

MUSIC 1: Exploring Music

Queens College
Spring 2020, 3 credits

Instructor: Samuel Teeple
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Student Hours: Monday 12:00pm-1:30pm
or by appointment; Room 303

Meeting Times and Location:
MW 10:45am–12:00pm
Music Building, Room 265

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Course Summary

Exploring Music examines how music communicates and embodies social and personal ideas, beliefs, and values relevant to both music makers and users. **Musical elements and listening skills** are introduced and developed throughout the course in order to explicate musical meanings. We will investigate **topics** such as music and love, music and gender, music and politics, war, ethnicity, et cetera. We will also examine how these topics are embedded in **different genres of music**, including popular music, “world” music, and Western art music (also known as classical music). No previous musical expertise such as knowledge of musical notation is required to succeed in this class. At the end of this semester, students will better understand how different musics function within a social context. We will develop the ability to reflect on the communicative powers of music, connecting the sounds we hear with the living world that surrounds them.

Course Goals; or, “By the end of this class, I will be...”

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- ✓ Knowledgeable about the building blocks of many kinds of music
 - ✓ Able to listen to a song/piece of music, even for the first time, and discuss how it works on a musical level
 - ✓ Familiar with the social factors that give music meaning to different groups of people
 - ✓ A stronger communicator through writing and/or speech
 - ✓ Part of a classroom community working to learn together
 - ✓ Excited to discover new music!



Accessibility Statement

Students with disabilities or other conditions requiring academic accommodation should: (1) register with and provide documentation to the Special Services Office, 171 Kiely Hall; and (2) bring a letter to the instructor during the first week of classes indicating the need for accommodation, and of what type. For more information about services available to Queens College students, contact Dr. Mirian Detres-Hickey, Special Services Office; mdetres@yahoo.com, 718 997-587. You can visit the Special Services Office online at <http://qcpages.qc.cuny.edu/spsv/index.htm>.

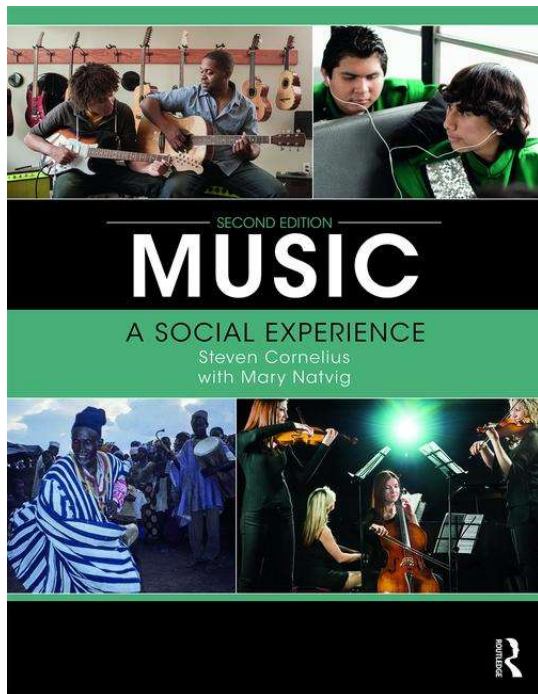
Your success in this class is important to me. If there are circumstances that may affect your performance in this class, please let me know as soon as possible so that we can work together to develop strategies for adapting assignments to meet both your needs and the requirements of the course.

Student Resources at Queens College

Writing assignments make up a large proportion of your grade in this course. While I am more than happy to give you feedback on your work, my comments will focus on the strength of your arguments, reasoning, and musical evidence. For one-on-one help with topics like sentence construction, grammar, and spelling, please make a free appointment online with the campus writing center: <http://writingcenter.qwriting.qc.cuny.edu/>.

If you find yourself struggling with your course load, student life, or mental health, please visit the Counseling Health and Wellness Center in Frese Hall. At **no cost**, students can consult a nurse about health, diet, and reproductive concerns and discuss academic and personal issues with licensed mental health professionals, among other services. <https://www.qc.cuny.edu/StudentLife/services/counseling/Pages/default.aspx>.

Course Resources



Required Textbook:

Music: A Social Experience

Second Edition—Not the First Edition!

Steven Cornelius and Mary Natvig

On **course reserve** at the **Music Library**
(Music Building, room 225)

Course Assignments and Grading

Grades are the cumulative result of fixed point totals attached to each assignment. You can currently earn a possible 500 points this semester; if this amount changes, I will let you know in class, on the course site, and by email.

Blog Posts (100 pts.): Our course site features a blog in which you are required to post 10 times. On Wednesdays after



Syllabus, course schedule, assignments, weekly blog posts, and more are available through our **course site**, hosted on the CUNY Academic Commons. If you have any questions regarding the course site, you can email me or use the Help tool on the Commons.

<http://expmusspring20.commonsgc.cuny.edu>

In addition to the textbook, students can find listening materials and chapter resources on the publisher's website: <http://routledge.com/cw/Cornelius>

(a direct link is also accessible via the home page of the course site)

class, I will share a prompt that you are required to respond to by **the following Sunday at 12:00pm**. Blog posts turned in after this deadline will receive no credit, unless accompanied by a late pass (as described in Course Policies).

In your responses, I expect two to three paragraphs (around 180 words) in which your ideas are supported by musical evidence. Each blog is worth 10 points: blogs are evaluated for their use of support, strength of argument, and length.

You must also post a substantive comment on one of your classmates' responses by 2:00pm (two hours after the deadline). These comments should be two to three sentences long and be more than a simple "that's cool," "I agree," or "You're wrong." It's fine to disagree or support their points, but provide specific reasons why. Or you can share something interesting that relates to or builds on the original post.

Quizzes (100 pts.): There will be a short syllabus quiz and three full quizzes over the course of the semester. These are given in class and feature a combination of matching, short response, multiple choice, and listening.

Syllabus Quiz (10 pts.): Wed. 1/29

Quiz 1 (30 pts.): Mon. 2/24

Quiz 2 (30 pts.): Wed. 4/1

Quiz 3 (30 pts.): Mon. 5/4

In-Class Participation (100 pts.): You can earn participation points by handing in the small writing assignments and group activities that we will complete during most of our meetings. These will be graded as credit/no credit, so make sure to always include your full name when turning in your assignments! Also, make sure to bring **paper and a writing utensil** to every class session.

Music And... Playlist (200 pts.): Using Spotify or Youtube, you will create a playlist of 8 pieces that align with a *social* topic, as in the titles of our textbook's chapters ("Music and Love," "Music and War," etc.). You may select your own topic; however, it cannot be one of the options presented in the textbook. You must include one example

of world music, one example of popular music, and two examples of Western art music. Each playlist entry is accompanied by a written entry that describes the musical characteristics of each piece, as well as how the social context surrounding the music fits with your topic.

This assignment is divided into several due dates throughout the semester. Full descriptions and rubrics will be provided in class and on the course site.

Topic Proposal (20 pts.): Two to three paragraphs describing the social topic you want to use for your playlist. **Due via email Monday 3/2 by 10:45am.**

Midterm Playlist (80 pts.): The first half of your playlist (four pieces and topic description). **Due via email Monday 3/23 by 10:45am.**

Final Playlist (100 pts.): The revised midterm along with the final four songs of the playlist. Presented in class during the last week/final exam session. **Due via email Monday 5/4 by 10:45am.**

Extra Credit Concert Report (20 pts.): To complete this assignment, you must attend a concert, either on- or off-campus, and write two pages (400 words) on your observations. A worksheet/rubric to guide your report is available on the course site; I recommend bringing a copy with you to the concert so you can record your thoughts while you listen. The completed report, along with a ticket, program, or picture of you at the concert, is due by email two weeks after the concert date.

Grading Scale

A+	97-100
A	93-96
A-	90-92
B+	87-89
B	83-86
B-	80-82
C+	77-79
C	73-76
C-	70-72
D+	67-69
D	60-66
F	0-59

Course Policies

Attendance: In order to succeed in this course, you must attend as many sessions as possible. The topics of blog posts as well as the contents of quizzes and paper assignments all stem directly from our discussions in class. Furthermore, missing class will cause you to lose participation points from in-class activities.

Please limit your absences to **three or fewer**. If you must miss class, I expect an email at least 12 hours beforehand, except in cases of emergency. After your third absence, I require a one-on-one conference with you to discuss your attendance in the future. If you become unsure about whether you can attend class regularly at any point in the semester, please communicate your concerns immediately. Unfortunately, you will lose participation points following the third absence unless we talk beforehand.

Late Work: All students will receive two late passes to be used on any

assignment. By redeeming your pass, you receive an extra two days to turn in your work. Or, you can combine your two late passes to turn in one assignment four days late. Budget your time accordingly, but please reach out in case of unexpected emergencies.

Electronics: If you choose to take notes on your laptop or tablet, I expect you to refrain from watching videos, browsing the web, using social media, etc. Similarly, I expect that any phone use is brief and necessary, unless you let me know at the beginning of class that you need to use it for an extended period. It's all too obvious that you're on your phone when I see you staring at your lap or bag, so please resist the temptation. If it does happen, your participation grade will be docked.

Academic Honesty: Academic dishonesty is prohibited in the City University of New York. Penalties for academic dishonesty include academic sanctions, such as failing or otherwise reduced grades, and/or disciplinary sanctions, including suspension and/or expulsion.

Examples of academic dishonesty include but are not limited to cheating, plagiarism, obtaining unfair advantage, and/or falsification of records and official documents. If you share an assignment with a classmate and they copy your work, with or without your permission, both of you can be penalized. Simply put, academic dishonesty will not be tolerated in this class. If you are unsure whether an action you wish to take is academically dishonest (e.g., working on a homework assignment with a friend), *ask me first*.