

AI 225 “GREAT MUSIC IN CHICAGO”—January, 2010

Faculty: Joe Cunniff, 5555 N. Sheridan Road, Number 234, Chicago, Il., 60640, (773) 728-0357, Leave message and call will be returned

Place: Loop Campus, Wednesday evenings January 13 to March 17, 2010, 6 to 9 p.m.

Competencies Offered:

A1A: Can interpret works of art and relate them to one’s own experience.

A1C: Can analyze artistic or textural works in terms of form, content, and style.

A3D: Can assess the assumptions and implications of a significant thinker’s ideas about work and leisure.

Ask about negotiated competencies.

Course Description: Welcome to “Great Music in Chicago”!

You don’t have to have any kind of background in music to take and enjoy this course. Most students don’t. The course introduces people to three of the most exciting and rewarding institutions in Chicago music: the superb Civic Orchestra, the training orchestra for the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, and then the the world-famous Chicago Symphony Orchestra itself, and finally a live top-name jazz performance at the exciting Jazz Showcase! We learn the background of these institutions, the nature of the arts they perform, and the terms used to describe and appreciate those forms. Most importantly, we experience, in person, the great music that they play.

Don’t know what a symphony is? Haven’t ever really learned about the fascinating lives of Mozart, and Beethoven, or anything about jazz? This course is for you.

When a person finishes this course, he/she will be able to demonstrate a new familiarity with these art forms. There will be a new appreciation, new knowledge, and new ability to enjoy these artistic institutions on deeper levels for the future.

Learning Strategies: At the beginning of the class, there will be talks with the instructor with CDs and videos. In each class, we will learn bit-by-bit something about how to listen, about the lives of the great composers, the instruments of the orchestra, opportunities for hearing great classical performances and jazz through radio that week, and much more.

As an outcome of this course a student will be able to answer questions including the following:

What is a symphony?

What is a concerto?

What are the major sections of an orchestra?

What are the great orchestras in the world today and what makes them so?

How do you listen to music like this?

What is a concertmaster and what does he/she do?

What is the difference between music of different periods?

What does a conductor really do?

How does a rehearsal work?

What makes a truly great conductor?

What is jazz?

How do you listen to jazz?

What are the major styles of jazz?

How does Chicago figure in jazz history?

What are the special qualities of the jazz of Louis Armstrong, Count Basie, and Charlie “Bird” Parker?

All of these topics and more will be explained in class. Students will keep a course journal to write about music they hear and their impressions of the music.

There will be both class meetings and the three concerts. The trip dates to the Civic Orchestra and to the Chicago Symphony Orchestra will be chosen in plenty of time for everyone to make plans, and the Jazz Showcase will be a Sunday afternoon 4 p.m. matinee, with a discount for students and seniors, and kids 12 and under free with an adult. Students are welcome to invite family members and friends to the concert dates.

Learning Tools: Book, “The Enjoyment of Music” by Joseph Machlis. Current edition, chronological, with CDs.

Note-Please only get this book if it has the CDs with it--There should be more than one. Problem? Come to class on the first night and Joe the instructor will give you an alternate choice. Handouts supplied by instructor. Reviews, articles on music. Class trips, discussion.

Criteria for Assessment: A1A: In the weekly journal writing and in discussion both in class and at the events, students will learn to interpret the works and relate them to one's own experience.

A1C: Weekly writing in the journal will demonstrate the ability to put into one's own words and evaluation of musical art in terms of form, content, and style; for example, the symphony, the concerto, different conductors, different jazz players.

A3D: the Assumptions and implications of significant thinkers about works of leisure will be grasped and analyzed through class discussion, listening and writing. The criteria which will indicate competence will include knowledge of the institutions covered and the development of a more open, mature, and receptive attitude about great music.

General Topics and Time Framework:

1st week: What is music? Who are some of the great writers of music? At least part of every class will continue on the lives and special achievements of great writers of music.

2nd week: The instruments, on film and in practice. The development of the orchestra.

3rd week: The great orchestras and conductors.

4th week: How to listen: Previews of music that we will hear live.

5th week: More on the orchestra and on the music that we will hear.

6th week: More on and pre-listening to the music that we will hear live.

7th week: Chicago Symphony videos and CDs. notes. Jazz.

8th week: Great jazz and jazz in Chicago.

9th week. More on great composers and on great jazz.

10th week: Overview, review, and notes for the future.

Evidence that the student will submit for evaluation: Students will submit a ten-week course journal that will include class notes, weekly listening notes, and notes on the three trips.

The class will strive for Vincentian ideals and uphold the University's guidelines on plagiarism and academic integrity found in the student handbook.

NOTE: Attendance at all in-class classes plus the three musical events is very important and a very important grade factor. Evaluation: The major grade factors are the course journal, active and involved attendance, and the weekly listening assignments.

The instructor's feedback and assessments will try to embody the qualities of clarity, integrity, flexibility, and empathy.

The instructor expects that the class will be an inspiring, joyful, fun, and richly rewarding educational experience!

Instructor: Joe Cunniff is a much experienced arts educator, writer, and actor. He has taught courses and given talks and tours about Chicago and its arts scene for many years, and has taken more than 10 study trips to Europe.

More about the class? Please call—do not e-mail--Joe at (773) 728-0357.