

MUSC 10A, Music Appreciation

Section 11

Spring 2015

SJSU Online course

Welcome to *Music Appreciation* (MUSC 10A). This course section will be conducted entirely online – there is no classroom component and no direct student contact with the course instructor. There is no physical (paper) textbook as the whole course is self-contained online. You might only have paper around to take some notes to review for the unit assessments, and the midterm and final exams. All assignments, unit quizzes ('assessments'), and exams are taken online with your own computer. You will need to purchase *OnMusic Appreciation*, 3rd edition, through the **Connect4Education** website at www.store.connect4education.com -- be sure that you have a good connection to the internet. Be sure to register for the course section that I am teaching, as listed above. Note that this course registration & purchase is separate from and in addition to enrolling in the course at SJSU. Registering for and purchasing the course from Connect4Education gives you access to the entire course, including its online text.

The course is easy to navigate. All of the audio files are streamed, so you can instantly click and hear them as well as save them to your computer. There are interactive videos and striking, high-quality graphics - more than 20 hours of full-length classical, jazz, pop and world music.

Besides a good internet connection and a computer that has enough memory to stream audio quickly, other technical needs include good audio speakers or headphones, RealPlayer, and Adobe Flashplayer.

The lessons and your submitted assignments will all take place through the *Connect For Education* website – do not send assignments to me separately. Please note that Connect4Education is an independent business not affiliated with SJSU, and the course content and online process are all created by Connect4Education. As course instructor, I read and grade your six written assignments, while your topic assessments (unit quizzes) and the two timed exams (midterm and final) are created and graded automatically by the online course software.

I post relevant course materials to my SJSU faculty web site:

www.sjsu.edu/people/brian.belet/ (see 'Courses' link)

This is where I post the course syllabus, course calendar for the semester, detailed instructions for the two concert reports, and other important documents (including this welcome message). You are responsible for all of the information contained in all of the posted course documents. I upload and update documents on the site throughout the semester, so I advise you to check weekly for current information.

Each graded activity (unit assessments, written assignments, and two exams) has a set due date. The course content, unit assessments and six written assignments are open as of the first day of the semester (January 22, 2015, at 12:01 am), and each close at 11:59 pm on their posted due date. The two exams are open only for a limited number of days – you can take the exams only during their open window:

<u>EXAM</u>	<u>OPEN</u> (12:01 am)	<u>CLOSE</u> (11:59 pm)
Midterm	March 20	April 3
Final	May 5	May 13

Each graded activity carries a percentage weight for the overall course grade (total = 100%). These percentage weightings are listed in the course grade book, on each graded activity page, and are also listed on my SJSU course web site in a separate document.

Even though this is an online class, you will still be able to communicate with other Music Appreciation students through the Discussion Forum portal as well as contact with the course instructor (comments connected to the assessments and assignments, and via regular email). Thus, you will have the benefits of a multi-media course with the convenience of self-paced learning.

That stated, I emphasize that this course is not for students who are not already self-motivated, focused, and disciplined with excellent time management skills. Further, in my professional opinion, large online courses with no in-class synergy and no weekly lecture/discussion time with an expert professor are simply not as good as traditional campus classroom courses. This online course is certainly not easier than the regular classroom version of this course; I think it is actually more difficult for most students. So, you enter this adventure at your own risk. Please note that all of the graded items have firm due dates, and no late work will be accepted for any reason (late work earns a grade of 0%, which much lower than a regular 'F' grade of 50% or 59%). Once you get behind it is very difficult to catch up and salvage the course. Also, as this course is managed by an independent company not directly affiliated with SJSU, I have very little administrative flexibility with the flow of the course. For example, the two timed exams (midterm and final) each have a two-hour active clock once you start them. If your session times out, for whatever reason, it simply times out and you fail the exam.

Students who need any type of course modifications (e.g., extra exam time) need to first be registered with SJSU's Accessible Education Center [AEC]. AEC then contacts me with relevant details. Students so diagnosed need to register for a separate section of this course (a section designed just for that student), as no course modifications can be done within a given section. All of this needs to occur before the course starts, and it is a student's responsibility to take care of these details in order and on time.

If, for any reason, you decide to drop this course, please let me know ASAP, since there is a waiting list. The first written assignment deadline is February 2 (no late work is accepted, ever, for this course). If you have not completed this assignment by this deadline, you will be dropped from the course. Please understand that these online courses are in high demand.

With this lengthy preamble, welcome to the course and enjoy the semester-long experience.

Dr. B. Belet

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www.sjsu.edu/people/brian.belet

www.BeletMusic.com

www.societyofcomposers.org/members/BrianBelet/