

Sample Course Syllabus

The Story of Ireland

History, Culture, Music

Credit Hours: 2

Instructor: Matthew Carey

Term: Spring 2017

Course Purpose:

This 'Special Problems' course is designed to give the student a basic understanding of the history and culture of Ireland from the time of St. Patrick to the present day. We will also explore the rich musical heritage of this island nation as it relates to historical influences and the world-wide popularity it enjoys today. Through PowerPoint lectures, multimedia presentations and many musical examples, the student will gain basic knowledge of the Irish people and their influence on the world.

Course Goal:

The goal of this course is to give students who will be going on tour to Ireland with the A-State Community Choir in March, 2017, the background necessary to appreciate what they will see and hear in the country. While on tour, there will be numerous opportunities to visit the sites that have been studied in class. In addition, time will be devoted to attending live musical events throughout the country.

Reading:

Irish History for Dummies by Mike Cronin **REQUIRED**

You can purchase the book through the A-State Bookstore

Student Competencies and Outcomes:

By the end of this course of study, students will be able to demonstrate:

1. Basic knowledge of Irish History, from the advent of Christianity to the present.
2. Basic knowledge of Irish Culture, and its influences on the United States.
3. Understanding and ability to analyze and identify different dance and song forms in the Irish Traditional Music repertoire.
4. Basic knowledge of the historical background of the sites to be visited in Ireland.
5. Ability to discuss cultural similarities and differences between Ireland and America.

Course Requirements:

1. Instruction will take place in selected class meeting times both here at A-State and in situ.
 2. Students must be enrolled in **Blackboard Learn** for this course. All information pertaining to this course will be posted there.
 3. **Attendance to class meetings is mandatory.**
 4. Late assignments, including class presentations, will not be accepted.
 5. Plagiarism and cheating will not be tolerated. You can find the policies regarding plagiarism and cheating in the ASU Student Handbook.
- VII. Grading scale:
Grading for this course will utilize a modified curve system. The highest score in the class will be considered at the 100% (A) level. All others will be based on this scale relative to the highest score.
Four Quizzes: **20 points each**
Midterm Exam: **200 points**
- VIII. Special Considerations for this course:
1. Students with disabilities of any kind are obligated to inform the instructor of a disability that requires special accommodations. Arkansas State University's policy for students with disabilities will be adhered to for this course.

2. Flexibility Policy: This syllabus is considered a contract between the student and the instructor. Therefore, adherence to this syllabus will be rigid. However, special consideration will be given to students with previous experiences and specific needs. Modifications to this syllabus will be made upon consent of the instructor and a majority of the class.

Class Presentations:

Following the Ireland Tour, the class will meet to hear presentations given by each student on one particular experience or site visited while in the country. **200 points**

Course Outline

Before beginning the course of study, read *Irish History for Dummies* pgs. 371-391 for an overview of Irish History and Culture.

I. Ancient Ireland

- The Celts
- Christianity in Ireland
 - a. The Story of St. Patrick
 - b. The great monasteries of Ireland
 - c. Music of Medieval Ireland
- The Norman Invasion

Reading: *Irish History for Dummies* pgs. 9-92

II. British Occupation

- Colonial Ireland
- Penal Laws

Reading: *Irish History for Dummies* pgs. 93-216

- Revolutions
- Famine
- Emigration to America

Reading: *Irish History for Dummies* pgs. 217-347

III. The Wonders of Ireland

- Dublin in the 18th Century
- Trinity College
 - a. Oldest Existing Irish Harp
 - b. The Book of Kells
- The Ruins of Glendalough
- Dublin Castle
- Newgrange
- Kilkenny Castle and the Butler Dynasty
- Ancient Waterford and Wexford
- Blarney Castle and The Stone
- Killarney
- Bunratty Castle
- Limerick

IV. Irish Traditional Music

- Irish Song
- Irish Dance Tunes
- Irish Pubs
- Irish Music in the Global Market Place

Program Outcomes

Bachelor of Instrumental Music Education Degree

Graduates will be able to do the following:

1. Demonstrate rehearsal skills required of public school teachers in the area of concentration
2. Demonstrate conducting skills required of public school teachers in the area of concentration
3. Interpret music from a cross-section of musical styles in the major performance area
4. Perform music from a cross-section of musical styles in the major performance area
5. Display instructional skills sufficient to teach and/or assist instrumentalists in public school ensembles

Bachelor of Vocal Music Education Degree

Graduates will be able to do the following:

1. Demonstrate rehearsal skills required of public school teachers in vocal music
2. Demonstrate conducting skills required of public school teachers in vocal music
3. Interpret music from a cross-section of musical styles in vocal performance
4. Perform music from a cross-section of musical styles in vocal performance
5. Display instructional skills sufficient to teach use of the voice

Bachelor of Music Degree

Graduates will be able to do the following:

1. Work independently to prepare performances at the highest possible level as a performer or a composer
2. Apply aural, improvisational, and language skills, knowledge of styles and performance practices, and general historical and cultural knowledge as required by the focus of the major
3. Utilize basic concepts, tools, techniques, and procedures to perform and/or develop a composition

Bachelor of Arts Degree in Music

Graduates will be able to do the following:

1. Read and realize musical notation
2. Hear, identify, and work conceptually with the elements of music such as rhythm, melody, harmony, structure, timbre, and texture
3. Recognize a wide selection of musical literature, the principal eras, genres, and cultural sources

Master of Music

Graduates will be able to do the following:

1. Develop advanced capacities to work independently and make effective artistic and intellectual judgments and professional decisions in the area of specialization
2. Demonstrate professional capability in the area of specialization
3. Write effectively and professionally on a subject that is relevant to one's specialization
4. Demonstrate competency in repertory and historical performance practices
5. Demonstrate proficiency in one or more fields of music outside the major area

Master of Music Education

Graduates will be able to do the following:

1. Create a performance assessment to be used in the music classroom
2. Demonstrate professional competence before peers and faculty with a high level of academic rigor and scholarly contribution to the field of music education
3. Write effectively and professionally on a subject that is relevant to one's specialization