Course Syllabus

Department: Visual and Performing Arts (Music)

Date: Fall, 2014

I. Course Prefix and Number: MUS 117

Course Name: Master Composers II

Credit Hours and Contact Hours: 3 Credit Hours and 3 Contact Hours

Catalog Description including pre- and co-requisites: The complimentary study (with MUS 111) of canonic pieces of Western Music Literature as well as critical issues involved in the assertion of canonicity or “greatness”. Pre-Requisite: none Co-Requisite: none.

Relationship to Academic Programs and Curriculum including SUNY Gen Ed designation if applicable: In the course of study, students will acquire familiarity with a number of representative, large scale pieces of Western Art Music, as well as basic technical nomenclature with which to address them. Students will also produce papers which query the notion of ‘canon/canonicity’ and aesthetic quality, in an attempt to engage these pieces critically with respect to the conventional attribution of “masterpiece”.

II. Course Student Learning Outcomes:

1) Students will recall and apply basic technical nomenclature pertinent to engaging music literature parametrically and structurally.
2) Students will recall and apply basic features characteristic of conventional historic style periods and discuss specific pieces along these lines.
3) Students will critically discuss (in class) the criteria of informed opinion at play in aesthetic judgment, as discussed in selected articles they will be assigned to read; they will also produce summaries of these [Reading; Critical Thinking; Writing]
4) Students will critically discuss (in class) texts concerning the cultural value/importance of the arts and/or the educational efficacy of the arts; and will produce coherent written responses analyzing and evaluating these assigned readings [Reading; Critical Thinking; Values; Oral Communication; Writing]
5) Students will produce papers with standard word-processing software [Computer Literacy]
6) Students will give an oral presentation regarding a mainstream piece of Western Art Music of their choice (with guidance from the instructor) which will include a broad structural analysis and a broad stylistic analysis, noting characteristic and/or novel style features the piece contains relative to its historic/stylistic context [Critical Thinking; Oral Communication]
College Learning Outcomes Addressed by the Course: (check each College Learning Outcome addressed by the Student Learning Outcomes)

- X writing
- X oral communications
- X reading
- X critical thinking
- X computer literacy
- X ethics/values
- ☐ mathematics
- ☐ citizenship
- ☐ global concerns
- ☐ information resources

III. Assessment Measures (Summarize how the college and student learning outcomes will be assessed): For each identified outcome checked, please provide the specific assessment measure.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>List identified College Learning Outcomes(s)</th>
<th>Specific assessment measure(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Writing, Reading, Critical Thinking, Values</td>
<td>Students will be assigned multiple readings addressing issues of aesthetics, canonicity and sociology of art. Short papers, quizzes and in-class discussion will provide the basis for assessing student comprehension of assigned readings (see #3, #4, #5, above)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oral Communications, Critical Thinking, Values</td>
<td>In class discussions and 1-2 oral reports will be the basis for assessing this outcome (see #1-#4 and #6, above)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computer Literacy</td>
<td>Students will produce papers using standard word processing software (see #5, above)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

IV. Instructional Materials and Methods

Types of Course Materials:

Students are required to have a spiral bound notebook (for notes and journaling); a folder to house scores is also recommended. Other materials supplied by the instructor.

Methods of Instruction (e.g. Lecture, Lab, Seminar …):

Lecture, discussion, demonstration, listening, assigned readings, assigned writing
V. General Outline of Topics Covered:

MUS 117 proceeds by genre, investigating Opera, Concerti, and Symphony; within each genre, we proceed more-or-less chronologically. We will consider the structure of pieces as well as their most salient and characteristic style features; specific repertory varies from term to term. We will concomitantly consider various topics in canon formation and criticism; issues arising from these considerations will be the basis for in-class journaling and periodic writing assignments, as described above.