3700B: Topics in Medieval Music

Instructor: Dr. K. Helsen (kate.helsen@uwo.ca)
Office: TC 227
Office Hours: Wednesdays 1:30 – 3:30

Description: This course examines musical genres and styles from the medieval period. The musical repertory includes selections from the Gregorian Office and Mass, the Notre Dame School of polyphony, secular monophony, and representative repertory from the Ars Nova style in France and Italy. The course is divided into two halves: the first half is based on the content of medieval musical life; the second half is focused on our understanding of the medieval conception of music and its place, as well as medieval understandings of ideas such as ‘composition’ and ‘performance’. In the first half of the semester, topics detailed by Fassler in the course text will be presented by the students, and discussed as a class. In the second half, students will present the results of independent studies and debate articles. Students will be evaluated on the strength of their opening statement in the debates they have chosen, one short written assignment, a mid-term examination, in-class content ‘lectures’, and one independent study presentation in class.

Required Texts:
Margot Fassler, *Music in the Medieval West* (W. W. Norton & Co., 2014) (Textbook only; not anthology)
Selected articles (JSTOR)

Evaluation:
- Short Written Assignment (Proposal for Independent Study, 500 words max., due: Tuesday, Jan. 17): 10%
- Two (2) Content Lectures in-class (30 minutes): 15% x 2: 30%
- Mid-term Exam (Tues., Feb. 28, in class): 20%
- Two Debate Resolutions: 10% x 2: 20%
- Independent Study Presentation: 20%

Statement on Academic Offences, including Plagiarism:
Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following web site: http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholoff.pdf.
Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes and citations.

Statement on Mental Health:
Students that are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western (http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth) for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.
Statement regarding Illness:
In order to ensure fairness and consistency for all students, academic accommodation for work representing 10% or more of the student’s overall grade in the course shall be granted only in those cases where there is documentation indicating that the student was seriously affected by illness and could not reasonably be expected to meet his/her academic responsibilities. Documentation shall be submitted, as soon as possible, to the Associate Dean, Undergraduate. Academic accommodation for work representing less than 10% of the student’s overall grade will similarly be granted only in cases of documented illness. Documentation shall be submitted, as soon as possible, to the Associate Dean, Undergraduate.

Statement regarding Late Assignments:
Late assignments will not be accepted, resulting in a grade of zero for that assignment, except in cases in which there is a documented illness. See “Statement regarding Illness” (above).