

**University of Nevada
Las Vegas
Department of Music**



Music History Handbook

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INTRODUCTION

Music history studies at UNLV ensure that our students are proficient in the explanation and use of music-historical concepts and methods, performance practices, reception history, source criticism, and inter-disciplinary issues related to the composition, performance, and criticism of music. In music history courses, students typically study individual musical compositions in order to understand significant composers, styles, genres, and performance traditions.

Music history courses foster students' critical thinking, reading, and writing skills, and encourage students to form and articulate their own ideas about music and its meanings. UNLV graduates in music work widely as performers and music educators, and music historical awareness and fluency are important components of their professionalism.

This Music History Handbook is intended to supplement and clarify information found in the University's undergraduate and graduate catalogs, address issues specific to music history studies, and provide contact information to receive your comments and questions.

Music History Teachers and Topics

Music history courses at UNLV are taught by performing artists and musicologists who have wide-ranging expertise and perspectives. Recent course topics have included the history of rock music, the history of opera, great Broadway composers, American popular music, the British invasion of the 1960s, jazz history and appreciation, German Lieder, French mélodies, the symphony, the music of Wagner, the music of Stravinsky, and music of the European fin-de-siècle.

Collegium Musicum

The UNLV Collegium Musicum (MUS 494/694) offers students the opportunity to perform early historical repertoires under the guidance of faculty who are versed in historical performance practice issues and techniques.

All UNLV music performance ensembles, of course, provide students with diverse opportunities to explore historical repertoire and gain insight into the problems and techniques of music history.

MUSIC HISTORY STUDIES

Undergraduate Studies

Candidates for the **Bachelor of Music degree with concentrations in Performance, Composition, Music Education, or Jazz Studies** are required to take some minimum

number of music history courses during their studies, and may elect to take additional music history courses at their discretion.

Undergraduate students interested in music as a humanistic discipline may pursue the **Bachelor of Arts degree with a concentration in History and Literature**. Candidates for this degree emphasize music history and related topics in their studies.

Undergraduate students may also elect to minor in music.

The current music history requirements for undergraduate degree programs are stated in the University's *Undergraduate Catalog*.

All undergraduate music degree candidates who begin their programs in fall 2008 or subsequent semesters are required to take a three-semester sequence of music history surveys (MUS 341, 342, and 343) that cover Western music from the Middle Ages through the present, and world music traditions.

The texts and audio recordings used in the MUS 341–343 music history surveys are: Burkholder, J. Peter, Donald J. Grout, and Claude V. Palisca, *A History of Western Music*, 8th edition (New York: W. W. Norton, 2010); Burkholder, J. Peter and Claude V. Palisca, eds., *Norton Anthology of Western Music*, 6th edition, 3 Vols. (New York: W. W. Norton, 2010); and *Norton Recorded Anthology of Western Music*, 3 Vols. (New York: W. W. Norton & Company, 2010).

Undergraduate Music History Placement Examination

The Undergraduate Music History Placement Examination is administered every year during the fall semester to evaluate students' basic music historical literacy and competence and ensure that students enroll in appropriate music history courses. The date and time of the Examination will be announced each academic year. The Examination is described below.

The format of the Examination is subject to change.

The Examination will normally comprise four parts:

Part 1. The student will correctly match each of 10 terms (concepts, persons, musical works, or technical terms) from all historical periods (medieval and renaissance, baroque, classical, romantic, and modern) with its explanation (15 points).

Part 2. The student will answer a series of multiple-choice and true/false questions pertaining to all music historical periods. There will be 20 questions (35 points).

Part 3. The student will hear six audio excerpts of compositions representing a range of historical periods and styles. The student will identify the music-historical period or

time-span represented by the composition, and justify the answer with a brief written explanation of the relevant style characteristics heard in the excerpt (30 points).

Part 4. The student will write an essay (120-200 words recommended) on one broad music historical question that he/she will chose from a selection of questions. The essay will be evaluated based on content, form, and style (20 points).

A grade of 70 out of the Examination's 100 points is a passing grade. Students who pass the Examination may enroll, at their earliest convenience and on the advice of their advisors, in the MUS 341-343 sequence. **A student who does not pass the Examination must enroll during the next spring semester in MUS 131.** Students who show deficiencies in the essay portion of their exam may also be counseled to seek help with their language and writing skills.

Transfer of Undergraduate Credit from Other Institutions to Satisfy Music History Requirements

Undergraduate students may transfer music history credits earned at accredited institutions to satisfy the requirements of their degree programs at UNLV. The Department of Music may, at its discretion, accept or reject for this purpose such previously earned credits.

Any transfer of undergraduate credit from another institution is also subject to the "Credit Evaluation" policies stated in the University's *Undergraduate Catalog*.

Music History Courses for Non-Majors

A variety of courses, especially the very popular "Music Appreciation" (MUS 121), welcome undergraduate students who wish to learn about the major artists, works, genres, and styles of the Western music tradition. Other introductory courses cover popular, jazz, and world music traditions.

Graduate Studies

Graduate Music History Placement Examination

Newly admitted Masters and Doctor of Musical Arts candidates are required to take a Graduate Placement History Examination (the "Examination") upon matriculating. The purpose of the Examination is to evaluate the depth and breadth of each incoming student's knowledge of music-historical facts, concepts, and repertoire from the Western art music tradition (medieval through contemporary periods). **All incoming graduate students regardless of their area of concentration take this Examination.** The Examination helps ensure that all graduates of UNLV's music programs are adequately equipped to speak and write knowledgeably about the Western musical tradition, both in

subsequent graduate courses or professional careers, which in many instances demand teaching, public lecturing, or writing about Western music.

Preparing for the Examination

The Examination is an assessment of accumulated knowledge. Students may wish to prepare, however, by reviewing facts and concepts in J. Peter Burkholder, Donald J. Grout, and Claude V. Palisca, *A History of Western Music*, 8th ed. (New York: W. W. Norton, 2010), earlier editions of the same, the volumes of the Prentice Hall History of Music series, or similar texts.

Examination Date

The Examination is given during the week prior to the first day of instruction. The specific date, time, and location of the Examination will be advertised in late spring or early summer, normally on the Department Web site and/or in other electronic or printed communications. Students who will matriculate in a spring semester may take the Examination on this advertised date, but may also take the Examination prior to the start of the spring semester on a date to be determined and announced by the Department.

Placement Examination Description

The format of the Examination is subject to change.

The Examination will normally comprise four parts:

Part 1. The student will correctly explain and illustrate a selection of terms (concepts, persons, musical works, or technical terms) relating to each of the following five periods of music history (medieval and renaissance, baroque, classical, romantic, and modern). The student will select two out of four randomly selected terms for each period, for a total of 10 (20 points).

Part 2. The student will answer a series of multiple-choice and true/false questions pertaining to all music historical periods. There will be 28 questions (28 points)

Part 3. The student will choose four out of five unidentified score excerpts that represent different musical periods, styles, and genres, and explain in brief essays (100-150 words recommended) the important style features of each excerpt and assign it plausibly to a composer and/or historical period (28 points). Audio recordings of these excerpts will *not* be played.

Part 4. The student will write an essay (200-250 words recommended) on one broad music historical question he/she will choose from a selection of questions. The essay will be evaluated based on content, form, and style (24 points).

A grade of 70 out of the Examination's 100 points is a passing grade. A student who passes the Examination may immediately take any of the department's available graduate music history offerings, provided he/she has already completed or shall concurrently enroll in the Bibliography course (see "*Specific Music History Requirements for Graduate Students*" below). **A student who does not pass the Examination must enroll during the first matriculated fall semester in the Graduate Music History Review class. Note that failure to take the Examination and/or enroll in the Review class during the first fall semester can potentially delay completion of degree requirements.** Students are therefore advised to reserve time in their schedules to attend the Graduate Music History Review class should it be required. The Examination will not be administered to students after the first fall semester, and penalties, costs, delays, or other consequences of the student's failure to observe these requirements are the responsibility of, and will be borne solely by the student.

Graduate Music History Review Course

The Graduate History Review Course helps students refresh or expand their knowledge of important music historical concepts, facts, and repertoires through close study of specific musical works. Students will emerge from the course equipped with knowledge of music historical styles, genres, concepts, and significant artists, as well as the skill to write and speak about these matters fluently and substantively. Satisfactory completion of the Graduate Music History Review Course is indicated by a course grade of B (83.3/100) or higher.

Graduate Music History Requirements

Candidates for the **Master of Music and Doctor of Musical Arts degrees in all concentrations** are required to take some minimum number of music history courses during their studies, and may elect to take additional music history courses at their discretion.

The current music history requirements for graduate degree programs in music are stated in the University's [Graduate Catalog](#).

Upon passing the Graduate Music History Placement test at matriculation, or after successful completion of the Graduate Music History Review course, graduate students may choose from a wide variety of graduate courses focusing on composer, genre, or period topics.

Bibliography: All Master of Music and Doctor of Musical Arts degree candidates are required to take a one-semester Bibliography course that provides instruction in music research techniques, resources, and scholarly presentation styles. The Bibliography course should be taken at the earliest opportunity during the student's program, and prior to other graduate level music history courses. It may, however, be taken concurrently with the Graduate Music History Review Course. Satisfactory completion of Bibliography is indicated by a course grade of B (83.3/100) or higher.

Doctoral Research Seminar: All Doctor of Musical Arts degree candidates in music are required to take a one-semester Doctoral Research Seminar, in which students explore a variety of advanced topics and methods in contemporary music scholarship, and apply these methods to their own independent research tasks. The course is intended to provide D.M.A candidates with the scholarly vocabulary and research tools needed for thesis research. The Bibliography course (described above) or equivalent bibliography course taken at another institution is a prerequisite for the Doctoral Research Seminar. The Doctoral Research Seminar is offered only in spring semesters, contingent upon enrollment.

Music History Components of Graduate Examinations

M.M. Degree: At the end of their studies, Master's degree candidates take a comprehensive examination that includes coverage of music historical topics and bibliographic methods and principles. Master's degree candidates are expected to demonstrate knowledge acquired through music history courses taken during their programs. Further information about the Master's degree comprehensive examination may be found in the Department's Graduate Studies Handbook.

Doctor of Musical Arts: Following the completion of course work and prior to the writing of their research document, Doctor of Musical Arts degree candidates take a qualifying examination that includes broad coverage of music historical topics. Among other tasks, candidates must demonstrate their understanding of music history through essays and stylistic analysis of diverse scores. Further information about the Doctor of Musical Arts degree qualifying examination may be found in the Department's Graduate Studies Handbook.

Transfer of Graduate Credit from Other Institutions to Satisfy Music History Requirements

Graduate students may petition the Department of Music to transfer graduate music history credits earned at other accredited institutions to satisfy the requirements of their degree programs at UNLV. The Department of Music may, at its discretion, accept or reject for this purpose such previously earned credits. Students who wish to petition the Department to apply such credit toward their music history requirements should contact

the Department at the earliest opportunity (see Contact Information below) and should be prepared to provide detailed documentation of their prior studies.

Any transfer of graduate credit from another institution is also subject to the “Transfer Credit Limitations—Prior to Admission and Enrollment” and “Transfer Credit Limitations—After Admission and Enrollment” policies of the University’s *Graduate Catalog*.

CONTACT INFORMATION

If you have questions or comments relating to music history studies at UNLV, please feel welcome to contact Dr. Anthony Barone (anthony.barone@unlv.edu or 702-895-5953; College of Fine Arts, Department of Music, 4505 Maryland Parkway, Box 455025, Las Vegas, NV 89154-5025). E-mail communication is preferred.

DISCLAIMER AND LIMITATIONS

This Handbook is provided as-is for information purposes and does not represent a contract or agreement. Neither the University nor the Department of Music assumes liability for loss or damage incurred as a result of using this Handbook. The Department of Music reserves the right to revise this Handbook at any time. In the event of disparity or conflict between this Handbook and the policies of the University, the University’s policies shall take precedence.