**Leonard Bernstein: A musical life**

T CORE 124 B

Instructor: Professor Berry

E-mail: mberry3@uw.edu (I will do my best to respond within 24 hours; slightly longer on weekends

Office: KEY 202

Office hours: 2:30-3:00 Tuesday/Thursday or by appointment

Course meeting time and place: Tuesday and Thursday, 3:05-5:10 in Tioga Library Building 115

Required textbooks (both available in the bookstore):

* Shawn, Allen. 2014. Leonard Bernstein: An American Musician. New Haven: Yale U. Press.
* Simeone, Nigel, ed. 2014. The Leonard Bernstein Letters. New Haven: Yale U. Press.
* Additional readings, listening examples, and videos will be made available on Canvas.

Course description: Surveys the life and musical career of Leonard Bernstein, one of the most important figures in 20th-century American music.

Course purpose: Leonard Bernstein was one of the most important and polarizing figures in 20th-century American music. Hailed by many as the “first great American conductor,” he struggled with his political identity, his Jewish heritage, and his sexuality over the course of his life. We will explore these aspects of his personal life in the first part of the class. In the second half of the class, we will study his musical contributions as a conductor, composer, performer, and educator. Among the works we will study are On the Town, The Age of Anxiety, West Side Story, his score for On the Waterfront.

Expected learning outcomes: By the end of this course, students will be able to:

* Recall aspects of the biography, career, and musical works of Leonard Bernstein
* Demonstrate knowledge of basic musical concepts and terminology
* Analyze the relationship between texts and music and/or biography and music
* Assess Leonard Bernstein's impact on the 20th century, musically and otherwise

Assessment of learning outcomes: The outcomes given above will be evaluated as follows in accordance with the UW grading scale: (Links to an external site.)

* Participation in class discussion: 30%
* In-class worksheets and Canvas assignments: 40%
* Three short written projects: 40% (10%, 10%, 20%)

Participation in class discussion: Class participation is a vital part of a seminar class such as this one. You will receive a participation grade for every class period. I expect average participation, which roughly corresponds to a B. Please note that these grades reflect what you demonstrate: I can’t read minds—you must share your thoughts with the class.

In-class worksheets and Canvas assignments: These will be short exercises throughout the quarter deployed in a variety of modalities.

Three short written projects: More information on these can be found under the "Assignments" tab.

A note on listening to music: Listening to music is an integral part of this class. You will be expected to be familiar with the works that we will be discussing in class. To that end, you should treat listening to music as you would reading the texts: give it your full attention (don't just have it playing while you do dishes), listen to it repeatedly, skip around and re-listen to interesting parts. Listening for this class is different from listening to music for pleasure.

Late assignments and examinations are not accepted without an approved university excuse in writing. Extensions will only be granted in the case of unforeseen or extreme emergencies. Assignments submitted after the deadline without an approved excuse will be returned without credit. Assignments are due at the beginning of the class period on the assigned date.

Information on disability and counseling resources can be found here (Links to an external site.).

Sign up for UW Alert (in case of inclement weather or other emergency situations).

Date Details

Tue Mar 31, 2015 Class 1: Introduction due by 3pm

Thu Apr 2, 2015 Class 2: So you want to be a conductor? due by 3pm

Tue Apr 7, 2015 Class 3: The early years due by 3pm

Thu Apr 9, 2015 Class 4: Bernstein's Jewish identity due by 3pm

Tue Apr 14, 2015 Class 5: Bernstein and Copland due by 3pm

Thu Apr 16, 2015 Class 6 due by 3pm

Tue Apr 21, 2015 Class 7: Bernstein and Gershwin due by 3pm

Thu Apr 23, 2015 Class 8: Bernstein and sexuality due by 3pm

Tue Apr 28, 2015 Class 9: Bernstein and Mahler due by 3pm

Thu Apr 30, 2015 Class 10: On the Town due by 3pm

Short written project #1 due by 3pm

Participation--midterm due by 11:59pm

Tue May 5, 2015 Class 11: The Age of Anxiety due by 3pm

Thu May 7, 2015 Class 12: On the Waterfront due by 3pm

Tue May 12, 2015 Class 13: West Side Story and Candide due by 3pm

Thu May 14, 2015 Class 14: What does music mean? due by 3pm

Tue May 19, 2015 Class 14: Kaddish Symphony due by 3pm

Thu May 21, 2015 Class 15: Chichester Psalms due by 3pm

Short written project #2 due by 3pm

Tue May 26, 2015 Class 16: Bernstein and the political left due by 3pm

Class 17: Mass due by 3pm

Thu May 28, 2015 Class 18: Dybbuk; In the garden due by 3pm

Tue Jun 2, 2015 Class 19: Bernstein and Beethoven due by 3pm

Thu Jun 4, 2015 Class 20: Wrap up due by 3pm

Tue Jun 9, 2015

Short written project #3 due by 12pm

Participation--final due by 11:59p