

What was the original meaning of the term baroque?
What is the Doctrine of the Affections? How did this “doctrine” affect music?
What did Monteverdi and his contemporaries mean by prima pratica and seconda pratica?
How does the typical musical texture in the Baroque period differ from that of the Renaissance?
Know what is meant by the following terms: basso continuo, ground bass, monody, figured bass, realization, concertato, intermedio, tonality
What was the Florentine Camerata and why is it important?
Why is Monteverdi’s L’Orfeo so important?
What evidence is there for a rising interest in instrumental music during the 16th and 17th centuries?
Be able to describe the difference between functional and stylized dance music.
What role did improvisation play during the period and what instrumental genres are related to improvisation?
What was meant by the term sonata in the 16th and early 17th centuries?
Work toward distinguishing Baroque style from Renaissance style in music you hear.
How was sacred music affected by developments in opera?
Know something about the life and work of Giovanni Gabrieli
Know the main instrumental categories and genres of the period
Dance related
Variations: chaconne, passacaglia
Improvisatory: toccata, prelude
Fugal: fuge
Sectional: canzona, sonata
Know the basic shape and style of the Baroque solo concerto and concerto grosso
What were the most important elements of Italian opera in the late 17th century?
What is an impresario? What did the terms diva and prima donna mean?
Be able to describe the form of the da capo aria.
What characteristics are to be found in a French overture?
What is a masque?
What is the difference between chamber music and orchestral music? Give an example of each.
What is a chorale prelude and in what ways is a chorale treated in a chorale prelude and also a cantata of Bach?
What two types of sonatas began to be distinguished after about 1660? What is the difference between them?
What is the most common instrumentation for a sonata of the period?
Know something of the lives and music of Lully and Purcell.
Know a bit about the life and music of Dieterich Buxtehude and Archangelo Corelli.
What is a suite? For what instrument or instruments were suites most often composed? What are the basic components of a suite?
For whom did Vivaldi work for most of his career and what types of music did he write? What is the typical form of Vivaldi’s concerti and what is the relationship between soloist(s) and orchestra?
Where and when did Bach work during his life? What were his duties in the most important jobs of Weimar, Cöthen and Leipzig? What is the Well-tempered Clavier? What types of chamber music and orchestra music did Bach compose? What is the Lutheran church cantata? How is it similar and dissimilar to opera? What was the subject matter and on what basis was the subject matter chosen? What does BWV mean?
Know the general trajectory of Handel’s life – where and when he worked and what kinds of music he composed during different periods in his career. When and why did Handel begin writing oratoria?
What elements from Italian and French music are to be found in the music of Handel and Bach?
How did Bach’s and Handel’s job situations influence their musical output?

How do Bach and Handel differ in their approach to dramatic music (St. John & St. Matthew Passion in the case of Bach, operas and oratoria in the case of Handel)?

Listening goals

Along with being able to identify by title and composer the pieces highlighted in bold in the syllabus, you should be able to identify and describe elements or styles listed below upon hearing examples:

Da Capo aria

Ground bass/basso ostinato (a variation piece such as a passacaglia or chaconne built on a ground bass)

Improvisatory piece vs. fugal or dance piece

Concerto vs. solo sonata vs. trio sonata

Solo concerto vs. concerto grosso

Recitative (dry/secco and accompanied/accompagnato), arioso, aria style

Harpsichord, lute, organ

French overture

Binary form dance