

From Sinai to Symphony

MUS 372

A Survey of Jewish Music

TUESDAY, THURSDAY 9:30 – 10:45 A.M. ROLLINS COLLEGE - FALL 2010

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Study Sessions/Office Hours: M/W, 3:30 – 5 p.m.; T/Th 11 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

OR just drop in, and by appointment

Judaism has been associated with music from the earliest lines in the Bible, and Jewish music appears in a plethora of variation, from Gregorian chant to a theme of a Beethoven string quartet. In our time, Jews used music as a way out of oppression, many becoming prominent performers and composers. This survey touches on some of the definitions of what is "Jewish" in music, from liturgical chant, to folk songs, to music of the concert hall and Tin Pan Alley.

This course supports the Minor in Judaic Studies, and the Music Major as a non-traditional survey course. Significant study in music is not required, nor is it even preferable that the student be Jewish; all that is required is a genuine desire to learn and a willingness to put a modicum of energy into that activity.

MUS 372 satisfies the "D" General Education Requirement:

Western Society and Culture (D): Provides an understanding of the historical development of Western societies, their institutions, and ideas. The ideas, arts and institutions that define Western society and culture have emerged from a rich historical process. In order to understand, appreciate, and critically evaluate any aspect of this culture, one must have an understanding of the context from which it arose. By studying the

Western heritage in its historical development, students will be encouraged to see the historical dimensions of the issues they face as engaged citizens today. At the end of this course, the student will be able to take an event, artifact, or text and discuss its significance in the development of the West, framed within a certain time period and a particular place; and, take at least one historical interpretation of an event, artifact or event and evaluate the effectiveness of the interpretation in explaining a defining aspect of Western culture.

Classwork includes guided readings, quizzes, tests, and research papers; mostly discussion/collaborative learning format, with some minimal lecture. Four semester hours.

Text:

Emanuel Rubin and John H. Baron, *Music in Jewish History and Culture*, Michigan: Harmonie Park Press, 2006.

Reserve:

Irene Heskes, *Passport to Jewish Music*, New York: Tara Publications, 1994.

Abraham Z. Idelsohn, *Jewish Music: Its Historical Development*, New York: Dover Publications, Inc., 1992.

Annon Shiloah, *Jewish Musical Traditions*, Detroit: Wayne State University Press, 1992.

Lewis Stevens, *Composers of Classical Music of Jewish Descent*, London: Vallentine Mitchell, 2003.

Students will complete additional readings in the form of assigned research materials, Internet sites, books, and articles.

Note: A computer is not integral to learning in this class, therefore, leave it packed. All cell phones must be turned off and out of sight.

REQUIREMENTS:

DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC CLASS ATTENDANCE POLICY:

For classroom courses meeting 150 minutes a week, students may miss 150 minutes of class; 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.

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 Friday, December 10, 2:00 – 4:00 p.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. (Yarmulke, kippotim are approved.) 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.

Other work as assigned.

Evaluation:

Short paper and presentation	15%
General assignments (reviews, quizzes, casual writing assignments)	30%
Research paper	20%
Midterm	15%
Final Exam	20%

From time to time in the class **STUDENTS** will be responsible for presentation of material. Students may also be asked to present homework by putting the assignment on the board and explaining how the piece was completed. Everyone in the class will have an opportunity to show leadership and take pride in work well done.

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. Any plagiarism will result in a "0" (zero) on the assignment, as well as notification of the Dean.

Some Research Resources

This first group is in the reference section of the Olin Library. (Turn right when you get into the library, and go almost all the way to the wall.) Hint: Cruise around in the same DS neighborhood for other books that might help!

DS114.E53 1986 *Encyclopedia of Jewish history: events and eras of the Jewish people* / [editor of the English edition Joseph Alpher]. Alpher, Joseph

ML106.J49 N84 1975 *Concise encyclopedia of Jewish music*. Nulman, Macy.

DS102.8 .J8 1973 *The international Jewish encyclopedia*, by Ben Isaacson and Deborah Wigoder.

DS102.8 .U5 V. 1 *The Universal Jewish encyclopedia ... an authoritative and popular presentation of Jews and Judaism since the earliest times*; Landman, Isaac, b. 1880, ed. Pub. 1943

Other Helpful Books: These books are not required reading, but may answer some questions, or start feeding your curiosity.

Dimont, Max I., *Jews, God and History*. Originally published in 1962, somewhat cheerleading, but complete.

Donin, Hayim Halevy. *To Pray as a Jew: A Guide to the Prayer Book and the Synagogue Service*, Basic Books. Written by a rabbi married to a Christian – a clear explanation.

Heskes, Irene. *Passport to Jewish Music*. Westport, CT: Greenwood Press. Nice introduction.

Rogovoy, Seth. *The Essential Klezmer*, Algonquin Books of Chapel Hill. A take on the lively current music scene.

Sapoznik, Henry. *Klezmer! Jewish Music from Old World to Our World*, Schirmer. Thorough and informative.

Shelmay, Kay Kaufman, ed. *Studies in Jewish Musical Traditions*, Harvard Library. Student papers that rose from the Judaica Sound Recordings of the Harvard Collection.

Shiloah, Amnon. *Jewish Musical Tradition*, Wayne. A good and complete guide, but requires a bit of musical knowledge and willingness for the reader to learn.

Summit, Jeffrey. *The Lord's Song in a Strange Land: Music and Identity in Contemporary Jewish Worship*. New York: Oxford University Press.

Telushkin, Joseph. *Jewish Literacy*, Morrow. A “dictionary” of explanations about traditions and practice.

Telushkin, Joseph. *Jewish Wisdom, Morrow*.

VHS/DVD, Heritage: Civilization and the Jews. A 1980s PBS series recently released on video. Excellent and complete.

ALSO, here are some neat websites that are glatt Kosher (that means very much approved).

<http://www.jmwc.org/> [Jewish Music WebCenter Home Page]

http://uahc.org/congs/tn/ti/Web_Site/Jewish_Resources.html [Jewish Resources]

<http://www.jtsa.edu/> [Jewish Theological Seminary]

<http://learn.jtsa.edu/> [Jewish Theological Seminary of America]

**Sign up for regular e-mails about holidays, history, arts.

<http://www.sephardicstudies.org/index.html> [Foundation for the Advancement of Sephardic Studies and Culture]

<http://www.zamir.org/resources/Biblio.html> [Zamir Chorale: Jewish Music Bibliography]

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/israel/> [NOVA Online/Lost Tribes of Israel]

<http://www.ort.org/jewmusm/index.htm> [The Jewish Museum Index]

http://uahc.org/congs/tn/ti/Web_Site/Jewish_Resources.html [Jewish Resources]

<http://www.bergen.org/AAST/Projects/Yiddish/English/theater.html> [Yiddish Theater]

<http://digital.library.mcgill.ca/fishstein/> [Yiddish Literature Collection]

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.

SCHEDULE

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.

Tuesday	Thursday
	26 - Introduction; Listening techniques. Assignment: Explore and study the following websites and their links: http://learn.jtsa.edu/roshhashanah/ http://learn.jtsa.edu/yomkippur/
31 - Primary Elections, Tuesday, August 31. Edelman, Ch. 1	2 - Liturgical Music - Ch 1-2
7 - Diaspora and DNA	9 - Diaspora: How Judaism Spread. Short Paper Due.
14 - Edelson, Ch. 3-4	15 - Rosh Hashannah - No Class
21 - Klezmer, Edelson, Ch. 6	23 - Klezmer
28 - <i>Fiddler on the Roof</i>	30 - <i>Fiddler</i>
5 - MIDTERM EXAM	7 -
12 - Edelson, Ch. 5, 8. Assignments for Research Paper. <i>Sacred Service</i> .	14 - <i>Sacred Service</i>
19 - George Gershwin	21 - Gershwin - Preliminary Bibliography Due. ATTEND <i>SACRED SERVICE</i> PERFORMANCE.
26 - Leonard Bernstein	28 - Leonard Bernstein
2 - Don't forgot to VOTE!! Chap. 7. Copland	4 - Ch. 9 - Copland
9 - Mahler	11 - Salomone Rossi
16 - Arnold Schonberg	18 -
23 - Research Day	25 - THANKSGIVING
30 - Steve Reich. Final Paper DUE	2 - Discussion of Papers
7 - LAST DAY OF CLASS	
13 - FINAL EXAM - 8 - 10 a.m.	

GRADES!

At Rollins College, no professor *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	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 60-69	Below the average. Assignments are completed with no evidence of effort, 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 makes connections between courses, activities, and readings being done in classes that semester, and between material done in previous terms.

CORE VALUES

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

OPENNESS

FRANKNESS,

CONSIDERATION, COURTESY,

RESPECT

ATTENTION, DEFERENCE, HONOR, ESTEEM

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

COURAGE

DETERMINATION

HONESTY

CANDOR, FRANKNESS, SINCERITY, TRUSTWORTHINESS, TRUTHFULNESS

HONOR, UPRIGHTNESS, WHOLENESS,

INTEGRITY

COMPLETENESS

DIVERSITY

DIFFERENCE, VARIATION, VARIETY

STEADINESS, STABILITY, EQUALITY, EVEN, LEVEL

BALANCE