

Women in Music

MUS 4000 / 5000

Fall 2008

-Syllabus-

Instructor: Dr. Felicia M. Miyakawa

How to contact me:

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Office hours: M 2-3:30, R 1:30-3:30, F 12:30-2, and by appointment.

-About this class-

Course Description

Women in Music is an investigation into and a celebration of women's musical activities in a variety of capacities and musical traditions. The course will cover not only women composers in the western tradition, but also women performers, women patrons, and women as objects and symbols in the marketing and consumption of music. This course may be taken for Women's Studies minor credit. Pre-requisites for this course include ENGL 1010 and ENGL 1020 or the equivalent.

Course Objectives (Learning Outcomes)

Please read this section carefully. The lectures, in-class activities, exams, and assignments are designed with these objectives in mind.

The goal of this course is to introduce you to a variety of issues related to Women in Music. By the end of this semester, you should be able to:

- Discuss cultural constructions of gender and the ramifications these constructions hold for musical experiences;
- Describe women's experiences and accomplishments in several musical fields (i.e, classical, popular, jazz, etc.) and in multiple capacities (i.e., as performers, composers, patrons, etc.);
- Articulate connections between diverse forms of feminism and their manifestations in music;
- Identify important women in music history and outline their significance;
- Apply concepts of gender performativity to the study of women

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- in music;
- Illustrate awareness of intersections of gender and social positioning (race, ethnicity, class, etc.) and their impact on music; and,
- Demonstrate familiarity with scholarship on women in music.

In order to accomplish these goals and reach these outcomes, you will be expected to keep up with daily readings and occasional listening and video assignments; participate actively in class discussions; take part in small group presentations; demonstrate your mastery of the subject matter on two take-home exams; and complete a research / presentation project on a topic of your choice (with my guidance and approval). Graduate students will have additional expectations (see the course schedule for details).

Textbooks

The following text books are REQUIRED:

- Burns, Lori. *Disruptive Divas: Feminism, Identity, and Popular Music*. New York: Routledge, 2001.
- Neuls-Bates, Carol, ed. *Women in Music: An Anthology of Source Readings from the Middle Ages to the Present*. Boston: Northeastern Press, 1996.

The following text is HIGHLY RECOMMENDED:

- McClary, Susan. *Feminine Endings: Music, Gender, and Sexuality*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2002.

All books should be available at Phillips bookstore and Textbook Brokers. You may also wish to purchase used copies from various internet sources. Please check the course schedule carefully to be sure that your books will arrive in time.

How to Prepare for Class

This class will be organized primarily around discussion of the assigned materials. Before you come to class, make sure you have completed the reading, listening, and video assignments for that day (this includes website assignments). In other words, don't wait for our discussion and then read the corresponding material. Likewise, don't wait for exams to do the reading. You should come to class ready to discuss the reading assignment and the particulars of the listening assignments. I will provide you with discussion questions to help you prepare and navigate the readings.

With a few exceptions, the reading assignments are under thirty pages. I may also ask you to listen to (and think about) a few musical examples or

short video clips. Occasionally I will also ask you to take a look at (and think about) key websites before class. Plan to budget an average of 3-5 hours per week to prepare for this class. Graduate students should expect additional reading assignments and an additional presentation requirement (see the course website for details about this assignment).

Please note that although there are no pre-requisites for this class, it is an upper-division class. I therefore expect upper-division level work. If you find you are having difficulty keeping up with the level of discussion, reading, and analysis, please come see me immediately to discuss whether or not you are adequately prepared for upper-division work.

Email / course website

All course materials—including this syllabus, the course schedule, selected listening examples, handouts, etc.—will be available on our course website via D2L. If you have a question concerning the course, check the course website first. D2L includes a mail program. Email sent from this program does not go to your regular email inbox; it stays within the secure D2L site. Therefore, should I need to contact you about anything confidential (such as your grades) I will send you a message through D2L mail. **Please check your email and D2L email on a regular basis** (daily, if possible).

-Grading-

Final grades for undergraduate students will be calculated as follows:

Unit presentations (2)	10% each
Your Topics presentation	20%
Exams (3)	20% each

Final grades for graduate students will be calculated as follows:

Unit presentations (2)	12.5% each
Research presentation	10%
Research Paper	20%
Exams (3)	15% each

At the end of the semester, final grades for undergraduates will be calculated as follows:

Percentage	Letter grade	Percentage	Letter grade
90-100%	A	70%-73.9%	C-
87%-89.9%	B+	67%-69.9%	D+

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84%-86.9%	B	64%-66.9%	D
80%-83.9%	B-	60%-63.9%	D-
77%-79.9%	C+	0%-59.9%	F
74%-76.9%	C		

At the end of the semester, final grades for graduate students will be calculated as follows:

Percentage	Letter grade	Percentage	Letter grade
94-100%	A	74%-76.9%	C
90-93.9%	A-	70%-73.9%	C-
87%-89.9%	B+	67%-69.9%	D+
84%-86.9%	B	64%-66.9%	D
80%-83.9%	B-	60%-63.9%	D-
77%-79.9%	C+	0%-59.9%	F

Attendance Policy

The official university policy is that "A student is expected to attend each class for which he/she is registered except in cases of unavoidable circumstances." Furthermore, students who miss class frequently usually do poorly or fail. You are therefore required to attend every class meeting. To allow for the occasional illness or unexpected calamity, I will allow each student up to **three** unexcused absences during the semester. For each unexcused absence thereafter, I will deduct one-third of a letter grade from your course grade (that is, if your final course grade is a B but you have a total of four unexcused absences during the semester, your final grade will be a C+). Some acceptable reasons for missing class include MTSU-sponsored functions (you must show me appropriate paperwork); illness (only with a note from your doctor); or death in the family. Additional excused absences will be at the instructor's discretion. It is **your responsibility** to contact me in advance if you know you will miss a class. If you do miss a class, it is also **your responsibility** to ask your student colleagues (not me!) what happened in class. Please note: after your third unexcused absence, I will be in contact with your primary teacher / advisor.

Assignments

All assignments are already listed on the course schedule. I will not add further assignments.

Exams

There will be two take-home exams this semester. I will give you sufficient time to prepare the exams, which you will submit via D2L.

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Please note: With only a very few exceptions, I WILL NOT accept late assignments. Plan accordingly.

A few words about classroom decorum:

Laptops are not allowed in my classroom unless I specifically instruct you to bring them to class. Please make sure your cell phones, pagers, and all other electronic devices are turned off **before** class begins. I will not tolerate text messaging, phone calls, email, etc., during class. I reserve the right to confiscate electronic devices for the duration of a class period. If you wish to record class lectures, please check with me first. Students who disregard these guidelines will be asked to leave the classroom and will be counted as absent for that class period.

And finally, please note that this course is not intended to advocate a particular political or moral agenda. Many of our course readings will be provocative and uncomfortable; some may push you to the edge of your personal tolerance. I ask you to keep an open mind and examine the material as objectively as possible. You are of course welcome to express personal opinions, but please refrain from personal attacks.

-The Fine Print-

Special Accommodations If you have a disability that may require assistance or accommodation, or you have questions related to any accommodations for testing, note takers, readers, etc., please speak with me as soon as possible. You should also contact the [Office of Disabled Student Services](#) (898-2783) with questions about such services. Before any accommodations may be made, the Office of Disabled Student Services must verify the nature of the disability and recommend the specific measures that will effectively accommodate your needs.

Academic Misconduct

Plagiarism, cheating, and other forms of academic dishonesty are prohibited. Students guilty of academic misconduct, either directly or indirectly through participation or assistance, are immediately responsible to the instructor of the class. In addition to other possible disciplinary sanctions which may be imposed through the regular institutional procedures as a result of academic misconduct, the instructor has the authority to assign an F or a zero for the exercise or examination; or to assign an F in the course. If the student believes he or she has been erroneously accused of academic misconduct, and if his or her final grade has been lowered as a result, the student may appeal the case through the appropriate institutional procedures. For definitions of plagiarism and general information regarding academic misconduct, visit the [Judicial Affairs and Mediation Services website](#).

Notice to Lottery Scholarship Recipients

To retain Tennessee Education Lottery Scholarship eligibility, you must earn a cumulative TELS GPA of 2.75 after 24 and 48 attempted hours and a **cumulative** TELS GPA of 3.0 thereafter. You may qualify with a 2.75 **cumulative** GPA after

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72 attempted hours (and subsequent semesters), if you are enrolled full-time and maintain a **semester** GPA of at least 3.0. A grade of C, D, F, or I in this class may negatively impact TELS eligibility. Dropping a class after 14 days may also impact eligibility; if you withdraw from this class and it results in an enrollment status of less than full time, you may lose eligibility for your lottery scholarship. Lottery recipients are eligible to receive the scholarship for a maximum of five years from the date of initial enrollment, or until a bachelor degree is earned.

For additional Lottery rules, please refer to your Lottery Statement of Understanding form, review lottery requirements on the web at <http://scholarships.web.mtsu.edu/telsconteligibility.htm>, or contact the Financial Aid Office at 898-2830.

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)

In general, under [FERPA](#) I am not permitted to disclose your academic progress to anyone not allowed to receive such information. Thus I cannot discuss your academic progress, grades, etc., over the phone or via e-mail. All such discussions must be in person. At the end of the semester I cannot disclose your final grade over the phone or via e-mail. Nor can I "post" your grades on my door. You will receive your final grades via PIPELINEMT or Raidernet. Additionally I cannot access your grades if you have a "hold" on your records.

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