

Cal Poly SLO - Department of Music
Course Information - Music 324 (History of Film Music) - Spring 2010

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Office Hours: Tues 11-12; Wed 1-3; Thurs 12-1; other times by appointment—just ask!

Course Description: Music 324: History of Film is a G.E. C.4 survey course for all upper-division students that examines the history and masterworks of music for films, beginning with the birth of the genre and continuing to the present day. Special focus will be given to developing an analytic vocabulary for musical elements, music's function within films, and for the technology of film-making. The course consists of lecture/discussions, guided and independent listening and film-viewing, written assignments, and periodic examinations. It is NOT necessary to read music in this class—but it is essential to come to class and to do the reading assignments to earn a good grade.

Materials:

The **Textbook** is Roger Hickman's *Reel Music: Exploring 100 Years of Film Music*, W. W. Norton, 2006.
Please bring your book with you every day, and please do your reading before each class.

The **Course Reader**, which will be found at the course website (not in Blackboard):
<http://cla.calpoly.edu/~amclamor/324Film/index.html> (the password will be distributed in class).
Please PRINT OUT and BRING the reader with you to class EVERY day. It contains guidelines for the assignments, a glossary, helpful tips, and many other wonderful and exciting things.

Loaner copies of our **Composite Recordings** will be distributed in class, to be returned at the end of the quarter. Set up regular listening times in your weekly schedule, and listen often! The individual tracks of the Recordings are listed in the Course Reader

Prerequisites: completion of Area A and a foundation course in Area C.

Course Requirements (Please note: the percentages are calculated using the letter grades earned, *not* points; “the points don’t matter.” An “A” is calculated as 4.0, an A- is 3.7, a B+ is 3.3, and so forth):

I. Two Exams (20% each), on April 22 and May 13. You will need an 882 Scantron for each.

II. Two Analysis Assignments. Guidelines and forms are in the course reader.

Viewer Guide Function Analysis is due **April 29 (10%)**

Featured Film Function & Musical Analysis is due **May 25 (20%)**

III. A Final, on June 10 (30% of the grade). Again, bring an 882 Scantron form.

IV. Set Your Alarm. A large portion of the material for which you are responsible will come out of the class lectures. It is impossible for you to 'hear' the music and 'see' the videos we covered when you review someone else's notes, so regular attendance is essential!

V. All portions of the course requirements must be completed in order to receive a passing grade.

Music 324 - History of Film Music - Course Outline - Spring 2010

				Reading Assignments
Week 1	Mar 30	Tues.	<i>The Tools of Music</i>	<u>Ch. 3</u> ; <u>Reader</u> pp. 7, 16-19, 24
	Apr. 1	Thurs.	<i>The Tools of Music</i>	<u>Ch. 1, 2</u>
Week 2	Apr. 6	Tues.	<i>Functions of Film Scoring</i>	<u>Ch. 4</u> ; <u>Reader</u> p. 14
	Apr. 8	Thurs.	<i>Functions of Film Scoring</i>	<u>Reader</u> pp. 22
Week 3	Apr. 13	Tues.	<i>Functions of Film Scoring</i>	
	Apr. 15	Thurs.	<i>Functions of Film Scoring</i> ; Sample Quiz (ungraded)	<u>Reader</u> pp. 15-19, 21
Week 4	Apr. 20	Tues.	<i>Functions of Film Scoring</i>	
	Apr. 22	Thurs.	Exam I	
Week 5	Apr. 27	Tues.	<i>Film / Film Music Operations</i>	<u>Reader</u> p. 25
	Apr. 29	Thurs.	<i>Film / Film Music Operations</i> ; "Silent" Films; Viewer Guide Function Analysis Due	<u>Ch. 5-8</u>
Week 6	May 4	Tues.	"Silent" Films; <i>Birth of Talkies</i>	<u>Ch. 9</u> ; <u>Reader</u> pp. 15-16, 20, 26-28
	May 6	Thurs.	<i>Talkies</i> ; <i>Rise of the Symphonic Film Score</i>	<u>Ch. 10, 11</u>
Week 7	May 11	Tues.	<i>Symphonic Film Scores and the International Film World</i>	
	May 13	Thurs.	Exam II	
Week 8	May 18	Tues.	"1939"	<u>Ch. 12</u> ; <u>Reader</u> p. 29
	May 20	Thurs.	<i>The Golden Age</i>	<u>Ch. 13</u> ; <u>Reader</u> p. 21
Week 9	May 25	Tues.	<i>Styles and Genres: Film Noir</i> ; Featured Film Analysis due	<u>Ch. 15, 17</u>
	May 27	Thurs.	<i>Styles and Genres: Thriller/Suspense/Horror</i>	<u>Ch. 18, 21, 22</u>
Week 10	June 1	Tues.	<i>Styles and Genres: Western</i>	<u>Ch. 25, 29, 30</u> ; <u>Reader</u> p. 30
	June 3	Thurs.	<i>Beginnings and Endings</i>	<u>Ch. 31, 32, 34</u>
Finals	June 10	Thurs.	Final – 4:10 PM - 7:00 PM (Please bring back your Loaner CDs)	