

**Grande Prairie Regional College  
Fine Arts Department  
Course Outline**

**An Introduction To Music  
MU 1010 A2 3(3-0-0) Fall 2003**

**University Transfer to UofA, UofC, AU, AUC, ConUC, KUC, and CanUC.**

**Instructor:** Geoffrey Whittall  
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**Prerequisite:** None

**Required Materials:** Musical Encounters by David C. Nichols, Prentice Hall 2001.  
A set of 4 CDs is packaged with the text.

MU 1010 is an introduction to actively listening to music, and to the development of several types of music that contribute to our societal history. The majority of the semester will be dedicated to learning to listen to music, by discovering the Western “art” music tradition. We will sample music from the Medieval, Baroque, Classical, Romantic, and 20<sup>th</sup> century periods, explore sound, and talk about how we can think about music and use music in our lives.

This course is designed to help develop a greater understanding and appreciation of music. By the end of the course, you will be able, by listening, to identify elements within a piece of music, and identify several different genres and forms of Western art music. To achieve this, the beginning section of the course will focus on music fundamentals; we will learn what we can hear and do hear, discuss some basics of music theory, and learn terminology so that we can discuss what we are hearing. Throughout the semester, we will look at music history in its cultural context, examining it in relation to other arts and non-musical historical events that helped shape the music. We will study a wide variety of works, from the middle ages to modern times; these pieces are representative and often major works of the periods from which they are selected, and will represent various genres and media from the period. When we study the music of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, we will see how musics from other parts of the world have influenced and helped shape all the music we hear.

<b>Evaluation:</b>	Final Exam	40%
	Midterm (Probably October 22)	30%
	Quizzes (4 or 5)	30%

Listening to music will be a central element of the course, and therefore will be part of the quizzes and exams, along with content from both the textbook and lectures. Attendance at lectures is mandatory; I expect that all students will attend all scheduled classes. During class sessions, we will listen to and discuss many pieces that are outside of the textbook and CD set.

The music section of the Fine Arts Department puts on a number of formal concerts each semester, along with our less formal “Music, Art, and Drama” performances. These should give you ample opportunity to put your listening skills to use, and you may attend for free any of these concerts. There are also several other performing groups and series (e.g. The Guitar Series) in Grande Prairie and area that will provide performances over the course of the semester. These performances are a good place to explore and use your developing skills in the real world.

**Progression Policy:** Fine Arts Department policy states that students who are absent from more than 20% of this class may be told to leave the class. Students who are not allowed to write the final examination will receive a grade of “0” for that examination.

### **Probable Course Syllabus:**

#### **Section One                      Experiencing Music**

Introduction, Language, Listening, and Performance and Industry  
P. 1-82   ch. 1-4  
Quiz #1

#### **Section Two                      Art Music**

Early Music: The Medieval, Renaissance, and Baroque Music  
P. 83-119   ch. 4-5  
Quiz #2

The Classical Period: Page 120-143, Ch. 6

### **Midterm Exam**

The Romantic Period  
P.144-195   ch. 7-8  
Quiz #3

The Twentieth Century and Postmodernism  
P. 197-238   ch. 9-10  
Quiz #4

#### **Section Three                      Music as Social Force (we may or may not get to this...) (perhaps)**

Music Sociology, Religion, Love, and War  
Quiz #5

## **Final Exam**