



# MUSIC 1: Exploring Music

Queens College  
Spring 2022, 3 credits

Instructor: Samuel Teeple  
Email: [steeple@gradcenter.cuny.edu](mailto:steeple@gradcenter.cuny.edu)  
Office Hours: Virtual, by appt.

Class Meetings  
Feb. 1 – Feb. 24: no class meetings;  
independent online work  
Mar. 1 – May 17:  
Tues. & Thurs., 9:15 am – 10:30 am  
MUSIC 263

## Syllabus Contents

Course Summary-----	2
Course Requirements-----	2
Student Resources-----	3
Accessibility Statement-----	3
Learning Goals-----	4
Grading and Assignment-----	5
Basic Weekly Outline-----	6
Course Policies-----	7

This file has been edited to  
remove copyright-protected  
images due to the requirements  
of Creative Commons licensing.

**The first four weeks of this course (Feb. 1 – Feb. 24) will be taught entirely online using Blackboard with no in-person classes or live Zoom meetings.** This format allows you to watch video lectures and complete assigned reading, listening, and assignments at your own pace throughout each week.

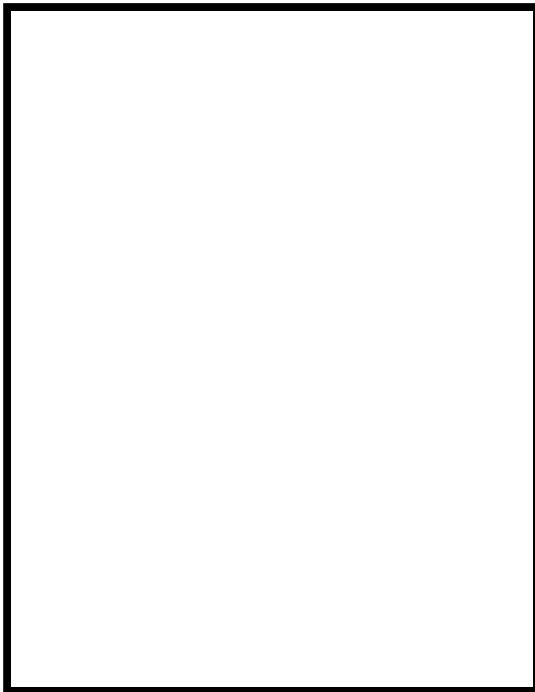
Office hours (by appointment) will be hosted on Zoom at this link:

You can also join by phone:

## Course Summary

Exploring Music (aka Introduction to Music) examines how music communicates and embodies social and personal ideas, beliefs, and values relevant to both music makers and users. **Musical elements and listening skills** are introduced and developed throughout the course in order to explicate musical meanings. We will investigate **topics** such as music and love, music and gender, music and politics, war, ethnicity, et cetera. We will also examine how these topics are embedded in **different genres of music**, including popular music, world music, and Western art music (also known as classical music). No previous musical expertise such as knowledge of musical notation is required to succeed in this class. At the end of this semester, students will better understand how different musics function within their social context. We will develop the ability to reflect on the communicative powers of music, connecting the sounds we hear with the living world that surrounds them.

### For this course, you'll need...



Required Textbook

*Music: A Social Experience*

**Second edition (green cover),  
not the first or third edition!**

By Steven Cornelius and Mary Natvig



Blackboard is an online teaching platform that will host all assignments, quizzes, blogs, and learning materials for this course.

How to access Blackboard:

1. Visit <http://bbhosted.cuny.edu>
2. Login with your CUNY login credentials (Firstname.Lastname##@login.cuny.edu)
3. Under the My Courses tab on the left side of the screen, click on the title of our course: Exploring Music (MUSIC 1-06 46420) Spring 2022.

## For this course, you'll need...



Regular access to internet and a laptop/computer to complete and submit assignments. Some features on Blackboard, **especially quizzes**, may not work correctly on mobile devices or apps.

## Student Resources at Queens College

**Need a laptop to complete your online work?** Request to borrow an online device from QC here : <https://www.provost.qc.cuny.edu/students/devices>  
This is just one entry from the Provost's Office long list of student resources, including food assistance and emergency funds: <https://www.provost.qc.cuny.edu/students>

**Need someone to talk to?** Many students are dealing with feelings of depression, anxiety, and stress. The QC Counseling Center takes appointments by phone (+1 718-997-5420), and provides referrals to low-cost, sliding scale, and pro bono mental health practitioners. Contact them via email ([CounselingCenter@qc.cuny.edu](mailto:CounselingCenter@qc.cuny.edu)) or by phone: (718) 997-5420.

**Need help with writing?** Writing assignments make up a large proportion of your grade in this course. For one-on-one help with topics like sentence structure, grammar, and spelling, please make a free appointment online with the campus writing center: <http://writingcenter.qwriting.qc.cuny.edu/>

## Accessibility Statement

Students with disabilities or other conditions requiring academic accommodation should: (1) register with and provide documentation to the Special Services Office (<http://qcpages.qc.cuny.edu/spsv/index.htm>) (2) bring a letter to the instructor during the first week of classes indicating the need for accommodation, and of what type. For more information, contact Dr. Mirian Detres-Hickey, Special Services Office: [qc.spsv@qc.cuny.edu](mailto:qc.spsv@qc.cuny.edu).

Your success in this class is important to me. If there are circumstances that may affect your performance in this class, please let me know as soon as possible so that we can work together to adapt assignments that meet both your needs and the requirements of the course.

## Learning Goals and Objectives

To be able to investigate the social context behind a given piece, recording, or performance



To develop critical listening skills that allow you to identify musical characteristics at work in a given piece, recording, or performance

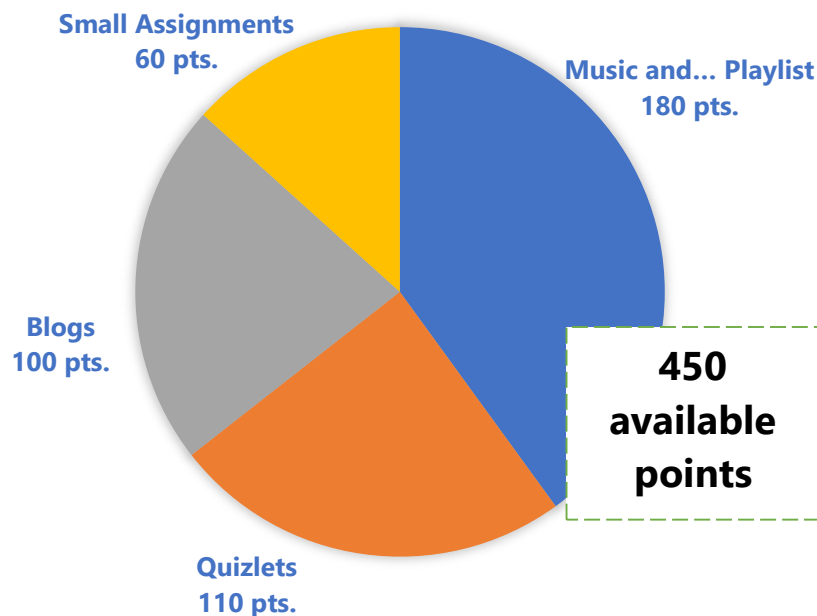
To improve your ability to communicate ideas clearly and concisely in writing

To be able to articulate the relationship between musical characteristics and social context in a given piece, recording, or performance



To become familiar with the technical vocabulary of music and apply it to Western art music, popular music, and world music

## Grading and Assignments



Every point is worth the same amount (assignments are not weighted).

Your grade is calculated as the percentage of possible points that you earn: points you earned/points available.

Due dates, rubrics, details, submission → Blackboard

## Grading and Assignments

### Blogs

- 10 blogs this semester at 10 points each
- Blog prompts posted on Tuesday in Weekly Folders
- To earn 10 points:
  - o Write around 200 words
  - o Support claims with evidence from music, textbook, or outside source
  - o Post your blog by Sunday at 11:59pm
  - o Post a thoughtful reply (two to three sentences long) to a classmate by Monday at 11:59pm

### Weekly Quizlets

- 11 weekly quizlets this semester at 10 points each
- 5 to 10 short questions based on the week's reading, listening, and course content
- Posted on Tuesday in Weekly Folders
- Due Monday at 11:59pm

### Small Assignments

- Miscellaneous category
- Includes syllabus quiz, musical elements assignment, peer review assignments

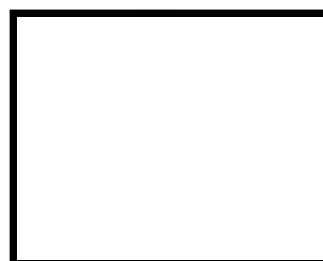
### Music and... Playlist Project

- An annotated playlist of six songs or pieces of music aligned with a social topic of your choosing (like Music and Feminism, Music and Agriculture, Music and Revolution, etc.)
  - o Ineligible topics: emotions or moods; topics used in textbook chapter titles
- Playlist choices should include a diversity of artists and genres: at least **one example each** of **world music**, **Western art music**, and **popular music**
- Written entry of about 200 words for each song/piece that discusses its:
  - o Musical characteristics
  - o Social context
  - o Connection to the topic
- Due in stages throughout the semester, with each new segment building on the previous segments



### Grade Scale

<b>A+</b>	97-100
<b>A</b>	93-96
<b>A-</b>	90-92
<b>B+</b>	87-89
<b>B</b>	83-86
<b>B-</b>	80-82
<b>C+</b>	77-79
<b>C</b>	73-76
<b>C-</b>	70-72
<b>D+</b>	67-69
<b>D</b>	60-66
<b>F</b>	0-59



## Grading and Assignments

### Music and... Playlist Project: Due Dates

- Topic Proposal and First Playlist Entry: Monday, March 7
  - o Topic proposal, first playlist entry, bibliography
- Music and... Playlist Part 1: Monday, April 4
  - o Topic proposal, first playlist entry, two more playlist entries, bibliography
- Topic Proposal and Fourth Playlist Entry: Monday, April 25
  - o Topic proposal, fourth playlist entry, bibliography
- Music and... Playlist Presentation: Monday, May 16
- Music and... Playlist Part 2: Thursday, May 19
  - o Topic proposal, six playlist entries, bibliography

### Extra Credit: Participation Points

- You can earn up to 30 points of extra credit by completing small participation activities assigned regularly in class meetings. Participation points are calculated at the end of the semester and based on the percentage of participation activities you've turned in.
- If you are unable to attend class for an extended period but are still interested in earning participation points, you can reach out to me for an alternative assignment before the end of the semester.

## Basic Weekly Outline

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Blog reply due at 11:59pm  Quizlet due at 11:59pm  Most other assignments due at 11:59pm	Class meeting: 9:15am – 10:30am (after Mar. 1)  Posted in Weekly Folder: video lectures, listening, quizlet, blog, other assignments, etc.		Class meeting: 9:15am – 10:30am (after Mar. 1)			Blog posts due at 11:59pm

## Course Policies

**Attendance** at class meetings is not required but it is highly recommended. At these meetings, we will not only discuss the content covered in the textbook and/or video lectures, but also break down large assignments, review course concepts, address questions, and exchange feedback about what's working and what isn't working in the course. I know it can be difficult to get back into the groove of attending class but stopping by each week is essential to learning new concepts and staying on top of due dates. You can also get to know your classmates and instructor on a face-to-face level and earn extra credit! If you cannot attend class for an extended period of time due to illness or another personal issue, please let me know as soon as possible.

**Late Work:** Each student will be given two "late passes" to use for any assignment, no questions asked! By using a late pass, you will earn an extra 48 hours past the original due date to turn in your work. To use a late pass, fill out the Google Form linked on Blackboard.

If for whatever reason you find yourself regularly unable to complete your weekly work on time, contact me directly. You do not need to share personal or medical information with me to justify an extension or accommodation.

**Holidays:** If a religious holiday falls on a scheduled due date or makes it difficult for you to complete your work on time, please let me know and I will accommodate your needs.

**Academic Honesty:** Academic dishonesty is prohibited in the City University of New York. Penalties for academic dishonesty include academic sanctions, such as failing or otherwise reduced grades, and/or disciplinary sanctions, including suspension and/or expulsion.

Examples of academic dishonesty include but are not limited to cheating, plagiarism (passing someone else's work off as your own), obtaining unfair advantage, and/or falsification of records and official documents. If you share an assignment with a classmate and they copy your work, with or without your permission, both of you can be penalized. Simply put, academic dishonesty will not be tolerated in this class. If you are unsure whether an action you wish to take is academically dishonest (e.g., working on a homework assignment with a friend), **ask me first**.