

MUSC 154 – THTR 154 Syllabus of Introduction to Opera

Fall Semester 2019

Mondays | 6.45-9.15 pm

Dr. Leila Zammar

Email lzammar@luc.edu

Office Hours: Mon. 5.30-6.30pm by appointment

Course Description

This course, distributed in weekly sessions, offers the student an overview of the development of opera in Europe with a particular emphasis on some of the most representative Italian operas and authors from the 17th to the 20th century. As the course considers opera as a cultural phenomenon, the historical, intellectual, political, social, religious and economic conditions that influenced the development of this art, will be also examined during the semester. The course includes some opera projections. Each of them is preceded by an introduction to the period in which they were first performed to provide the students with a historical, social and cultural background. Each projection will be followed by class discussion. Students will sit for two examinations during the semester. The examinations will include multiple-choice questions, short answer questions and three longer watching questions. Quizzes will be given the next class after each projection of a new opera. Missed quizzes may not make up.

In addition to the operas seen in class, the students will be asked to watch other operas: assigned out-of-class videos will be suggested during the semester.

The teacher will also organize one or more opera evenings according to the season of the Opera House. Moreover, as this course considers opera as an art form that combines music and drama, libretto structure, music forms, different types of arias and other aspects will be analyzed. Assigned out-of-class videos will be announced or posted on SAKAI.

Learning Outcomes

The aim of this course is to acquire the basic knowledge to understand the cultural phenomenon of opera. Difference in style between early operas and later operas will become easy to grasp. The student will become familiar with musical terms like da-capo aria, cavatina-cabaletta, recitativo secco, recitativo accompagnato, chorus, ensemble etc. The distinction between an opera seria, a comic opera, an opéra comique and other genres will be clear by the end of the semester. Moreover, the student will learn how to individuate musical themes, how to recognize descriptive symphonies and different types of arias.

Required Text / Materials

The text including basic notes for the course and synopsis of the operas that will be seen in class or assigned during the semester is available at school. Other handouts will be distributed during the semester or available on SAKAI.

Suggestions

Students are warmly suggested to attend Delia Surratt's class "Voice for Beginners".

Evaluation

<u>Assessment components</u>		GRADING SCALE
MID TERM	20%	A 100-94
FINAL EXAM	30%	A- 93-90
FOUR QUIZZES	40%	B+ 89-87
Class discussion/ Participation	10%	B 86-84
		B- 83-80
		C+ 79-77
		C 76-74
		<u>C- 73-70</u>
		D+ 69-67
		D 66-60
		F 59 or below

Attendance policy

In accordance with the JFRC mission to promote a higher level of academic rigor, all courses adhere to the following absence policy. Prompt attendance, preparation and active participation in course discussions are expected from every student.

- For all classes meeting once a week, students cannot incur more than one unexcused absence.
- For all classes meeting twice a week, students cannot incur more than two unexcused absences.
- For all classes meeting three times a week, students cannot incur more than two unexcused absences.

This course meets once a week, thus a total of one unexcused absence will be permitted. Unexcused absences beyond these will result in **1% lowering of the final course grade**.

Academic Honesty

Plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty are unacceptable at the JFRC and will be dealt with in accordance with Loyola University Chicago's guidelines. Please familiarize yourself with Loyola's standards here:

http://www.luc.edu/academics/catalog/undergrad/reg_academicintegrity.shtml.

You are responsible for understanding what constitutes plagiarism according to the LUC Student Handbook.

Late or Missed Assignments

Late or missed assignments will not be accepted for grading without the authorization of the instructor.

Accessibility Accommodations

Students registered with the Student Accessibility Center requiring academic accommodations should contact the Office of the Dean at the John Felice Rome Center, the first week of classes.



JOHN FELICE

**ROME
CENTER**

SCHEDULE OF CLASSES

September

- 2 Introduction: technical terms, singers' voices with examples, forerunners of opera. The seventeenth century: the beginnings, the Florentine Camerata, the Roman opera, the Venetian opera, Claudio Monteverdi. Introduction to *L'Orfeo*.
- 9 Claudio Monteverdi's *L'Orfeo*.
- 16 Discussion of Monteverdi's *L'Orfeo*. **I QUIZ.**
The second half of the seventeenth century: Lully. the eighteenth-century opera: Scarlatti, Handel, Rameau, Bach. Opera seria and comic opera. The operas of Mozart. Introduction to *Le Nozze di Figaro*.
- 23 Mozart's *Le Nozze di Figaro*.
- 30 Discussion of *Le Nozze di Figaro*. Development of opera in the early nineteenth century: examples from Rossini's *The Barber of Seville*.

October

- 7 Review and **MID-TERM EXAM.**

11-20 Fall Break

- 21 Donizetti's *L'Elisir d'Amore*.
- 28 Discussion of Donizetti's *L'Elisir d'Amore*. **II QUIZ.**
The nineteenth century: Opéra comique (Bizet's *Carmen*), Operetta, Lyric Opera, Bellini, Donizetti, Verdi, Bizet. Introduction to Verdi's *La Traviata*.

November

- 4 Verdi's *La Traviata*.
- 11 Discussion of Verdi's *La Traviata*. **III QUIZ.**
The Romantic opera and Wagner. Verismo operas. Puccini and his operas. Introduction to Puccini's *Tosca*.
(the students are asked to visit the places of Tosca: Church of Sant'Andrea della Valle, Palazzo Farnese and Castel Sant'Angelo)
- 15 "jolly" class day (to be used only if we need to make up a cancelled class).
- 19 Puccini's *Tosca*.
- 25 Discussion of Puccini's *Tosca*. **IV QUIZ.**

December

- 2 A glance to the 20th century opera. Review and conclusion.
- 9 **FINAL EXAM** time 3:00 – 5:00 p.m.

BECAUSE OF THE LENGTH OF SOME OPERAS CLASSES MAY EXTEND BEYOND THE ALLOTTED TIME.