

UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA
SEMINAR IN MUSIC History
"Richard Strauss"
MUH 6935 (Spring 2020)

Instructor: Scott Warfield
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Section 1 (class # 17466)
Meets: TUES, 6:00 - 8:50 pm
Location: PAC M 261

Course Summary: Policies and Procedures

Prerequisite: MUH 6916 (Music Bibliography & Research) with a grade of "C" or better, or permission of the instructor.

Required Materials:

1. Regular access to a computer with access to the internet, the ability to download and read PDF documents, to access streaming media, and to create documents in WORD or a compatible format.
2. A "jump drive" or other form of portable computer storage and backup for all papers (your own) and downloaded documents.
3. Scores and recordings of works by Strauss, all of which will be announced as the semester progresses. Most scores will be available via IMSLP. (Additional information to be provided in seminar meetings.)
4. Articles & scholarly writings to be announced as the semester progresses. Items will be placed on electronic reserve or you will be advised to acquire copies or photocopies of relevant portions of works as needed from JSTOR, Project Muse, and other sources. (Additional information to be provided in seminar meetings.)

Course Objectives: This course is a seminar in the life, career and music of Richard Strauss, one of the leading composers of the late 19th century and first half of the 20th century. In this course you will become conversant with:

- The general outline and major events of Strauss's life, especially as they relate to the main trends in music history of his era
- Many of Strauss's primary compositions and the elements that inform his musical style and its evolution
- The nature of programmatic music, and how to analyze and listen to such works
- Strauss's operatic style
- Strauss's approach to *Lieder*
- Strauss's interest in copyright and related issues of music as a commodity

- Strauss and the Nazi regime, and its effect on the reception of his music
- How the life and career of a single important composer might be dealt with by scholars and historians, *e.g.*, how biographies, catalogs and works lists, and bibliographies arise, and can be used

In addition to acquiring the specific information about Strauss and his music, you will also

- develop your ability to read and understand advanced scholarly literature
- improve your ability to analyze music at an advanced level
- develop your ability to speak and write about music at an advanced level

COMMUNICATION: It is *your* obligation to read, follow and complete all assignments and other instructions (verbal or written) given to you in the course of this semester. You are responsible for any information or instructions given out in any of the following ways:

- **Class Announcements:** At the beginning of every seminar meeting, I will normally make brief announcements and reminders of important information related to MUH 6935. You are responsible for this information, whether you are present or not at that time. Be prompt to the seminar meetings.
- **Email:** I will regularly send you brief messages with important information related to MUH 6935, possibly including attachments in WORD or PDF formats. These messages will always have a header that includes the course number "MUH 6935." It is your responsibility to have a working "Knights E-Mail" account (see: <http://knightsemail.ucf.edu/> to establish your free account), and to check your account at least twice every week for any messages that I may send. **No other email accounts will be used in this course, and any messages sent to me from other accounts will be ignored and deleted without a response. Failure to follow this instruction will not be an acceptable excuse for missed assignments, tests, or other adverse actions affecting your grade in this course.** Feel free to send questions or notify me of problems at any time via email. I will generally respond within 24 hours. **NB.** Email messages sent to me must have a header that includes the words "MUH 6935" and a full name signature in the body of the email. First name only or anonymous emails will be discarded and ignored. (Hint: use your emailer's "signature file" to save yourself from this problem.)
- **Course Web Pages:** A set of web pages for this course has been established at: <http://faculty.cah.ucf.edu/swarfiel/MUH6935str/6935strhome.html>. All course information will be posted there, including copies of the syllabus, instructions for major assignments, review materials and links to other useful information. When in doubt about any assignment, check the web pages before

contacting me. I will inform you (via email) of any significant changes to these pages.

- **Canvas Web Pages:** In accordance with UCF policies, a minimal "Canvas" web site will be established for posting grades and possibly other information. You will be informed of how to access and use these pages as the semester progresses.
- **Office Hours & Out of Class:** Official office hours will be posted on my door, and I will almost always be available after seminar meetings. Please note that I will use the hour immediately before the seminar meeting to prepare. **DO NOT** plan to speak with me during that hour, except for 30-second questions. Again, I will be available immediately after class and during announced/posted office hours.

Attendance: Regular class attendance is expected of all enrolled students. As graduate students you will not earn any formal credit for merely attending weekly seminar meetings, *i.e.*, simply sitting in the room. Nevertheless, attendance will be taken at every class meeting and poor attendance will affect your grade negatively. In general, you will be allotted 3 hours (1 weekly meeting) of absences with no excuses required. Any missed time beyond those 3 hours will result in a "0" grade for those class meetings and assignments. You are responsible for all materials covered and all announcements made in every class, whether you are present or not.

Attendance Policy for In-class Assignments: No unexcused absence from a **scheduled class presentation or other in-class assignment** will ever be allowed. Failure to appear for such an assignment will result in a grade of "0" (zero) for that assignment and a required graded compensatory assignment.

Make-up Policy for Excused Absences: Should you be unable to attend a seminar meeting due to participation in an officially sanctioned UCF event or personal observance of a religious holiday, you must notify me at least one week in advance to schedule an alternate time. For serious personal or family emergencies (*e.g.*, funerals, your own hospitalization or confinement), you must notify me as early as possible. At a minimum, send an email message as soon as possible to inform me of your situation. In some cases, I will require documented proof of the reason for your absence. You may then be allowed to make up any missed work or presentations at my discretion, with no penalties. Please note that no other ordinary excuses (work, transportation, personal travel, etc.) will be accepted.

Grading: Your grade in this course will be determined by your performance in the following:

| Assignment / Test | Weighting |
|---|-----------|
| Class Presentations & Participation | 35% |
| Biography Project | 20% |
| Plagiarism and Research Modules (5 @ 1% each) | 5% |
| Major Paper | 30% |
| Final Presentation | 10% |

The **Class Presentations & Participation** will consist of various tasks related to weekly class discussions, *e.g.*, preparation of small reports, analyses, etc. Your ability and willingness to contribute meaningfully to class discussions will be expected and noted here. Please note that "passive participation," *i.e.*, short verbal utterances that add nothing to the discussion will receive only minimal credit. Silence (or near so) for an entire evening will be graded as an absence ("0" grade for the meeting).

Students who are absent from a seminar meeting may be assigned a modest written assignment (1000-1500 words) that covers the materials discussed in the missed meeting. Satisfactory completion of the substitute assignment will earn up to 50% of the attendance credit for the missed class.

The **Biography Project** will be a combination of oral presentations and a written paper, based on your study and review of a number of the most important books (primarily in English) about Strauss and his music.

The **Plagiarism and Research Modules** will be self-directed instructional modules intended to ensure that you are familiar with good scholarly practices in order to avoid plagiarism in your work.

The **Major Paper** will be the culmination of your primary work in this course, and it will consist of a project definition, the accumulation of bibliography and a formal paper of significant length.

The **Final Presentation** will be a formal presentation (based on your major paper) during one of the two final seminar meetings.

The following numeric equivalents apply to all grades (individual assignments & final course grade):

| | | |
|----------------|------|---|
| 100.00 - 92.00 | = A | Clearly Superior Work at the Graduate Level, Assignments meet all stated requirements, Strong writing that contains either no or very few minor errors, |
| 91.99 - 90.00 | = A- | Work submitted on or ahead of time. |

| | | |
|---------------|------|---|
| 89.99 - 88.00 | = B+ | Completely Satisfactory Work at the Graduate Level, Assignments meet most stated requirements, Writing that contains minor errors that do not impede understanding, Work generally submitted on time. |
| 87.99 - 82.00 | = B | |
| 81.99 - 80.00 | = B- | |
| 79.99 - 78.00 | = C+ | Marginally Satisfactory Work at the Graduate Level, Assignments usually meet most stated requirements, Writing that contains errors that begin to impede understanding, Work not always submitted on time. |
| 77.99 - 72.00 | = C | |
| 71.99 - 70.00 | = C- | |
| 69.99 - 68.00 | = D+ | Generally Unsatisfactory Work at the Graduate Level, Assignments do not meet many of the stated requirements, Writing that contains errors that significantly impede understanding, Work rarely submitted on time. |
| 67.99 - 62.00 | = D | |
| 61.99 - 60.00 | = D- | |
| 59.99 - 0.00 | = F | Unsatisfactory Work at the Graduate Level, Assignments do not meet stated requirements, Writing with excessive errors, lacks organization and approaches incoherence, Work not submitted or frequently late. |

Failure to complete any significant individual course assignments will be considered failure to complete the course and will result in a grade of "F" for the course, regardless of the grade(s) on any other assignments in the semester.

Questions about the grading or evaluation of any assignment must be raised at the time that item is returned to you. You may not argue for points based on your perception of the grading vis-à-vis another student's work. Only obvious clerical errors on my part will be corrected.

Items turned in late will be assessed a 10-point penalty for every 24 hours or fraction of a day that they are late. This penalty may be waived or lessened at my discretion, provided I am informed at least 24 hours in advance when you will not meet a deadline.

Final course averages are calculated to the nearest 1/100 of a point. In the case of a borderline final average, I reserve the right to award the next highest grade, based on class participation, preparation, attendance, and related factors.

No extra credit work or alternate assignments will be accepted in lieu of or in addition to the assignments and tests listed on this syllabus.

Due dates for all graded assignments will be announced at least one week in advance.

The **Final Examination** period for MUH 6935 is scheduled for : **Tuesday, 21 April 2020, at 7:00 - 9:50 pm**. We will use that period for a final seminar meeting, and all graded materials are due by the end of that period (unless otherwise announced). Failure to attend the final exam period will be considered failure to complete the course.

CLASS PROCEDURES AND YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES: Because this course is a **seminar**, it may differ significantly from your experiences in lecture and discussion classes at lower academic levels. The essence of a seminar is a collective effort to investigate and learn about a particular topic, which thus places the responsibility for identifying, processing and presenting materials and research results on all members of the seminar. In short, every member of the seminar is expected to contribute in some way or another to every weekly meeting. Passive, *i.e.*, silent or non-constructive contributions will be viewed negatively and will result in deductions from your grade. Assigned readings, analyses, and listening must be completed before each meeting (or the indicated deadlines) and presenters must be ready at the assigned meetings. Seminar members should also be willing to take the initiative to investigate questions that might arise in a class without waiting for formal assignments, and seminar members should also be able and willing to assist one another with research problems. In short, the idea of a collaborative effort undertaken by a group of scholars should inform all of your work in this course.

To facilitate discussions, you will be given a variety of readings and other assignments on a weekly based (always posted on the course web site). Again, it is your obligation to complete those tasks to the best of your ability on the announced schedule so that you may participate in class discussions and so that your fellow seminar members may benefit from your work.

Reserve Materials: As the semester progresses both optional and required supplementary items may be placed on reserve for reading or listening. You will be informed in class when such items go on reserve, and the course web page will include a list of all such items used in the term. Additionally, some assignments will require materials that are not on reserve. Students are advised to remember that other members of the class may need access to them and to act accordingly.

You are strongly encouraged to bring your laptop or other portable computer to class for both note-taking and active work during class time. To ensure full use of your computer while on campus, go to:

<https://publishing.ucf.edu/sites/itr/cst/Pages/WirelessNetworkOverview.aspx> for instructions on how to register your personal computer so that it has full access to the UCF wireless resources (including the UCF Library).

As a matter of respect to others in the classroom, you are not to engage in conversations unrelated to the current activities of this course, use cell phones or other electronic devices (turn off such items before entering my classroom), or work on anything unrelated to MUH 6916 (assignments for other courses, newspapers, puzzles, etc.) during class time. Individuals engaged in such activities will be asked once to cease. The second time they will be told to leave the classroom, and they will be marked absent for that day.

You should remember that the Music Building is a relatively new structure, and to keep it in good condition, department policies state that you are not to bring food into any classroom. You may bring water only to class. For those who must bring meals or snacks, use the terrace or other outside areas for eating during breaks.

This course is labor intensive, and while many assignments can be completed via the web, you will need to come to campus on many occasions beyond your class meeting day to use the library. In preparing for each class meeting you should allot a minimum of 3-4 hours for every hour of a class meeting, which means at least 9-12 hours of outside preparation and other work per week. You may find it useful to form study groups so that you may help one another in your preparations for class and other assignments. **You are not, however, allowed to collaborate on any graded assignments in this class unless you are specifically directed so.** (see "Academic Integrity" below)

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY: All graded work, *i.e.*, tests, in this class must be your work alone. You are never to collaborate with anyone on tests in this class, and you are not allowed to use your text, notes, or other aides of any kind when you are testing. Violators will be referred to the appropriate UCF authorities for prosecution (see the latest edition of [*The Golden Rule*](#) for more details).

ACCOMMODATIONS FOR STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS: The University of Central Florida is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for all persons with special needs. This syllabus is available in alternate formats upon request. Students who need accommodations for their academic work must be registered with Student Accessibility Services, Ferrell Commons Room 185, phone (407) 823-2371, TTY/TDD only phone (407) 823-2116, before requesting accommodations from the professor (me).

STUDENTS ON ACTIVE-DUTY MILITARY SERVICE: Students who are deployed active duty military and/or National Guard personnel and require accommodation should contact their instructors as soon as possible after the semester begins and/or after they receive notification of deployment to make related arrangements.

CAMPUS SAFETY STATEMENT(S): Emergencies on campus are rare, but if one should arise during class, everyone needs to work together. Students should be aware of their surroundings and familiar with some basic safety and security concepts.

- In case of an emergency, dial 911 for assistance.
- Every UCF classroom contains an emergency procedure guide posted on a wall near the door. Students should make a note of the guide's physical location and review the online version at http://emergency.ucf.edu/emergency_guide.html.
- Students should know the evacuation routes from each of their classrooms and have a plan for finding safety in case of an emergency.
- If there is a medical emergency during class, students may need to access a first-aid kit or AED (Automated External Defibrillator). To learn where those are located, see <http://www.ehs.ucf.edu/AEDlocations-UCF>.
- To stay informed about emergency situations, students can sign up to receive UCF text alerts by going to <https://my.ucf.edu/> and logging in. Click on "Student Self Service" located on the left side of the screen in the toolbar, scroll down to the blue "Personal Information" heading on the Student Center screen, click on "UCF Alert", fill out the information, including e-mail address, cell phone number, and cell phone provider, click "Apply" to save the changes, and then click "OK."
- Students with special needs related to emergency situations should speak with their instructors outside of class.
- To learn about how to manage an active-shooter situation on campus or elsewhere, consider viewing [this video](#).

NB. This syllabus may be revised, if circumstances warrant. You will be notified formally if any changes are made.