

St. Mary's College

Department of Music

MUS 102: Western Music II

Spring 2026 – 2 Credits

Professor: Fr. Paul-Isaac Franks

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Class Times and Location: Monday, Wednesday, Friday – 2:20–3:10 pm – Room 300

Office Hours: By appointment

Course Description

MUS 102 is the second half of a yearlong study of the history of Western music. Through lecture, reading, and listening assignments centered on *A History of Western Music*, students will study major works and styles from the Early Baroque up to the present day. Special emphasis will be given to the development of opera, the birth and flourishing of the classic forms, (especially fugue, rondo form, sonata form), as well as the transition from absolute to programmatic music, and the artistic divergences of the twentieth and twenty first centuries.

Purpose

This course seeks to provide students with:

- In-depth familiarity with the core literature of Western music.
 - An understanding of analytical methods and historical context.
 - The ability to make critical distinctions in musical style and quality.
 - A Catholic perspective on cultural and philosophical developments in music history.
 - The tools to defend Catholic ideals against the distortions of cultural modernism.
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Administrative Policies

Students are bound by all policies, guidelines, and expectations found in the St. Mary's College Catalog.

- **Cell phones** are forbidden in the classroom.
- **Quizzes** will be given regularly, generally covering the material of the previous unit. The lowest quiz grade will be dropped.
- **Examinations:** A midterm and a comprehensive final exam will be given.
- **Written Assignments:** Students will submit analytical listening logs (8 approved works) and one analytical paper (3–5 pages). Essays may also be assigned throughout the semester.

- **Deadlines:** Students are responsible for knowing and meeting deadlines. Late work may be penalized unless excused.
- **Class Citizenship:** Active participation in discussion and listening sessions is expected. Attendance is required

Final Grade Weighting

- Tests – 40%
 - Quizzes – 25%
 - Written Assignments – 35%
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Required Text

- J. Peter Burkholder, Donald J. Grout, and Claude V. Palisca, *A History of Western Music*, 7th ed.

Supporting Materials

Richard Crocker, *A History of Musical Style*

Sarah Fuller, *European Musical Heritage*

Claude Palisca, *Baroque Music*

Eric Salzman, *Twentieth-Century Music: An Introduction*

John Senior, *The Death of Christian Culture; The Restoration of Christian Culture*

Bryan Simms, *Music of the Twentieth Century*

Pierro Weiss and Richard Taruskin, *Music in the Western World*

The New Grove Dictionary of Music and Musicians

The Catholic Encyclopedia

The Cambridge Dictionary of Philosophy

Highly recommended YouTube Channels (Free)

1. Meikel Rogers

This “bouncing ball” channel is fantastic for clear, visual walkthroughs of the forms of Classical and Romantic masterpieces.

<https://www.youtube.com/@Nyssa337>

2. Inside the Score

Beautifully produced video essays offering deep musical and emotional insight into famous works. Ideal for understanding narrative form, harmony, and orchestration (e.g., Mahler, Debussy, Wagner).

<https://www.youtube.com/@insidethescore>

3. Classical Nerd

Beginner-friendly videos on music history, major composers, and classical forms like sonata and fugue. Perfect for casual listeners looking to build foundational knowledge.

<https://www.youtube.com/@ClassicalNerd>

4. Classics Explained

Animated and often humorous breakdowns of iconic classical pieces.

Accessible and entertaining, though occasionally a bit edgy — best suited for students with a sense of humor.

<https://www.youtube.com/@ClassicsExplained>

5. Enjoy Classical Music

A channel that regularly uploads content exploring the wild and wonderful world of classical music. Great for discovering new pieces and gaining insights into various classical works.

<https://www.youtube.com/@enjoyclassicalmusic6006>

6. David Bruce Composer

Charming composer-hosted channel covering musical form, instrumentation, style, and creativity. Covers Stravinsky, Bartók, Britten, etc., with excellent clarity.

<https://www.youtube.com/@DavidBruceComposer>

8. *Open Yale Course: Listening to Music* (Craig Wright)

- Free full lecture course
- Engaging professor, great intro to classical form, listening, and historical background

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLh9mgdi4rNezhx8YiGIV8I22ICSuzslja>

Course Schedule (*Grout / NAWM*)

Week 1 – Part III: The Seventeenth Century (Chs. 15-17)

Week 2 – Part IV: The Eighteenth Century (Chs. 18-19)

- **Listening Quiz #1**

Week 3 – Part IV: The Eighteenth Century (Chs. 19-20)

- **Reverse Listening Log #1**

Week 4 – Part IV: The Eighteenth Century (Ch. 20-21)

- **Listening Quiz #2**

Week 5 – Part IV: The Eighteenth Century (Ch. 21-22)

Week 6 – Part V: The Nineteenth Century (chs. 23)

- **Listening Quiz #3**

February 22 – 27: SMC Retreat Week

Week 7 – Part V: The Nineteenth Century (chs. 24)

- **Reverse Listening Log #2**

Week 8 – Part V: The Nineteenth Century (chs. 25)

- **Midterm Exam (chs. 15-25)**

Week 9 – Part V: The Nineteenth Century (chs. 26)

- **Analytical Paper Assigned**

Week 10 – Part V: The Nineteenth Century (chs. 27)

- **Listening Quiz #4**

March 28 – April 12: Easter Break

Week 11 – Part V: The Nineteenth Century (chs. 28)

- **Reverse Listening Log #3**

Week 12 – Part V: The Nineteenth Century (chs. 29)

- **Listening Quiz #5**

Week 13 – Part VI: The Twentieth Century and After (chs. 30-31)

Analytical Paper Due

Week 14 – Part VI: The Twentieth Century and After (chs. 32-33)

- **Listening Quiz #6**

Week 15 – Part VI: The Twentieth Century and After (chs. 33-35)

- **Reverse Listening Log #4**
- **Final Exam (chs. 15-35 = whole Semester)**