

## Course Syllabus

MUS 190 Music Under the Stars (3 units)

### SYLLABUS

#### **Table of Contents**

[Section 1: Instructor Contact. 2](#)

[Section 2: Course description. 2](#)

[Section 3: Required Text. 2](#)

[Section 4: Requirements and Grading. 3](#)

[Section 4: Grading criteria. 3](#)

[Section 5: Technology requirement. 4](#)

[Section 6: Style and Formatting. 4](#)

[Section 7: Learning Community Overview. 4](#)

[Section 8: Assignments. 4](#)

[Section 9: Late Assignment Policy. 5](#)

[Section 10: Collaboration, Plagiarism, and the Emory College Honor Code. 5](#)

[Section 11: ADA and Students with Disabilities and any other Learner support information 5](#)

[Section 12: Readings and Assignments. 6](#)

## Section 1: Instructor Contact

Contact information: [elena.cholakova@emory.edu](mailto:elena.cholakova@emory.edu)

Office hours: By appointment

Class meeting time: T/TH 10:00am-11:15am

## Section 2: Course description

MUS 190 Music Under the Stars course will satisfy the requirement for freshman seminar. All readings assigned are expected to be completed **before** the class meets. The listening component of the class will be done in class followed by a discussion. There will be 3 listening quizzes done in class. The paper and final assigned are due on the date listed on syllabus – late submissions will not be accepted.

## Section 3: Required Text

All readings will be available on Canvas. Most text selections will come from “The Great Pianists” by Harold C. Schonberg, from “Music and Astronomy” by Maurizio Argo and “The Music of the Spheres” by Jamie James available for purchase at online at:

[The Great Pianists](#)

[The Music of the Spheres](#)

[Music and Astronomy](#)

## Section 4: Requirements and Grading

Quiz 1 - 10%

Quiz 2 - 10%

Quiz 3 - 10%

Paper 1 - 15%

Final presentation - 15%

Class participation - 20%

Final paper - 20%

Extra Credit: Build your own extra credit assignment but attending or watching and writing a 2-page paper summarizing your experience hearing three performances related to the material studied. Completion of all extra credit assignments is worth 5%, there will be no partial credit.

#### Section 4: Grading criteria

94-100%	A
91-93%	A-
87-90%	B+
84-86%	B
81-83%	B-
77-80%	C+
74-76%	C
71-73%	C-
67-70%	D+
61-66%	D
60-66%	D-
59%	F

#### Section 5: Technology requirement

This class requires access to computer with internet. Syllabus and additional materials are available on Canvas. Paper submission will be done on Canvas as well.

## Section 6: Style and Formatting

Please submit writing assignments in compliance with the Chicago Manual citation and format style. For more information, please refer to:

[Chicago Manual](#)

## Section 7: Learning Community Overview

This course will focus on familiarizing students with some of the most iconic pianists of the 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> century. Students will be listening to recordings, developing their own tastes and likings. By the end of the semester students will be able to compare the interpretational styles of various artists and comment on their musical choices. The course is designed to instill appreciation for the world of piano performance, encouraging students to develop their own musical tastes based on readings and discussions.

## Section 8: Assignments

Readings will be assigned from “Music and Astronomy” by Maurizio Argo, “The Music of the Spheres” by Jamie James and “The Great Pianists” by Harold Schoenberg as well as some articles on jstor. Additional reading materials will be available on Canvas. The listening examples we hear in class can be streamed from the Naxos Music Library or YouTube. Musical scores are available via imslp.org.

Quizzes will be given in class on Sept 25, Oct 30, and Nov 20. Due dates for written assignments are listed in the Schedule of Classes and Assignments. Your attendance and participation are required at each class meeting. You may miss up to two classes. Each additional absence will result in a 3% deduction from your grade. The **Final** for this class will be a research document that must be turned in no later than **Dec 16, 2025 by 10:30AM.**

## Section 9: Late Assignment Policy

There will be no late submission allowed in the class. Failure to submit assigned Papers on the due date listed in the syllabus will result in 0 points for that assignment.

## Section 10: Collaboration, Plagiarism, and the Emory College Honor Code

I encourage you to collaborate on regular class work—for instance, to discuss with one another the listening and reading assignments. It is expected, however, that all material submitted for a grade will be your work only. Verbatim quotations and substantial paraphrases of others' work must be documented with footnotes. If you are uncertain about what constitutes plagiarism, please ask me.

You are expected to abide by the Emory College Honor Code at all times. Suspected violations will be referred to the Honor Council.

The Honor Code is in effect throughout the semester. By taking this course, you affirm that it is a violation of the code to cheat on exams, to plagiarize, to deviate from the teacher's instructions about collaboration on work that is submitted for grades, to give false information to a faculty member, and to undertake any other form of academic misconduct. You agree that the teacher is entitled to move you to another seat during examinations, without explanation. You also affirm that if you witness others violating the code you have a duty to report them to the Honor Council.

See <http://catalog.college.emory.edu/academic/policies-regulations/honor-code.html>

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## Section 11: ADA and Students with Disabilities and any other Learner support information

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), no otherwise qualified person with a disability be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subject to discrimination under any educational program or activity in the university. Please contact the Office for Disability Services at 404-727-6766 310 located in the SAAC building on the Emory's Clairmont campus to coordinate reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities.

[Emory's Office of Equity & Inclusion Website](#)

## Section 12: Readings and Assignments

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Reading</b>
Aug 28	Introduction and distribution of syllabus*	- -
Sept 2	The Big Bang Theory of Music	p.3-20 <u>Music of the Spheres</u>
Sept 4	Bach, the Master	p.20-41 <u>Music of the Spheres</u> -
Sept 9	The Key to the universe	p.60-69 <u>Music of the Spheres</u> -
Sept 11	Continued discussion on Bach Candler Artist concert attendance	-
	<b>Final Assigned</b>	-
Sept 16	Library scavenger hunt	- -
Sept 18	The Four Seasons	Michael Talbot: Vivaldi for All Seasons (article available on jstor) p.98-114 <u>Music of the Spheres</u>
Sept 23	The Birth of Opera	-
Sept 25	<b>Quiz 1</b>	-
Sept 30	The Hermetic tradition	p.114-140 <u>Music of the Spheres</u> -

Oct 7 Handel William A. Frisch: Moods, Madness and Music  
(article available on jstor)

Oct 9 **Paper 1 Assigned.**  
Newton and the Magic Flute p.159-180 Music of the Spheres

Oct 16 The Beethoven cycle of Nature p.412—p.432 The Great Pianists

Glenn Gould by the lake - Dr. Adam  
Mirza class guest  
<https://youtu.be/pL9YjM1BqgY>  
[Links to an external site.](#)

Oct 21



Watch "Off the Record"

Oct 23 Romantic Anomaly – Chopin p. 180 – 212 Music of the Spheres

Oct 28 Liszt's Years of Pilgrimage:  
Switzerland, Italy p.144-182 The Great Pianists

Oct 30 **Quiz 2**

Nov 4	Painting Nature	I.L.Zupnick - The Social conflict of the Impressionists (article available on jstor)
Nov 6	The Songs of Space Race <b>Paper 1 Due</b>	p.69-80 <u>Music and Astronomy</u>
Nov 11	Space and the Movies	p.81-85 <u>Music and Astronomy</u>
Nov 13	Schonberg and the revival of the great theme	p.212-229 <u>Music of the Spheres</u>
Nov 18	Encounters with the third kind – experimental music	p.87-99 <u>Music and Astronomy</u>
Nov 20	<b>Quiz 3</b>	
Nov 25	Walk in Lullwater Park while listening to musical selections studied in class	
Dec 2	6 Final Presentations	
Dec 4	Class Evaluations 3 Final Presentations	

Dec 9

6 Final Presentations

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