

MUSC 1326-001 Beethoven

In this course, we will explore the nature, evolution, and meanings of Beethoven's music. We will also consider aspects of his biography, particularly as they touch on his compositional output, and also think about the relationships between his music and cultural and political developments of his time. Listening to Beethoven's music, discussing it, reading about it, and thinking about his life and art will constitute the heart of the course.

This course is intended for students who are not music majors, and the content of its lectures will be pitched accordingly. Music majors (and music minors with considerable background in theory) may nonetheless enroll in the course, but they will be required to choose paper topics that are more appropriate to the skill sets that majors possess.

Ordinarily, classes will follow a lecture and discussion format, with the discussions focusing on the issues raised by the listening assignments and readings for the class. You are required to complete these listening and reading assignments before each class. Being an active member of the class – posing questions, participating in discussions, listening attentively to others – will be crucial to your success in this course—and this in turn means that your regular attendance in class is necessary.

The graded work for the semester will consist of two non-cumulative examinations (each of which counts for 30% of your final grade), and one final paper of no more than 15 pages or 3750 words (40% of your grade).