

DePaul University, School for New Learning

AI 225 "Great Music in Chicago"

Summer, 2017

June 12-August 14, 2017

AI 225 "GREAT MUSIC IN CHICAGO"—June 12—August 14, 2017

Instructor Name: Joe Cunniff, jcunniff@depaul.edu, Phone (773) 728-0357

Course Dates: Monday evenings June 12 to August 14, 2016, 5:45 to 9:15 p.m.

Competencies Offered (choose any one or two): A1A, H2F, A1C, A3D

Course Location: Loop Campus

Course Description: This course will introduce students to, and enrich their knowledge of, great composers and their music as it is performed in Chicago in the summer, as well as jazz as it is performed in Chicago in the summer. Films and recordings will be used in the classroom to enhance the learning experience, and students will attend three summer concerts, at Millennium Park, at Ravinia, and at a downtown jazz club.

Learning Outcomes, Competencies, and/ or Objectives: By the end of this course students will be able to know what a symphony and a concerto are; have knowledge of the great composers, conductors and orchestras; and know more about jazz in both history and performance.

Competencies:

A1A: Can interpret works of art and relate them to one's own experience.

H2F: Can explain the development, roles, and maintenance of social institutions.

A1C: Can analyze artistic or textural works in terms of form, content, and style.

A3D: Can assess the assumptions and implications of a significant thinker's ideas about work and leisure.

DA (Decision Analytics)

Ask about possible negotiated competences, especially H-1F, H-2-B, H-2-F, or H-3-G. Call the instructor, Joe to ask at (773) 728-0357

Welcome to "Great Music in Chicago"!

You don't have to have any kind of background in music to take and enjoy this course. Most students don't, but they love it!

The course introduces people to three of the most exciting and rewarding institutions in Chicago music: the superb Grant Park Symphony Orchestra, which plays outdoor at Lakefront Millennium Park; the world-famous Chicago Symphony Orchestra, which plays outdoors at the Ravinia Festival; and finally a live top-name jazz performance at the exciting Jazz Showcase!

We learn the background of these institutions, the nature of the arts they perform, and the terms used to describe and appreciate those forms. Most importantly, we experience, in person, the great music that they play.

Don't know what a symphony is? Haven't ever really learned about the fascinating lives of Mozart, and Beethoven, or anything about jazz? This course is for you.

When a person finishes this course, he/she will be able to demonstrate a new familiarity with these exciting art forms. There will be a new appreciation, new knowledge, and new ability to enjoy these artistic institutions on deeper levels for the future.

Learning Strategies: At the beginning of the class, there will be talks with the instructor with CDs and videos. In each class, we will learn bit-by-bit something about how to listen, about the lives of the great composers, the instruments of the orchestra, opportunities for hearing great classical performances and jazz through radio that coming week, and much more.

As an outcome of this course a student will be able to answer questions including the following:

What is a symphony?

What is a concerto?

What are the major sections of an orchestra?

What are the great orchestras in the world today and what makes them so?

How do you listen to music like this?

What is a concertmaster and what does he/she do?

What is the difference between music of different periods?

What does a conductor really do?

How does a rehearsal work?

What makes a truly great conductor?

What is jazz?

How do you listen to jazz?

What are the major styles of jazz?

How does Chicago figure in jazz history?

What are the special qualities of the jazz of Louis Armstrong, Count Basie, and Charlie "Bird" Parker?

Learning Strategies and Resources: in the classroom, the instructor will use lecture, discussion, selected readings, recordings, and films on music and musicians. Students will keep a course journal to write about music they hear and their impressions of the music. There will be both class meetings and the three concerts. The trip dates to the Grant Park Music Festival at Lakefront Millennium Park and to the Chicago Symphony Orchestra at Ravinia Park will be chosen in plenty of time for everyone to make plans, and the Jazz Showcase will be a Sunday afternoon 4 p.m. matinee, with a discount for students and seniors, and

children 12 and under free with an adult! Students are welcome to invite family members and friends to the concert dates.

Book: “The Enjoyment of Music” by Joseph Machlis and Kristine Forney. New or used. Handouts supplied by instructor. Reviews, articles on music. Class trips, discussion.

Learning Deliverables: Each week there will be reading and listening assignments. These will be recorded in the students’ course journal. The course journal, including class notes, book notes, notes on listening, and field trip notes, will be due on the last night of class, or shortly thereafter. The instructor will always be available for feedback each week on how your journal is coming.

Criteria for Assessment:

A1A: In the weekly journal writing and in discussion both in class and at the events, students will learn to interpret the works and relate them to one’s own experience.

A1C: Weekly writing in the journal will demonstrate the ability to put into one’s own words and evaluation of musical art in terms of form, content, and style; for example, the symphony, the concerto, different conductors, different jazz players. A3D: The Assumptions and implications of significant thinkers about works of leisure will be grasped and analyzed through class discussion, listening and writing. The criteria which will indicate competence will include knowledge of the institutions covered and the development of a more open, mature, and receptive attitude about great music.

H2F: The understanding and clear explanations of the social institutions represented this course will be developed by reading, writing, classroom lectures, listening exercises, field trips, and students journals.

General Topics and Time Framework:

1st week: What is music? Who are some of the great writers of music? At least part of every class will continue on the lives and special achievements of great writers of music.

2nd week: The instruments, on film and in practice. The development of the orchestra.

3rd week: The great orchestras and conductors.

4th week: How to listen: Previews of music that we will hear live.

5th week: More on the orchestra and on the music that we will hear.

6th week: More on and pre-listening to the music that we will hear live.

7th week: Chicago Symphony videos and CDs. notes. Jazz.

8th week: Great jazz and jazz in Chicago.

9th week. More on great composers and on great jazz.

10th week: Overview, review, and notes for the future.

Evidence that the student will submit for evaluation: Students will submit a ten-week course journal that will include class notes, weekly listening notes, and notes on the three trips.

Grading Criteria and Scale: Grade will be based on attendance, class participation, book notes, listening notes, and notes on field trips. Attendance, including class participation, will for 15% of the grade. The course journal, including writing and listening assignments and notes on the classes and field trips, will count for 85% Grading will be A, B, C, D, with plus or minus, or Pass/Fail. Instructor will always be available for feedback on progress.

Course Policies: No phones will be allowed in class. Students are expected to observe proper classroom etiquette. This course includes and adheres to the college and university policies described in the links below:

NOTE: Attendance at all in-class classes plus the three musical events is very important and a very important grade factor.

Evaluation: The major grade factors are the course journal, active and involved attendance, and the weekly listening assignments.

The instructor's feedback and assessments will try to embody the qualities of clarity, integrity, flexibility, and empathy.

The instructor expects that the class will be an inspiring, joyful, fun, and richly rewarding educational experience!

Instructor: Joe Cunniff is a much-experienced arts educator, writer, critic, speaker and actor. He has taught courses and given talks and tours about Chicago and its arts scene for more than 25 years, and has taken sixteen art and music study trips to Europe. He is a former voting member of the Downbeat International Critics Poll.

More about the class? Please call Joe at (773) 728-0357. Thanks!

See additional information pertaining to the grade designations for [undergraduate grades](#). See [Pass/Fail Grading Options](#).

This course includes and adheres to the college and university policies described in the links below:

[Academic Integrity Policy](#)

[Incomplete Policy](#)

[Course Withdrawal Timelines and Grade/Fee Consequences](#)

[Accommodations Based on the Impact of a Disability](#)

[Protection of Human Research Participants](#)

Course Resources

[University Center for Writing-based Learning](#)

[SNL Writing Guide](#)

[Dean of Students Office](#)