

SUNY Maritime • Fall 2010
A History of Western Music Humanities 403 (HUMN 403)
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LIVE CONCERT REVIEW GUIDELINES

From the Class Syllabus:

Live Concert Review (1) – 20% of Final Grade

Students are required to attend at least one live performance during the semester. I will provide a list of approved local concerts; check with me for approval on any other events you find (it must be a legitimate professional or college-level performance to qualify). Your review **must be at least two and a half (2.5) pages, typed in 12-point font, double-spaced, with 1" margins** critically analyzing the performance in relation to the subject matter presented in the class, using appropriate musical terminology.

Each Concert Review is due within two weeks of the date of the concert, and none will be accepted after the final day of class. *If extreme personal circumstances prevent your ability to attend a concert this semester, speak with the instructor ASAP about the possibility of completing an alternate assignment.*

Concert Reviews will be graded on:

1. The quality, uniqueness, and depth of your written insights and observations about the music and the performance.
2. How well you deal with the musical vocabulary and stylistic concepts that have been discussed in this class.
3. How well the appropriate information (see below) is organized and presented as a complete 2.5 page essay with proper and correct use of grammar, spelling, and punctuation. Nothing less than college level writing is acceptable. **PROOFREAD YOUR WRITING!!!!**

How to write a Concert Review

In class you will receive a rundown as to which genres of classical and jazz music will be acceptable for this assignment. It is assumed that this will be an unfamiliar experience for many students so you will also be given instructions as to appropriate concert etiquette, attire, etc. It is expected that you will show up to the concert on time

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and remain for the duration, which in most cases will be about two hours including an intermission. Expect a low grade on your review if it appears from your writing that you left the concert early or arrived late.

My recommendation to you is that when you go to a concert, take extensive notes during the performance (you won't be the only one doing this!) and give yourself time to draft and refine those notes into a thorough, thoughtful essay. You have two weeks from the date of each concert to submit the review so plan your time accordingly and finish the assignment while the music is still fresh in your mind.

Without exception, Concert Reviews should be organized as follows:

1. Identification of the concert and concert environment (who, where, when).
2. A brief description of the music presented in the concert. The student should describe what is heard both aurally and emotionally using the class vocabulary.
3. Description of the composition that the student liked best; again, using the class vocabulary, give a *reason* for your positive reaction.
4. Description of the composition that the student liked least, and reason(s) why.
5. Description of the composition that the student felt was performed the best during the concert. Use class vocabulary and your own personal reasoning.
6. Description of the composition that the student felt was the weakest performance of the concert. Still using class vocabulary and personal reasoning.
7. Short concluding paragraph.
8. Attach a copy of the program and your ticket stub to your paper.

What to avoid: The Concert Review should NOT be an historical report on either the composers or the works performed. Nor should it be a theoretical analysis or a rehash of program notes. If you attend the concert with a friend DO NOT TURN IN IDENTICAL REPORTS. This will be considered plagiarism and result in a zero grade for that assignment.

If you require any further information or guidance contact me at the email address above to schedule an office appointment. I'd be happy to offer assistance or look over your rough draft.