the work and give two musical examples to support their discussion of the musical style of the composer and the opera
A listening list of opera CD’s from the library is provided for use.

- The student must provide a hand-out sheet for the class and a musical score for the class to reference and view.

- The background notes and the written research notes for the presentation must be handed in to be marked. The oral presentation should be concise but more written detail can be given in the written notes. The written notes must be typed and readable.
Please refer to the Oral Commentary Guideline Handout for further detailed information.

4. **The Opera Review is due Oct 31 2017: (10%)**

The class will attend a performance of the Canadian Opera Company Production of “L’Elisir d’Amore by G. Donizetti on Saturday October 21 2017 at 7:30 p.m. and then write a review of the performance which is to be handed in on October 31 2017.

The performance is at “The Four Seasons Centre for the Performing Arts”

145 Queen Street W. (University and Queen on the south-east side).

The ticket cost will be around $23.

The written review of this performance is part of the required evaluation.

A Review Question Sheet will be given out on Oct 17 2017 before the performance so the student may take notes in the performance. The students must listen to the opera and know the plot before going to the performance and then read the programs notes and cast list to be able to evaluate the performance.

5. **Class Participation, Assignment Readings and Attendance: (10%)**

Attendance will be taken and marked.

At the beginning of each class, there will be a review of the last class work and style aspects and knowledge of the operas will be questioned and discussed and student ability will be marked.

Review of notes is essential for discussion and every week there are reading and listening assignments listed on the Weekly Topic Outline.

**Last date to drop courses without receiving a grade** is Nov 10, 2017

**Academic Policies / Information**

The Senate Academic Standards, Curriculum and Pedagogy (ASCP) provides a Student Information Sheet that includes:

- York's Academic Honesty Policy and Procedures / Academic Integrity Web site
- Access/Disability
- Ethics Review Process for Research Involving Human Participants
- Religious Observance Accommodation
- Student Code of Conduct

Additional information:

- Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities
- Alternate Exam and Test Scheduling

Grading Scheme and Feedback Policy

- The Senate Grading Scheme and Feedback Policy stipulates that (a) the grading scheme (i.e. kinds and weights of assignments, essays, exams, etc.) be announced, and be available in writing, within the first two weeks of class, and that, (b) under normal circumstances, graded feedback worth at least 15% of the final grade for Fall, Winter or Summer Term, and 30% for ‘full year’ courses offered in the Fall/Winter Term be received by students in all courses prior to the final withdrawal date from a course without receiving a grade.

Important University Sessional Dates (you will find classes and exams start/end dates, reading/co-curricular week, add/drop deadlines, holidays, University closings and more.

http://www.registrar.yorku.ca/enrol/dates/index.htm

"20% Rule"

No examinations or tests collectively worth more than 20% of the final grade in a course will be given during the final 14 calendar days of classes in a term. The exceptions to the rule are classes which regularly meet Friday evenings or on Saturday and/or Sunday at any time, and courses offered in the compressed summer terms.

Final course grades may be adjusted to conform to Program or Faculty grades distribution profiles.
Many courses utilize Moodle, York University's course website system. If your course is using Moodle, click here to access it.

Moodle @ York University