

**Department of**

**Music**

**General Music Syllabus**

2017-2018

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**Course Description**

Open to grades 9 – 12. An introduction to the basic social, artistic, and technical elements of music history, performance, and theory. The purpose of this course is to cause one’s depth of thinking about music to enhance through the questioning of all that exists when we hear music. This class will explore the social aspects of music, how to talk about, describe and appreciate various genres of music and how to understand the technical aspects of music notation and theory. Exposing the student to various genres of music and allowing for synthesis, reflection, questioning and development of appreciation for music as a whole is the main objective of this course.

**Course Resources**

All students will have access to computers for this school year. We will be accessing Google classroom for many of the lessons in this class. It is best to be prepared to use the computer on a daily basis.

**Communication**

Communication is most effective when it is proactive, collaborative, and cordial. Email is the fastest and easiest way to reach Mr. Johnson (michael.johnson@cmcss.net).

**Remind101** is a text service you can sign up for such that Mr. Johnson can send text reminders to students/guardians about upcoming events/assignments.

Please take note, I fervently believe that communication is one of the most important aspects of any successful endeavor. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me in whatever way necessary if there is information that you need, or if you need to discuss something with me. I want to make sure that all lines of communication remain open at all times, for all of those involved with choir at Northwest.

**Student Learning Outcomes/Objectives**

After completing this course, you will have a background in music history, performance, styles and genres, cultural influences and music theory. Even if you are not pursuing a career in music, you will have obtained skills and knowledge that will help you in appreciating music that you would not otherwise appreciate and understand what about that music that you appreciate.

Class expectations for students to achieve the following:

1. All students will have knowledge of various genres of music, composers, musicians, and instruments that correlate with each.
2. All students will become more competent in identifying, describing, and comparing musical selections.
3. All students will understand basic music theory and elements of composition.
4. All students will understand music and its placement in history, culture, and development of 21st century music.

**You will determine your own grade in this course. This means you must manage and plan what you want to achieve. I am dedicated to assisting you in achieving the goals and objectives of this course. However, there is an expectation for you to work in achieving whatever level of competence you determine is acceptable for you. This does not mean that I will accept mediocre work from any students.**

**Required Text and Materials**

There is no official text for this class. However, students will be participating in research projects throughout the school year. Basic materials will be supplied for these projects but any additional materials needed to make your projects stand out are **THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE STUDENT.** Additionally, each student will need one composition notebook and are required to bring their computers to class every day.

**Student Responsibilities**

**Participation and Attendance**

This is a lecture and assignment based course. Learning occurs through class attendance, participation in discussions, performance discussions, and coursework. Because of this, attendance is mandatory. **If you are absent, it is YOUR responsibility to see me before or after school to get your makeup work. I will not discuss makeup work during class**. You are also expected to arrive promptly to each class. Entering late is very disruptive, as is interrupting class to use the restroom. For these reasons and out of respect for others, it is vital that you arrive ready to begin class on time. Your participation grade will be based on the following:

* Active and committed participation in activities, discussions and completion of assignments.
* Preparedness in regards to class work (readings, deadlines, contributions to group work and completion of research projects.
* Promptness (**3 tardies = discipline referral.**)
* If I see your mobile device out, without prior approval, you **WILL** lose your daily participation grade.
* Respect for others’ opinions and views.

**Please Note\* Absence or tardiness on your presentation date:** If you’re absent on your presentation date, you will be expected to present first on the following school day to with which you attend provided that you have an excused absence for the day of your presentation. An appropriate excuse must be presented within 24 hours of the absence to be able to make up the presentation grade.

**Student Expectations**

1. You are expected to participate 100% when studying all areas of this course, regardless of your level of interest.
2. You should follow all classroom rules. These include:
   1. Treating your instructors and fellow classmates with respect at all times.
   2. Being on time and prepared for class each day.
   3. Following school rules set forth in the handbook (including not eating, having headphones in, wearing a hat/hood, or doing work for other classes at inopportune times).
   4. Working to the best of your abilities to make this class enjoyable and successful for both your classmates and yourself.
3. If any student makes fun of or disrespects other students in the process of this course, or if he or she disrupts the course with attempts at disrespect towards the teacher or the course content, that student will receive and automatic deduction of class participation points for the day and will be given alternate assignments until the behavior is corrected. This class can be fun if you let it. However, it will not be the most interesting every single day. This does not negate my expectation for you to remain engaged and respectful throughout the class period. Constructive criticism and feedback will always be present. However, critical or insulting remarks will not be allowed.

**Artistry and Citizenship**

The arts, music in particular, require motivation and self-discipline for successful work. Artistry consists of the affective contribution you demonstrate during class time. This includes such attitudes and actions as: a positive work ethic, respect and support for others, discussion, openness to learning, punctuality, focus, courtesy, and other comparable ways of working. This is a very subjective are to asses. However, it will be based on frequent observations of your in-class work.

**Decorum:**

This is a class in which we will have in depth discussions everyday. This requires a lot of courage and support from everyone. Please respect the discussions that we take part in and the comfort levels of your peers and refrain from the following behaviors:

* Talking over other in the class.
* Negative attitudes towards music, the musical preferences of others, and music education.
* Threatening, disruptive, or violent behavior towards classmates or instructor.

**Zero tolerance policy for disruptive conduct in the classroom.**

The instructor has primary responsibility for control over the classroom and maintenance of academic integrity. Disruptive behavior in the classroom that obstructs or disrupts the learning environment is defined as:

* **Offensive language**
* **Harassment of students or instructor**
* **Repeated outbursts from a student which disrupt the flow of instruction or prevent concentration on the subject taught**
* **Failure to cooperate in maintaining classroom decorum**
* **Continued use of any electronic devise not authorized for use by the instructor**

**Consequences**

Negative consequences will be recorded on a daily basis unless otherwise needed. Each warning or consequence builds upon the other throughout the week. I expect no student to reach a level three consequence. However, if it is necessary, I will decide what action needs to be taken at that point.

1. Verbal Warning
2. Conference/Classroom Detention\*
3. Parent-Guardian Phone Call
4. Discipline Referral

**\*According to the NWHS Student Handbook, refusal to attend teacher detention is considered disobedience, which will be referred to the appropriate Assistant Principal for further disciplinary action.**

**Academic Integrity**

Students guilty of academic dishonesty, either directly or indirectly through participation or assistance, are responsible to the instructor of the class. Academic dishonesty is defined as but not limited to plagiarism, cheating, misrepresenting one’s work, and forging documentation. Possible disciplinary sanctions may be imposed through the regular institutional procedures as a result of academic misconduct.

* **Academic Misconduct**: Plagiarism, cheating, fabrication, or facilitating any such act. For purposes of this section, the following definitions apply:
* **Plagiarism:** The adoption or reproduction of ideas, words, statements, images, or works of another person as one’s own without proper attribution. This includes self-plagiarism, which occurs when an author submits material or research from a previous academic exercise to satisfy the requirements of another exercise and uses it without proper citation of its reuse.
* **Cheating:** Using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information, or study aids in any academic exercise. This includes unapproved collaboration, which occurs when a student works with others on an academic exercise without the express permission of the professor. The term academic exercise includes all forms of work submitted for credit.
* **Fabrication:** Unauthorized falsification or invention of any information or citation in an academic exercise.

In summary, going online and taking information without proper citations, copying parts of other students’ work, creating information for the purposes of making your paper seem more official, or anything involving taking someone else’s thoughts or ideas without proper attribution is academic misconduct. If you work together on an assignment when it is not allowed, it is academic misconduct. If you have a question about an assignment, please ask me to clarify. Any cases of academic misconduct will be reported to the Principal for violating the academic honesty requirements in the student code of conduct.

**Remember--ignorance is NOT a defense. The instructor has the authority to assign an “F” or “zero” for the exercise or examination, and the administrator may assign suspension at their discretion.**

**Areas of Study**

The following is a list of areas we will study through the year. Although it can change, it should give you an excellent idea of what is to come. Feel free to suggest items to add to this list.

* Music History
  + Musical time periods
  + Composers
  + Influences of music throughout time
* Music Performance
  + Genres
  + Musical terminology
  + Performance quality
  + Performance etiquette
  + Describing music
  + Performance critique
* Music Theory
  + Note values
  + Note names
  + Composition
  + Music reading
* Music and Culture
  + Influences of music on culture
  + Influence of culture on music
  + Why is music important and what makes it that way?

**Format of Paper, Presentations, and Reports**

All papers, presentations, and reports must be turned in according to the most recent edition of the MLA handbook. If you have any questions about this, please ask the instructor. In short, cite your sources!

**Handing in Assignments on Time**

All assignments are due on the date listed. If the assignment is to be turned in via Google Classroom, **they are due regardless of your attendance in class.** Written work is accepted late for full credit provided an adequate excuse is provided. Without written excuse, written work will be accepted one class period late for half credit. After the grace period, late work will not be accepted.

**Grading Scale**

Your grade will be calculated as follows:

40% Class Participation

20% Tests and Quizzes

25% Class Presentations

15% Written Work

**A** 93-100 **B** 85-92 **C** 75-84 **D** 70-74 **F** 0-69

**Music Fees/Fundraising**

**Music Fee**

Each choir and general music student is required to pay a **$10** music fee, **due Friday, September 22nd.** This fee helps to defray costs such as the purchasing of music. Students who take advantage of a free or reduced lunch benefits must confidentially speak with Mr. Johnson to cover the required fees. Please do not hesitate to speak to me in private about this issue. Conversations of this nature remain confidential.

**Money/Payments**

Checks should be made out to *Northwest High School* and will be deposited immediately in the school accounts by the NWHS bookkeeper. All money should be paid in check/money order (cash a last resort) so that appropriate records will be in place and payments can be easily tracked. If the last name on the check is different than that of the student, please put the student’s name in the “memo” line. All cash payments will receive a receipt.

**Fundraising**

There will be an opportunity for you to assist in fundraising for the general music classes. This will be in efforts to purchase instruments for student use in future classes. More information on fundraising will be made given as it becomes available.

**Caveat: This document may be adjusted during the course of the semester at the discretion of the instructor.**

**General Music Syllabus Acknowledgement Form**

**DUE FRIDAY, AUGUST 18th, 2017**

Student Name:

Grade:

We have read the choir handbook and agree to abide by all rules and regulations.

* I, the student, understand that by signing this contract I am agreeing to uphold all expectations and accept consequences if I do not.
* I, the parent, understand by signing this contract that I will communicate with the teacher when necessary any problems or conflicts so they may be worked out in a timely manner.
* I have read and understand the policies and expectations documents in Mr. Johnson’s 2017-2018 general music syllabus. I understand that returning this paper is mandatory, and I pledge to abide by and hold my student accountable for the information in this document. I also understand that I will work with Mr. Johnson to uphold the consequences listed within this syllabus and will communicate with him should any issues arise.

Signed,

(student) (date)

(parent/guardian) (date)

**Parents, please answer:**

Is it okay to contact you during the day? **yes** **no**

If so, at what number? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

What time in the evening might be best to call? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

At what number? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Email address:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_