

# Honors 210 / Syllabus / Fall 2011

## I. Instructor- Robert Nathanson

Office-Room CA 1016

Office hours-by appointment (feel free to talk to me before or after class to set up a time)

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## II. Student Learning Outcomes

- A. Demonstrate the ability to critically analyze, appreciate, and make cogent subjective judgments about musical works as well as other art forms, using the appropriate terms and language
- B. Understand the larger socio-historical contexts of the musical works and other art forms and the lives of their composers/authors/artists
- C. Develop critical and analytical listening skills through analysis and evaluation of music considered high art, in distinction to popular music - which originates from a very different social context
- D. Demonstrate knowledge of the role of the composer/author/arts in society, and often as one challenging the conventions of society.

## III. Course Overview

To search for a definition of art, study pieces of art in a "critical" way and then to discuss and write about our opinions and feelings. We will try and take an approach similar to the critic or reviewer of a work of "art". There can be four (maybe more) different ways to approach criticism. The first would be trying to establish what the author actually wrote or what the artist actually meant. The second is that of the connoisseur, becoming an expert in the stylistics of works of fine art and other objects of refined recondite excellence. The third way is applied to the writing (in our case often it will include discussing) about the art and the fourth would be a commentary on how well or how badly things are done or made. We will be looking at several different forms of art as well as different genres and styles. Music will predominate, however, we will also venture into sculpture, other forms of visual art, poetry, and film. The class may want to venture into art of their own choosing, but we will discuss some if not all of the following artists: Thomas Sayre (sculpture), Samuel Taylor Coleridge (poetry), Charles Ives (music), Bob Dylan (music), Stanley Tucci and Scott Campbell (actors and filmmakers), John Coltrane (music), Philip Glass (music), Godfrey Reggio (filmmaker) as well as others.

## IV. Course Requirements

- A. Daily/weekly reading and listening assignments
- B. 4-6 three page papers (reviews)
- C. Attend assigned concerts

## V. Materials

Music you may want to purchase/download to review

## VI. Attendance Policy

Five absences will result in a one full grade reduction, one-half grade for each subsequent absence.

## Assignment for next class:

- 1) Read four reviews of classical music, art, movies, books or dance. Choose four different disciplines. Use four different sources. New York Times, New Yorker Magazine, Rolling Stone Magazine, and Time Magazine are a few suggested sources. Summarize the article and document sources.
- 2) Read "Kubla Khan" by Samuel Taylor Coleridge. <http://eserver.org/poetry/kubla-khan.html>
- 3) Research "transcendentalism"

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### Religious Observance Policy

In accordance with NC SL 2010-211, you are entitled to two excused absences for religious observances **per academic year**. You must inform me in writing the first week of class if you will be missing any classes due to religious observance and using one of the two permissible absences for the academic year. In addition, please inform the Registrar the first week of class who will then confirm your intentions to miss class with the impacted course instructors. Any absence for religious purposes will be considered unexcused unless you submit the request in writing the first week to either me and the Registrar.

### The UNCW Statement on Diversity in the University Community

As an institution of higher learning, the University of North Carolina Wilmington represents a rich diversity of human beings among its faculty, staff, and students and is committed to maintaining a campus environment that values that diversity. Accordingly, the university supports policies, curricula, and co-curricular activities that encourage understanding of and appreciation for all members of its community and will not tolerate any harassment or disrespect for persons because of race, gender, age, color, national origin, ethnicity, creed, religion, disability, sexual orientation, political affiliation, marital status, or relationship to other university constituents. Students with Disabilities information and resources available at <http://www.uncw.edu/stuaff/disability/>

### Zero Tolerance Policy

UNCW practices a zero tolerance policy for violence and harassment of any kind. For emergencies contact UNCW CARE at 962-2273; Campus Police at 962-3184; or Wilmington Police at 911. For University or community resources visit: <http://www.uncw.edu/safe-relate/campusResources.htm>. Violence prevention information and resources available at <http://www.uncw.edu/safe%2Drelate/>. We will focus several class discussions on the importance of reducing violence and increasing tolerance in schools and at UNCW.

### Cell Phones, PDAs, Laptops

Please silence your cell phone and do not make calls, access applications or text during class. If you have a personal, urgent matter for which you need to be on call, please let me know in advance. In addition, please do not have active any PDAs or laptops/netbooks/iPads open and active unless the activity warrants. We will use these devices in selected activities and they are permissible then.

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### Statement Regarding Academic Honesty

“The University of North Carolina at Wilmington is committed to the proposition that the pursuit of truth requires...honesty among all involved...no form of dishonesty among faculty or students will be tolerated.” (From the "Academic Honor Code" in the UNCW Code of Student Life.) All students are encouraged to read this entire section, which contains definitions of plagiarism, bribery, and cheating, and the procedures for reporting and adjudication of any such claims and offenses.

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