

MUS 1030: INTRODUCTION TO MUSIC

3 credits

Angela Tipps, Instructor
Office Hours: TR 11:15 am – 12:45 pm, F 9:00-11:00 am, SFA 313
Angela.tipps@mtsu.edu, 615-904-8354

Course Information

Description

MUS 1030 is an overview course that introduces students to the elements of music and the historical and global contexts that music impacts. In this course, we will seek to understand more fully music and its relationship to our lives and human cultures. We will focus on the diverse music of the United States, study non-Western traditions, and provide a rudimentary familiarity with the Western art music tradition. Most importantly, we will cultivate active listening skills, and help students acquire the vocabulary and tools to articulate their musical perceptions.

Objectives and Outcomes

The students will...

- a. Fulfill part of the Humanities and/or Fine Arts requirements of MTSU.
- b. Analyze significant primary texts and works of art as forms of cultural/creative expression.
- c. Explore global and cultural diversity through various types of world music.
- d. Express ways in which change and continuity have affected human history and music.
- e. Improve musical sensitivity and aesthetic awareness.
- f. Acquire a basic understanding of the elements of music.
- g. Develop a familiarity with the concert milieu, in the hope that students will cultivate a lifelong relationship with music of various styles and cultures.

Course Materials

There is **no textbook** required for this course, as all necessary materials are available on [D2L](#). You will, however, need an **electronic device** (smartphone, tablet, or laptop) to complete an online activity in class each day, and access to a computer for taking four online unit exams.

Attendance Reporting

MTSU requires instructors to complete an attendance report several times throughout the semester. This is to protect any financial aid you may receive, and to keep you on track in your learning. I will be monitoring your participation based on the daily activities you submit.

Assignments and Participation

Daily Activities	23 @ 20 points each	460 points
Unit Exams	4 @ 50 points each	200 points
Listening Exams	4 @ 50 points each	200 points
Assignments	4 (varying points)	140 points
TOTAL		1,000 points

Attendance will be monitored by an in-class **daily activity**. These **cannot be made up**, as there is no way an absentee can recapture the lost experience of guided, critical listening and active discussion. Students who habitually arrive late or leave early (10 minutes or more), or students who are asleep, excessively texting, or using their electronic devices for purposes other than class assignments may lose points at the instructor's discretion.

Exams are in two parts: an **online unit exam** based on the PowerPoints discussed in class, and an **in-class listening exam** which is collaborative with your classmates. You may use your notes for both exams! Students have three attempts to take the unit exams, and they remain open until Thursday, May 4th, at 11:59 pm. **Listening exams cannot be made up**, but the student can complete an alternate assignment to make up those missed points. There are **no mid-term or final exams** for this course.

There are **three assignments** this semester:

1. Share six songs that provide a soundtrack for your life so far (20 points).
2. Develop a playlist of songs used as protest music (20 points).
3. Attend two School of Music or one Nashville Symphony concert and write a brief response about the performance(s) (100 points).

Classroom Etiquette

- Food and drink (except water) are not allowed in Hinton Hall.
- You will receive a better grade if you refrain from texting and participate in discussion.
- Be mindful of your conversation with friends; others are trying to listen.

Assessment and Grading

Grading Scale

900+ points	A
870-899	B+
830-869	B
800-829	B-
770-799	C+
730-769	C
700-729	C-
670-699	D+
630-669	D
600-629	D-
0-599	F

Communication Guidelines

All course communication will be conducted using your MTSU email account. Faculty will not respond to student emails via a non-institutional assigned email account such as Gmail or yahoo. This is to protect the privacy of your education records as dictated by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act. Students will be given regular opportunities to provide constructive and regular input regarding your experiences in the course throughout the semester. Anonymous surveys will be conducted occasionally through the D2L survey app, as well as “Fishbowl Feedback” (I’ll explain in class)! Emails will be answered **within 24 hours**, except on weekends. Grades for playlists and other assignments will be posted within **one week** of the assignment deadline. Assignments must be submitted to the D2L drop box and **will not be accepted** via email.

Testing Policies

There are **four unit exams taken on D2L**, and students’ answers are automatically saved during online D2L testing. If a computer crashes or loses Internet connectivity, students may reboot their computers or wait for Internet connectivity to access the test again. Time continues to tick even though connectivity has been lost, but students may continue taking the test using any time left once reconnected. **Listening exams** are taken during class and **cannot be made up** for any reason.

Student Resources

Technical Support

Students who experience technical problems including, but not limited to, logging into their course, timing out of their course, using the course web site tools, are encouraged to contact the MTSU Help Desk online (24/7) at 1-615-898-5345.

Outreach and Support Programs

The MTSU community is committed to the academic achievement of each student, and we know that struggling to address basic needs can affect a student's ability to perform. If you are having trouble finding a safe and stable place to live or enough food to eat, please contact Danielle.Rochelle@mtsu.edu (615-898-2808), come by the [MTSU Food Pantry](#) at the MT One Stop, or speak with your instructors to get the assistance and resources you need.

Students with Disabilities

MTSU is committed to campus access in accordance with Title II of the ADA and Section 504 of the VRA. Any student interested in reasonable accommodations can consult the [Disability & Access Center](#) (dacemail@mtsu.edu or 615-898-2783)

TN Hope Scholarship Renewal Criteria

Do you have a lottery scholarship? To retain 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. A grade below C in this class may negatively impact TELS eligibility. If you drop this class, withdraw, or stop attending, you may lose eligibility for your lottery scholarship, and you will not be able to regain eligibility later. For additional Lottery rules, please refer to your [Statement of Understanding](#) form or contact [MT One Stop](#).

Grade Appeals

This [policy](#) provides an avenue for students to appeal a final course grade in cases which the student alleges that unethical or unprofessional actions by the instructor and/or grading inequities improperly affected the final grade. ("313 | Middle Tennessee State University")

Title IX

[Title IX](#) of the Education Amendments of 1972 prohibits sex (including pregnancy, sexual orientation, and gender identity) discrimination in any education program or activity receiving federal financial assistance.

True Blue Pledge

I am True Blue. As a member of this diverse community, I am a valuable contributor to its progress and success. I am engaged in the life of this community. I am a recipient and a giver. I am a listener and a speaker. I am honest in word and deed. I am committed to reason, not violence. I am a learner, now and forever. I am a Blue Raider. True Blue.



TRUE BLUE CORE

This course meets the requirements of the Creativity and Cultural Expression category of the MTSU True Blue Core general education curriculum, particularly in the areas of disciplinary knowledge in the fine arts, and explorations in creativity and cultural expression (C1). Students will demonstrate intercultural understanding by building knowledge, self-awareness, and conceptions of global and intercultural perspectives, values, systems, and attitudes. Please refer to the [intercultural understanding rubric](#) for more information