

Writing about Music

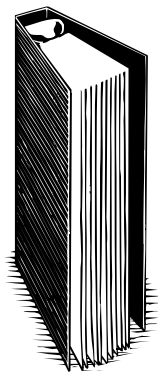
MUSIC 320 - Spring 2008 Monday and Wednesday 2:00 - 3:15 p.m. ROLLINS COLLEGE

In **Writing about Music** the student will act as a music critic would for a newspaper or magazine, doing reviews of concerts or recordings as well as writing long, well-researched supplementary articles. Preparation for each concert may be made by researching materials about the various composers and compositions to be heard, by reading any general music text, and by listening to recordings of works to be performed (and by reading the CD insert!). The student may do additional research in the library, from scanning citations in *Grove's Dictionary of Music and Musicians* in the reference section or on-line, to reading pertinent books held in the general collection. Interviewing artists will be accomplished whenever possible, as will reading newspaper and magazine articles appropriate to the concerts and the artists. This is what a reviewer does. The information about music and musicians that the student gleans from all this research will form the basis for the short answer and essay questions on the Midterm and Final Examinations.

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But, in writing about music one is trying to describe the indefinable in words. After all, the purpose of art is to communicate an idea or emotion, and with music there are no words, no definitions. One can say a piece is loud or soft, but it is a bit harder to describe how the music made the listener feel. Moreover, one listener may have heard one thing, and another listener something different. The writer who uses vivid language and vibrant examples is the one who just might allow us to understand what happened at the event, and being that writer is a triumph of hard work and care.

Most of all, though, writing and reflecting, is for the self. Writing helps you focus your thoughts, allows your voice to be heard, makes you valuable. When you write you are leaving something to the future, a reminder that you were here, and that what you say is important.



REQUIRED TEXTS:

Lawrence M. Hinman, *Ethics: A Pluralistic Approach to Modern Society*, Harcourt Brace, 1994.

(opt.) Miles Hoffman, *The NPR Classical Music Companion*, Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company.

(opt.) William Strunk, Jr., and E. B. White, *The Elements of Style*, 4th Edition, Needham Heights, MA: Allyn and Bacon, 2000. (Any edition will do.)

SUGGESTED RESOURCES: Thesaurus

Many of the sources of information will come from resources you can access on-line. You will learn to do research that is worthy of a student at a top liberal arts college.

- The student in MUS 320 is required to display critical thinking skills in analysis of the various composers and compositions under discussion, and these skills will show development and refinement through successive drafts of papers and essays. Students will display these skills through a variety of uses of writing.
- After reading various texts and listening, the student will write an essay or opinion piece reflecting thoughtful examination into the literature and critical thinking to answer an exam question, or write a review of a selected concert, or make an entry into a journal, or do substantive research in a manner that reflects not only critical thinking skills but also demonstrates an ability to display those skills in a clear and refined manner. The student, when given the opportunity, will be able to display further refinement of ideas and presentation as multiple drafts of papers progress.



GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENT achieved by successful completion of MUS 320:

VALUES (V) – During this course students will identify the moral and ethical issues inherent in various issues in the music industry (e.g., payola, drugs in the industry, copyright infringement, bias in performance evaluation, etc.). Many of these issues

do not seem to be “business as usual” to our students, and upon reflection and discussion, the ability of our students to consider their values in response to those issues. Upon identity of the moral and ethical dimensions present in the issues facing those in the music industry, the students will construct a resolution to the specific dilemma that will encompass an explanation of the moral and ethical principles involved.

ASSESSMENT:

DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC CLASS ATTENDANCE POLICY:

For classroom courses meeting 150 minutes a week, students may miss 150 minutes of class per semester; *i.e.*, three classes when the class meets three times a week and **two classes when the class meets twice a week**. The Department does not distinguish between unexcused and excused absences. Students are advised to save missed classes for genuine emergency situations and to notify the office of the Dean of Student Affairs, which will in turn notify the students’ professors. The final grade in the course will drop four percentage points for each absence beyond allowed number.

The Department views arriving late for a class as a disruption. Three late arrivals up to ten minutes count as one absence. Arrivals after ten minutes count as an absence.

Each class lasts 75 minutes. The session begins at 2 and ends at 3:15. Do not plan to do any other activity until after 3:15 p.m.

No assignments will be accepted past the due date or class time.

- Attendance is required at all classes and outside-of-class events. Note that this class must be tailored to the backgrounds needs of the students: the loose plan of the class will be adjusted to ensure comprehension and mastery of materials and skills (and to take advantage of visitors' availability).
- Constant, daily preparation and completion of written assignments promptly. No written assignments will be accepted beyond the due date.

- Satisfactory grades on class performance and on exams. The final exam is Tuesday, May 6, 8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. Plan your airline reservations not to conflict with this date. Only illness or college activities will allow a student to take the exam at another time.
- Dress for the class may be casual, but not sloppy. No baseball caps inside. Your appearance reflects your attitude toward other students, professors, and visitors to the campus. In addition, you will note that acceptable attire will reinforce your own self-image as a serious, diligent, successful student. Your attitude in the class sends a message of your self-worth, too. Do you lean back in your chair, daring the professor to teach you something? Are you busy checking your e-mail? True, your professor may not be as compelling as B eyonce, but present yourself well while in the class. Note the VALUES held dear in this class, values that define our conduct toward each other and our work in this class. We will be discussing how these values affect our daily work and our path through life.
- At various times in the semester STUDENTS will be responsible for presentation of material. Everyone in the class will have an opportunity to show leadership and take pride in work well done.
- From time to time you will get an e-mail with a pertinent website you should look at. Consider this website a reading assignment, just like a regular homework assignment. You'll be asked about it, or at least you'll need the information to answer stuff on quizzes and exams.
- The best place to start when finding more information, first check the On-Line Catalog at www.rollins.edu/olin . The Library continually gets a stream of books and electronic resources, and one list made in January is not valid by March, much less April. Beware of those resources you find by checking Google – the electronic sources available at the Library have been proved to be reliable. Also, please check out the on-line recorded collections; these give you hundreds of

When you finally see that you're not attentive, paying attention will start becoming a priority. Then there is no such thing as wasted time.

--Everyday Zen

thousands of pieces to listen to, and you can access this list through the Rollins Olin Library home page.

Concert Reviews – 40% of grade: Reviews of **EIGHT** concerts are required. Seven are on-campus and are free (although since student seating at Bach Festival events has limited sight lines, you may wish to purchase a student ticket, but you **MUST** sign up). The seventh review is of a concert of your own choosing, either on or off campus. The reviewer is to attend the each event in its entirety, and not leave after making a brief appearance. Each concert is like a lab in a science course; if you do not think you can attend the concert, you should not take the class. The seventh and eighth reviews are due within a week of the event. See the list of Concerts attached. Concert reviews are due at the next class meeting **AFTER** the concert (with some exceptions):

Day of Concert	Day Review Due
Sunday	Tuesday
Monday	Thursday
Tuesday	Thursday
Wednesday	Tuesday
Thursday	Tuesday
Friday	Tuesday
Saturday	Tuesday

Research Paper – 20% : Assigned after Spring Break, due last week of class.

Midterm (10%) and Final Exam (15%)

General Writing Assignments (15%) – Various brief reaction papers to the reading and other materials will be assigned. **BRING** a copy of the New York Times to class. Each class period two students may volunteer to lead an article about an issue in the paper that is particularly noteworthy, either for its topic related to the topic of music, or a review that is particularly well-written. Each student will be responsible for leading a minimum of three discussions.

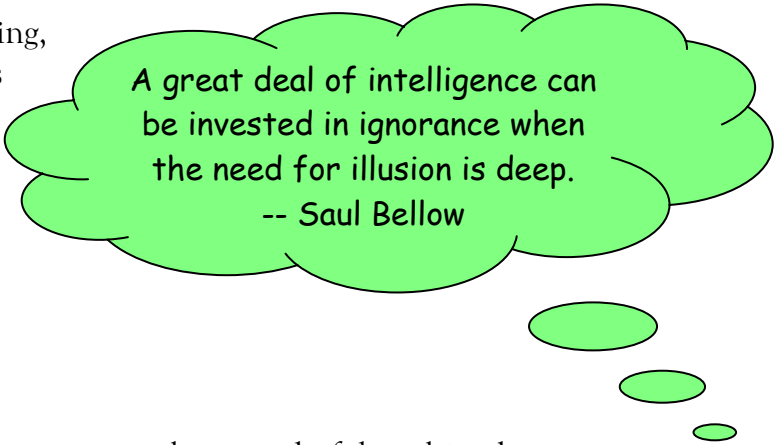
Other work that may be assigned.

NOTE: This syllabus is subject to amendment as circumstances dictate. The student is advised to check his/her Rollins e-mail daily.

HOW TO GET AN A!

There is a new technique in learning, but it could apply to anything in life. It's called the **SLANT** method. SLANT stands for:

- Sit up,
- Listen,
- Ask questions,
- Nod, and
- Track the speaker with your eyes.



A great deal of intelligence can be invested in ignorance when the need for illusion is deep.
-- Saul Bellow

This may sound silly and juvenile, but no matter what wonderful multi-taskers we are, we can miss stuff while reading e-mail or IM'ing a friend. In a music class there are times of silence for contemplation built in. A class is not TV, where entertainment is the purpose. The speed of substantive information comes at you faster. Be ready for it!

Do the work yourself and do it on time. That means reading the syllabus, being in class on time so you don't have to ask someone for the assignment, doing the reading, attending the concert. Woody Allen once said, "80% of success is showing up." Show up for life. Become involved in learning. And do the work on time. Classes are designed by people who have been in that field forever. They have experience with what works and how and when is best to learn something. Yes, deadlines are for you so you will get things done, but also remember that any deadline is set by someone who has to create a graduation list, close one topic and move on to another, receive their rent so they can make the repairs necessary, schedule the award ceremony, get you a scholarship on time. If you are truly sick, notify the professor, get any handouts. This, again, is elementary stuff, but in 25 years at Rollins I've seen the brightest students undone by laziness.

College Mission Statement: Rollins College educates students for global citizenship and responsible leadership, empowering graduates to pursue meaningful lives and productive careers. We are committed to the liberal arts ethos and guided by its values and ideals. Our guiding principles are excellence, innovation, and community.

What are you doing to exemplify the College's mission? Are you thinking about global citizenship? Are you demonstrating responsible leadership? You are **all** leaders. Everything you do is a model for someone else. That's what a leader is. Are you spending time engaging in the core values of the liberal arts: skill, friendship, citizenship, and intellectual development? With a little focus you will be one of Rollins' stars. I know it!

ACADEMIC HONESTY:

NOTE: PLAGIARISM will not be tolerated. Plagiarism includes copying words or ideas from an Internet site, a book, an article, or a CD insert without giving credit to the real author of those words. It includes copying work of another student or turning in work for one class that has already been used to satisfy the requirements in another class.

THE ACADEMIC HONOR CODE

Membership in the student body of Rollins College carries with it an obligation, and requires a commitment, to act with honor in all things. Because academic integrity is fundamental to the pursuit of knowledge and truth and is the heart of the academic life of Rollins College, it is the responsibility of all members of the College community to practice it and to report apparent violations.

The following pledge is a binding commitment by the students of Rollins College:

The development of the virtues of Honor and Integrity are integral to a Rollins College education and to membership in the Rollins College community. Therefore, I, a student of Rollins College, pledge to show my commitment to these virtues by abstaining from any lying, cheating, or plagiarism in my academic endeavors and by behaving responsibly, respectfully and honorably in my social life and in my relationships with others.

This pledge is reinforced every time a student submits work for academic credit as his/her own. Students shall add to all papers, quizzes, tests, lab reports, etc., the following handwritten abbreviated pledge followed by their signature:

“On my honor, I have not given, nor received, nor witnessed any unauthorized assistance on this work.”

Material submitted electronically should contain the pledge; submission implies signing the pledge.

Assignments: Now that you have read the pledge, you have two assignments. The first assignment is due Monday, January 21: Please go to <http://www.indiana.edu/~istd/>. On this page there is a tutorial on plagiarism. Please work the tutorial, which will take about an hour, or maybe two - but don't rush it, and at the end of the tutorial take the test. If you pass the test, print out the certificate, and turn it in, no later than the beginning of class Monday, January 21, 2008.

Your professor is serious about truth-telling. In fact, falsehood is the one thing she finds unforgivable. This extends to "Did you do the reading?" "Uh-huh," when you haven't. This also includes sloppy research techniques and theft of intellectual property.

Rollins College is committed to equal access and does not discriminate unlawfully against persons with disabilities in its policies, procedures, programs or employment processes. The College recognizes its obligations under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 to provide an environment that does not discriminate against persons with disabilities.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

If you are a person with a disability and anticipate needing any type of academic accommodation in order to participate in this class, please make appropriate arrangements with Gail Ridgeway, CRC, Disability Services Coordinator, located in the Thomas P. Johnson Student Resource Center, (407) 646-2354, e-mail gridgeway@rollins.edu.

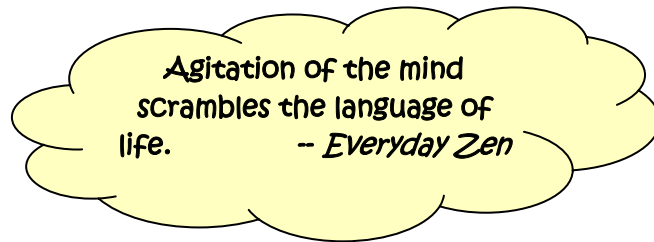


ASSIGNMENTS

This schedule is subject to amendment to enhance the learning process for the class. Students are expected to keep up to date with all changes and all class requirements. (Check your Rollins e-mail on a daily basis as not to miss an announcement.)

Schedule Update – MUS 320 – 11 February 2008	
MONDAY	WEDNESDAY
	JANUARY 16 - How to listen to music.
21 -	23 -
28 -	30 - Film: What does music mean?
FEBRUARY 4 - “Sitting on the Piano” PPT presentation; writing sample	6 - Handouts - Discussion: Materials of Music
11 - Review of instruments, dynamics, et al from Mar 6 handout Materials on Bach Festival concerts.	13 - Survey from Ethics, pp. 7 - 9. Read and take notes through Chapter 2. Assignment for Final Paper. Sign up for individual appointment. Censorship - Blacklist .
18 - Watch <i>The Front</i> .	22 - Turn in Preliminary Outline, Bibliography, and Topic Sentence. Continue <i>The Front</i> .
25 - Reflection paper on <i>The Front</i> due. Situational ethics.	27 -
MARCH 3 – MIDTERM EXAM	5 - By now you should have turned in at least three of the eight reviews! Meet Mati Braun, violinist.
March 10 – 18 - SPRING BREAK	
17 -	19 - Dr. Gloria Cook, pianist
24 - What about the composer? Watch <i>Amadeus</i> .	26 - What about the composer? Watch <i>Amadeus</i> .
MARCH 31 - Reflection on <i>Amadeus</i> Due. Who pays for the arts?	2 - First Draft of Research Paper DUE . The artist in today’s society.
7 -	9 -.

14 -	16 - Research Day
21 - Research Day	23 - Research Day
APRIL 28 - Final Paper DUE. Windup and prepare for final.	
Tuesday, May 6, 8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m - FINAL EXAM	



If you write anything, read it through a second time, for no one can avoid slips. Let not any consideration of hurry prevent you from revising a short epistle.

Be punctilious as to grammatical accuracy in conjunctions and genders. Mistakes in writing bring disrepute; they are remembered always. . .

Be careful in the use of conjunctions and adverbs and how you apply them and how they harmonize with the verbs. . .

Endeavor to cultivate conciseness and elegance; do not attempt to write verse unless you can do it perfectly. Avoid heaviness, which spoils a composition, making it disagreeable alike to reader or audience.

Judah ibn Tibbon (c. 1120 - c. 1190)
Author and translator

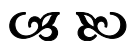
Concert Attendance – Spring 2008

	A – Attend a Minimum of Three Events	B – Attend a Maximum of Three Events	C – Attend a Maximum of Two Events
Sunday, Jan 27, 3 p.m.		Piano Masterclass – Sylvia Eckes	
Saturday, Feb 9 at 8pm			Classical Music 101*
Friday, Feb 15 at 8pm	Anonymous 4		
Sunday, Feb 17 at 3pm	Masters of the Baroque		
Saturday, Feb 23 at 8pm OR Sunday, Feb 24 at 3pm	Leon Fleisher in a program of Mozart and Beethoven		
Tuesday, February 26 - 12:30 pm		Voice Masterclass - Mary Ann Hart, mezzo	
Wednesday, February 27 - 12:00 noon		Voice Masterclass with Robert Bracey, tenor	
Thursday, February 28 - 12:30 pm		Lecture-Demonstration, Joanne Kong, harpsichord	
Thursday, February 28 - 3:30 pm		Voice Masterclass with Brad Diamond, tenor	
Saturday, March 1 at 8 PM	Haydn's <i>The Creation</i>		
Sunday, March 2 at 3 PM	J.S. Bach's <i>St. Matthew Passion</i>		
Saturday, March 8 - 7:30 pm	Faculty Recital: Matitiahua Braun, violin		
Sunday, March 9 at 3 PM	Paul Jacobs, organ recital		
Friday, March 21 - 12:00 noon			Good Friday Service: Concert Choir KMC
Friday, March 28, 2008 at 8pm	Chamber Orchestra Kremlin		
Sunday, April 6 - 3:00 pm	Faculty Recital: Gloria Cook, piano		

Monday, April 7 - 7:30 pm	Faculty Recital: Chuck Archard, electric bass		
Tuesday, April 8 - 7:30 pm		Rollins Wind Ensemble	
Saturday, April 12, 2008 at 8pm OR Sunday, April 13, 2008 at 3pm	Gustav Mahler's <i>Symphony No. 2</i>		
Wednesday, April 16 - 7:30 pm		Rollins Brass Ensemble / String Ensemble	
Thursday, April 17 - 7:30 pm		Rollins Singers /Women's Ensemble/Men's Glee / Gospel Choir	
Friday, April 18 at 8 PM	The Waverly Consort		
Saturday, April 19 - 7:30 pm Tkts Req'd		Asian Cultural Association Legacy of Pandit Nikhil Banerjee	
Sunday, April 20 - 7:30 pm		Rollins Percussion and Mallet Ensembles	
Tuesday, April 22 - 7:30 pm		Concert Choir / Chamber Singers	
Wednesday, April 23 - 7:30 pm		Rollins Jazz Ensembles	
Sunday, April 27 - 7:30 pm			Student Composition Recital
Tuesday, April 29 - 7:30 pm		Rollins College Orchestra	

*No concert credit (but a valuable event to attend)

NOTE: For locations of these events, please check the posters throughout the Music Building



GRADES!

At Rollins College, no one *gives* a student a grade. The grade is earned. The grades on assignments and end-of-the-term evaluations are based on legitimate assessment reflecting the professor's standard for the general student population at Rollins as well as the level of work of students across the United States and throughout the world.

HOW DO I GET AN A? Let's reflect on what is required, and how these activities are reflected according to Rollins' definition, as found on page 29 in the College Catalogue:

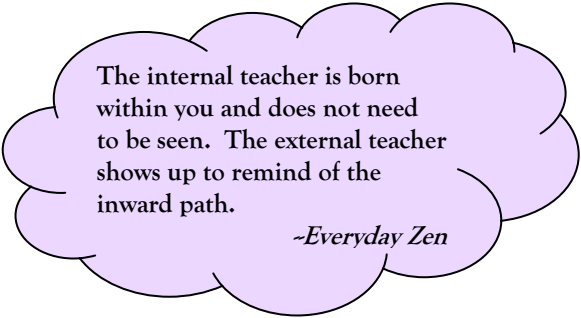
ROLLINS DEFINITIONS		LACKMAN'S TRANSLATIONS
Failing	F Below 60	Let's not go there
The lowest passing grade. It is below the average necessary to meet graduation requirements and is not accepted for transfer by other institutions.	D 60 - 60	Below the average. Assignments are not completed, there is no evidence of study or effort at understanding. The student does not meet the minimum requirements.
A respectable grade. A C average (2.00) is required for graduation. It reflects consistent daily preparation and satisfactory completion of all work required.	C 70 - 79	Average. The student completes all assignments, perhaps studies at the last minute for a test, or does some of the work at the last minute. The student makes an attempt to organize notes and class material. See what constitutes a B.
Given for work that is consistently superior and shows interest, effort, or originality.	B 80 - 89	More than just the required effort. The student may consult other sources of information, or seek support at TJ's. The student is prepared for class, having read and reflected on all material ahead of time. Work is prepared well ahead of time for the student to reflect on the quality and make improvements that are necessary. There is evidence that professor comments on papers and quizzes have been studied so that problems do not appear again.
Reserved for work that is exceptional in quality and shows keen insight, understanding, and initiative .	A 90 - 100	In addition to those activities required for a B, the student may do additional research at the library, review the class material, and review class notes not only before a test but also after that day's class. The student tries to make connections between courses, activities, and readings being done in classes that semester, and between material done in previous terms.



ENTITLEMENTS

As a student in this class, you are entitled to several things:

1. You are entitled to an environment that enables you to learn.
2. You are entitled to be in a classroom where every student, as well as yourself, is ready to begin work when class starts.
3. You are entitled to be in a classroom where everyone has read the material ahead of time and is prepared for class, not just yourself.
4. You are entitled to be in a classroom where students arriving late to class do not disturb your learning.
5. You are entitled to be in a classroom where your attention is not distracted by another student's attire, including clothing with suggestive messages, or clothing more appropriate to a locker room or barroom stool.
6. You are entitled to demonstrate that you can accept responsibility for your own work.
7. You are entitled to develop your intelligence and stock of knowledge and skills without limit.
8. You are entitled to be in a classroom where everyone is evaluated on the quality of each individual's work.
9. You are entitled to be challenged to learn and master more information and skills, both in and out of the classroom.
10. You are entitled to have all your work evaluated on every facet, from its content to its presentation.



The internal teacher is born within you and does not need to be seen. The external teacher shows up to remind of the inward path.

-Everyday Zen

CORE VALUES

PLAINNESS, CLEARNESS, FREEDOM FROM OBSCURITY,
CANDOR, FREEDOM FROM PREJUDICE OR BIGOTRY

OPENNESS

FRANKNESS,

CONSIDERATION,
HONOR, ESTEEM

RESPECT

COURTESY, ATTENTION, DEFERENCE,

BRAVERY, BOLDNESS, SPIRIT, HEROISM, CONFIDENCE, SELF-RELIANCE,
DETERMINATION

COURAGE

HONESTY

CANDOR, FRANKNESS, SINCERITY, TRUSTWORTHINESS, TRUTHFULNESS

HONOR, UPRIGHTNESS, WHOLENESS,

INTEGRITY

COMPLETENESS

DIVERSITY

DIFFERENCE, VARIATION, VARIETY

STEADINESS, STABILITY, EQUALITY, EVEN, LEVEL

BALANCE