COURSE SYLLABUS

REQUIRED MATERIALS

• Charlton, K. and Hickok. (2006) *Experience Music!* w/ 2 audio CDs & CD-ROM

• Access to a reliable internet connection (minimum 56k)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

A course designed to provide an overview of music from antiquity to the present. Course is designed to enable students to investigate music in the context of social and cultural history.

EXPECTED LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon completing this course, you should be able to:

• Listen intelligently to music.
• Identify, use, and define important musical terms.
• Describe and discuss the musicians and their music critically in a cultural or historical context.
• Understand and associate key sociological aspects of each historical period.
• Identify compositions by their respective stylistic category.
• Identify music by its musical genre.
• Employ technology creatively to facilitate successful computer skills.

COMPUTER ACCESS

Since this course relies heavily on web-based activities, it is essential that you have access to a reliable computer with Internet capabilities. If your computer is slow, doesn’t support media applications, or if your Internet connection is prone to busy signals or disconnects, please schedule your day so that you can use a library computer. “Computer problems” will not be considered an acceptable excuse for late or missed assignments.
GRADING

Listening Journal = 790 points
Chapter Quizzes = 210 points

A = 1000 - 900 points
B = 899 - 800 points
C = 799 - 700 points
D = 699 - 600 points
F = 599 - 0 points

Students are encouraged to check their progress frequently through Blackboard. Visit Blackboard/Tools/My Grades for assignment grades and comments. All course assignments and quizzes are graded using a point value system. Grades are not rounded up in this course and extra credit will not be made available.

METHODS FOR ASSESSING EXPECTED LEARNING OUTCOMES

The expected learning outcomes for this course will be evaluated through:

1. LISTENING JOURNAL ENTRY (LJE) (1 @ 70 points; 6 @ 100; 1 @ 120)

Active listening to works of music may, in the long run, be the most valuable activity you undertake in this course. There is no substitute for having pieces of music “in your ears”; nor is there any replacement for thinking about the pieces you hear.

As an encouragement to both listening and considering the music you are studying, you are required to complete eight listening journal projects.

Detailed directions for each project will be posted in the Blackboard/Listening Journal area. Due dates for each entry can be found in the Blackboard/Course Documents/Course Schedule area.

All projects must be in Microsoft Word (.doc) format. No other format will be accepted. Work must be double spaced and use proper Modern Language Association (MLA) style paper formatting. Visit Blackboard/Course Documents/Complete Guide to MLA Style for an excellent introduction to MLA style. Direct quotations may be incorporated into each project, but are not to exceed 20% of your document’s overall length. Please retain a digital copy of all submitted work. Late projects will be graded at half their normal value.
To submit an LJE project, go to Blackboard/Listening Journal and click on the project title you wish to complete. Scroll down to the “Assignment Materials” section and click the “Browse” button. Locate your document, select it, and click “OPEN” (for Microsoft Windows users). To complete the upload process click the “Submit” button.

After an LJE assignment has been graded, comments will be inserted into your document. Use these comments to improve future LJE assignments. To review these comments, follow the below instructions:

1. Go to Blackboard/Listening Journal and click on the assignment title you wish to review.

2. Scroll down to the Instructor’s Comments box and open the document (using Microsoft Word) that has “(NE)” in its title.

3. While in Microsoft Word, select "View" and scroll through the available Document view modes until the comments appear off to the right-hand side of your paper.

2. CHAPTER QUIZZES (42 total @ 5 points each)

All chapter quizzes are “open-book” and are taken online through Blackboard.

Each quiz consists of five multiple choice questions. After you have read and reviewed an assigned textbook chapter, go to Blackboard/Chapter Quizzes and take the corresponding online quiz. You may take each quiz twice in order to better your score (your highest score will be recorded). Each quiz is timed. You will have a total of 10 minutes to complete a chapter quiz. Failing to click the “SUBMIT” button at the end of any quiz will cause a grading error. To avoid this, wait for a confirmation that your quiz grade has been recorded.

Go to Blackboard/Course Documents/Course Schedule to see our reading and quiz schedule.

GRADING RUBRIC FOR LISTENING JOURNALS

A word on my grading standards: an A-grade must be earned. Merely fulfilling the terms of an assignment, and doing so in a competent, reasonable manner, is generally only enough for a “B” grade. “A” grades will only be awarded (and should only be expected) if your work goes above and beyond terms like “good,” “solid,” and “competent” to reveal notable depths of originality, insight, and excellence.

An A Listening Journal (100 - 90 points):
Excels in responding to the assignment. It is original, interesting, and strongly thoughtful. Stylistically, it uses proper MLA format (in-text citations, signal phrases, etc.) and is free of spelling, punctuation, and grammatical errors. It uses proper musical terminology often and critically evaluates how a specific historical / cultural environment has played a role in shaping a particular musical style.

A **B** Listening Journal (89 - 80 points)

A solid paper, responding appropriately to the assignment. It is original and interesting, yet too general at times. It uses proper MLA format, but may contain a few mechanical errors, which may annoy (but not impede) the reader. It uses proper musical terminology, but sometimes lacks sophistication. The links between a music’s historical / cultural environment and its style are not as strong as in the A paper.

A **C** Listening Journal (79 - 70 points)

Adequate, but weaker and less effective than a B paper. It is original, but lacks interest and thoroughness. Stylistically, it does not use proper MLA format effectively, and contains several mechanical errors, which may temporally confuse the reader. It uses musical terminology with some success, but often lacks precise understanding. Demonstrates only a basic comprehension of a music’s historical / cultural environment.

A **D** Listening Journal (69 - 60 points)

Does not respond appropriately to the assignment. It lacks original thinking, an interesting personal response, and depth. MLA format is not present, and/or contains many mechanical errors, which block the reader’s understanding and ability to see connections between thoughts. It uses musical terminology carelessly, often with little success or abundance. Does not successfully demonstrate how a particular style of music was influenced by its historical / cultural surroundings.

An **F** Listening Journal (below 60 points)

Does not respond to the assignment. It lacks everything an A paper exhibits. The paper contains plagiarism (for which a paper will be awarded a grade of 0 points). MLA format is not present. Irrelevant details are cited. Musical terminology is not present. There is very little or no discussion on how the music was influenced by its cultural context.
COURSE ATTENDANCE

1. CLASSROOM STUDENTS

Because our time together in class is very limited, it is essential that we make the most efficient and constructive use of that time; therefore, attendance should be considered mandatory.

You will, however, be allowed two absences for the semester without penalty, no questions asked. After that, every unexcused absence will lower your final course grade by 50 points. After accumulating three unexcused absences you will be dropped from the class.

Excused absences will only be granted for documented medical or family emergencies; for religious or cultural obligations; or for university-sanctioned events. Common cold-type illnesses will not be excused. Consistent lateness to class will be treated as an absence. Three tardies will count as one absence.

Students who know they will require special accommodation for attendance or assignments for any of these reasons should inform me of the fact as far ahead of time as possible. You are still responsible for the material you miss if you are absent, whether you are excused or not. If you do happen to arrive late or miss class, it is your responsibility to ask a classmate for the information you missed.

2. ONLINE (WEB) / VCT STUDENTS

It is expected that each student has the maturity to login to Blackboard at least once daily. Failure to do so may result in you being denied access to our course website. Students who are denied access to our website will be required to contact Midland College’s registrar and withdraw from the course.

COURSE COMMUNICATION

All students must submit a working e-mail address in the Blackboard/Tools/Personal Information area during the first week of class. In addition, students must check their e-mail as well as Blackboard’s Announcements page at least once daily.

DROP / WITHDRAWING

All students are responsible for initiating a drop or withdraw, not the instructor. Please consult Midland College’s Academic calendar for withdraw date deadlines.
PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism is a serious academic offense. According to Midland College’s 2007-2008 student handbook, a student plagiarizes if he/she:

a. “fails to acknowledge the sources of any information in a paper which is not either common knowledge or personal knowledge.” (65)

b. “fails to acknowledge direct quotation either by using quotation marks or (for longer passages) indentation.” (65)

c. “Merely paraphrases the original words of the source.” (66)

d. “Borrows the ideas, examples, or structure of the source without acknowledging it.” (66)

e. “Takes, buys, or receives a paper written by someone else and presents it as the student’s own.” (66)

f. “Uses one paper for two different courses, or re-uses a paper previously submitted for credit, without the prior approval of the instructor or instructors.” (66)

Plagiarism will not be tolerated in our class. All assignments containing plagiarism, whether intentional or not, will be awarded a grade of 0. To understand plagiarism and how to avoid it, visit Blackboard/Course Documents/Avoiding Plagiarism.

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA) STATEMENT

Midland College is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. Any student who, because of a disabling condition, may require some special arrangements in order to meet course requirements should contact the instructor as soon as possible to make the necessary accommodations.

OBSERVANCE OF RELIGIOUS HOLY DAYS

“Religious holy day” means a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation under Section 11.20, Tax Code.

Texas House Bill 256 requires institutions of higher education to excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day. No prior notification of the instructor is required.