

University Courses

History of Italian Opera

Duration

45 hours of lesson given both in English and Italian.

Prerequisites

Sufficient understanding of morpho-syntactical structures of the Italian language and a fair level of conversational skills are required.

Materials

Students will be provided with reading materials. Audio-visual and multimedia materials will be utilized in the classroom.

Objectives

To guide students through the historical development of the Italian opera. Students will be introduced to the types and genres of Italian opera. Special attention will be given to the comprehension and use of language specific to the discipline.

Students will be given the opportunity to analyze, interpret and discuss contents and techniques of the operas presented.

Students will be able to relate and compare operas with other artistic forms of expression (the relationship of opera to painting, literature etc...)

Methodology

Lectures as well as interactive group activities will be utilized. Operas in their entirety as well partial sequences will be presented as part of the course.

Contents

The course will be divided into 8 units according to the historical chronological sequence. At the end of each unit, an oral test will be given. Furthermore, throughout the course additional quizzes may be given to verify retention of the materials presented. A written final exam will be given at the conclusion of the course.

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No.	Title	Contents	Duration (hrs)
1	The system of production: A history of the development of opera.	The system of the courts and patrons. The universe of operatic music; Opera and her audience; The evolution of opera.	5
2	The Aesthetics	The passion; The singer; The rules of Art; The pleasures of the eyes.	5
3	The opera of the seventeenth century	Examples: Monteverdi and Cavalli	5
4	The Metastasian Opera		2
5	The birth of "opera buffa"	Examples: Scarlatti and Handel. Examples: from Caldara to Cimarosa and Piccinni.	4
6	From Neoclassicism to Romantic Opera.	Examples: Gluck and Mozart to the turn of the century; Rossini Example: <i>Semiramide</i> .	8
7	Romantic Opera	Bellini and Donizetti. Examples: <i>Norma</i> and <i>Lucia di Lammermoor</i> ; Verdi. Examples: <i>Macbeth</i> and <i>Il trovatore</i> .	8
8	The second Romantic period	Additional Verdi Example: <i>Don Carlos</i> . Puccini. Example: <i>La Bohème</i> . The age of Realism	8