

Time: 11:00–11:50 a.m. (MWF)
Location: GPAC 209

Instructor: Dr. Tony Boutté
Office: GPAC 220-J
E-mail: boutte@shsu.edu
Office Phone: 936-294-2634
Office Hours: By Appointment

Course Description: This course offers an overview of the repertory and performance practice of opera, including the history of standard operas from the Baroque era to the present. We will be examining 20–25 of the most important operas in the literature in regard to plot, character important musical points, as well as each opera's place in history.

Required Materials:

A Short History of Opera—4th Edition (ISBN: 9780231119580)
Grout, Donald J. and Hermine Weigel Williams.
New York: Columbia University Press, 2003.
Online Access: <https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/shsu/detail.action?docID=909313>

The Grove Book of Operas—2nd Edition (ISBN: 9780199891436)
Edited by Stanley Sadie and Laura Macy
Oxford University Press, 2006.
Print ISBN-13: 9780195309072
On-line Edition:
<http://www.oxfordreference.com.ezproxy.shsu.edu/view/10.1093/acref/9780195309072.001.0001/acref-9780195309072>

A–Z of Opera (2nd Edition) Author: Keith Anderson
Biographies of over 200 great opera composers
Booklet of 1,096 pages
2 CDs of illustrative recordings
Includes access to a dedicated website with many hours of extra music
ISBN: 978-1-84379-304-5

Met Opera On Demand
New York, N.Y. : The Metropolitan Opera
<http://metopera.org.ezproxy.shsu.edu/Season/On-Demand/>

Graded Assignments and Final Grade Weight:

- Opera Analysis Worksheets
- Video Assignments
- Written/Listening Exams
- Research Paper/Lecture

Other Assignments (ungraded, but strongly encouraged)

- Organized trips to Houston Grand Opera dress rehearsals
- Trips to view Metropolitan Opera HD Broadcasts (in The Woodlands)
- Dinner and an Opera (TBA)

COURSE SCHEDULE:

Wed. 8/23 First Class: Introduction

Part I. Music and Drama to the End of the Sixteenth Century (Chapters 1–3)

Fri. 8/25 Ch. 1–3. Early Origins: Greek Theater, Medieval Drama, 16th Century Forms

Part II. The Seventeenth Century (Chapters 4–10)

Mon. 8/28 Ch. 4. The Beginnings: Opera in Florence and Mantua
(Peri, Cavalieri, Caccini Monteverdi)

Wed. 8/30 Ch. 5. Other Early 17th Century Italian Court Operas,
Including the First Comic Operas in Florence and Rome
(Landi, Rossi, Marazzol, Melani)

Fri. 9/1 Opera Analysis #1 DUE
Ch. 6. Italian Opera in the Later 17th Century in Italy
(Monteverdi, Cavalli, Cesti)
VIDEO FOR DISCUSSION: Monteverdi's *Orfeo*

Mon. 9/4 Labor Day (no classes)

Wed. 9/6 Ch. 7. 17th Century Italian Opera in German-Speaking Lands
(Cesti, Steffani)
Ch. 8. Early German Opera (Staden/Harsdörfer)

Fri. 9/8 Opera Analysis #2 DUE
Ch. 9. Opera in France from Lully to Charpentier (Lully, Campra, Charpentier)
VIDEO FOR DISCUSSION: Lully's *Armide*

Mon. 9/11 Ch. 10. Opera in England (Blow, Purcell)
Ch. 11. Masters of the Early 18th Century (Scarlatti, Keiser, Handel, Rameau)

Part III. The Eighteenth Century (Chapters 11–16)

Wed. 9/13 Ch. 11. (continued)
Ch. 12. Opera Seria: General Characteristics

Fri. 9/15 Opera Analysis #3 DUE
Ch. 13. Opera Seria: The Composers (Pergolesi, Bononcini, Hasse, Caldara)
VIDEO FOR DISCUSSION: Handel's *Alcina*, Rameau's *Platée*

Mon. 9/18 Ch. 14. The Operas of Gluck
VIDEO FOR DISCUSSION: Gluck's *Orfeo* or *Alceste*

Wed. 9/20 Review for EXAM #1

Fri. 9/22 EXAM #1

Mon. 9/25 Ch. 15. The Comic Opera of the 18th Century
(Pergolesi, Goldoni/Galuppi, Paisiello, Gassman, Salieri, Haydn)

- Wed. 9/27 Ch. 15. (continued) (?????, Grétry)
- Fri. 9/29 Opera Analysis #4 DUE
Ch. 15. (continued) (Gay, Hiller, Dittersdorf)
VIDEO FOR DISCUSSION: Pergolesi's *La serva padrona*
- Mon. 10/2 Ch. 16. The Operas of Mozart and His Viennese Contemporaries
- Wed. 10/4 Ch. 16. (continued)

Part IV. The Nineteenth Century

- Fri. 10/6 Opera Analysis #5 DUE
Ch. 17. The Turn of the Century (Cherubini, Méhul, Beethoven)
VIDEO FOR DISCUSSION: Mozart's *Le nozze di Figaro* & Beethoven's *Fidelio*
- *Sat. 10/7 MET Live in HD (Begins at 12:55pm)
Vincenzo Bellini's *Norma*
- Mon. 10/9 Ch. 18. Grand Opera (Meyerbeer, Rossini, Berlioz)
Ch. 19. Opera Comique, Operetta & Lyric Opera (Rossini, Offenbach, G&S, Gounod)
- Wed. 10/11 Ch. 20. Italian Opera of the Primo Ottocento (Rossini, Donizetti, Bellini, Verdi)
- Fri. 10/13 Opera Analysis #6 DUE
Ch. 20. (continued)
Ch. 21. The Romantic Opera in Germany (Weber)
VIDEO FOR DISCUSSION: Verdi's *Traviata*
- *Sat. 10/14 MET Live in HD (Begins at 12:55pm)
W.A. Mozart's *Die Zauberflöte*
- Mon. 10/16 Ch. 22. The Operas of Wagner
- *Wed. 10/18 Ch. 22. (continued)
TRIP TO HGO: *La traviata* (Verdi)
- Fri. 10/20 Lecture/Paper topics due with preliminary outline
Opera Analysis #7 DUE
Ch. 23. The Later 19th Century: France, Italy, Germany, and Austria
(Bizet, Delibes, Massenet, Mascagni, Puccini, Humperdinck, J. Strauss)
VIDEO FOR DISCUSSION: Wagner's *Tristan und Isolde*
- Mon. 10/23 Ch. 23. (continued)
VIDEO FOR DISCUSSION: Bizet's *Carmen*
- *Wed. 10/25 Review for EXAM #2
TRIP TO HGO: Handel's *Giulio Cesare*
- Fri. 10/27 EXAM #2

Part V. Other National Traditions of Opera from the 17th to the Early 20th Centuries

Mon. 10/30 Ch. 24. National Traditions of Opera
(Tchaikovsky, Mussorgsky, Rimsky-Korsakov, Smetana, Dvorak, Zarzuelas)

Part VI. The Twentieth Century

Wed. 11/1 Ch. 25. Introduction / Opera in France and Italy (20th Century)
(Debussy, Ravel, Stravinsky, Poulenc, Zandonai)

Fri. 11/3 Opera Analysis #8 DUE
Ch. 26. Opera in the German-Speaking Countries
(Strauss, Korngold, Berg, Weill)
VIDEO FOR DISCUSSION: Strauss's *Der Rosenkavalier* & Poulenc's *Dialogues des Carmélites*

Mon. 11/6 Ch. 27. More National Opera
(Shostakovich, Prokofiev, Janáček, Bartók)

Wed. 11/8 Ch. 28. Opera in the British Isles; Canada; Australia and New Zealand
(Vaughan Williams, Holst, Britten)

Fri. 11/10 Opera Analysis #9 DUE
Ch. 28. (continued)
VIDEO FOR DISCUSSION: Prokofiev's *L'amour des trois oranges* and Britten's *Peter Grimes*

Mon. 11/13 Ch. 29. Opera in the United States
(Joplin, Thomson, Gershwin, Copland, Moore, Blitzstein Weill, Bernstein, Barber, Menotti, Floyd, Argento, Glass, Corigliano, Adamo)

Wed. 11/15 Ch. 29. (continued)

Fri. 11/17 Opera Analysis #10 DUE
Ch. 29. (continued)
VIDEO FOR DISCUSSION: Gershwin's *Porgy and Bess* and Bernstein's *Candide*

Mon. 11/20 LECTURE/PAPER NOTES DUE! Review for EXAM #3

THANKSGIVING BREAK: 11/22–11/26

Mon. 11/27 EXAM #3

Wed. 11/29 Lecture/Paper Presentations

Fri. 12/1 Lecture/Paper Presentations

FINAL EXAM TIME: Our scheduled Final Exam time will be used for Paper Presentations if we are not able to get through them during our final classes of the semester.