Course Description:
The course covers the evolution of opera from Monteverdi to the early 20th century. The genres analyzed in this course are favola in musica, intermezzo, opera seria, opera buffa, grand opera, dramma lirico. Operatic production styles are considered with regard to the recordings used in the course; class discussion is meant to help students develop a critical approach to opera appreciation.
No specific musical training is required.

Grading:
Students are expected to attend all classes; absences will affect their course grade. The midterm exam, the reviews and the final exam will count equally for the course grade, together with regular attendance and contribution to class discussion.

Homework:
During the course students will read article about operas and composers; and listening sections from the operas analyzed in class.

Text:
The Operagoer's Guide: One Hundred Stories and Commentaries, M. Owen Lee

Monday, May 23 – Campus & Academic Orientation

Wednesday, May 25
Introduction.
Working in an Opera.
Vocal Types: Soprano, Mezzo, Alto Tenor, Baritone, Bass

Homework: Opera Houses in Italy.

Friday, May 27
Before the Opera
Baroque opera → Claudio Monteverdi: Orfeo, Incoronazione di Poppea.
Opera Seria and Opera Buffa.

Homework: Hand-out

Monday, May 30
Mozart e Da Ponte
Le nozze di Figaro, Così fan tutte, Don Giovanni
Homework: Libretto’s analysis
Tuesday, May 31st → 6:00 PM
COMUNALE DI BOLOGNA: LE NOZZE DI FIGARO

Wednesday, June 1
Romanticism: Italian Bel Canto Rossini, Il barbiere di Siviglia, Cenerentola
Homework: The New Grove: Rossini; Philip Gossett pp.1-85

Wednesday, June 1 6PM
TEATRO COMUNALE DI BOLOGNA
Le Nozze di Figaro

Monday, June 6
Italian Bel Canto → Donizetti: Elisir d’amore Bellini: Norma
Homework: The New Grove: Donizetti, Bellini; W. Ashbrook, J. Budden, F. Lippmann pp.93-184

Wednesday, June 8  MIDTERM

Monday June 13
Verdi’s “Trilogia Popolare”: Rigoletto, Traviata, Il Trovatore
Meeting with a chorus member of the Teatro Comunale di Firenze
VISITA TEATRO LA PERGOLA 11AM

Wednesday, June 15
Verdi’s late operas: Verdi: Otello, Falstaff

Monday June 20
Puccini’s Dramaturgy: La Boheme, Tosca, Madama Butterfly, Turandot
Homework: The New Grove: Puccini; M. Carner pp.311-342

Monday June 20 → 9:15PM
OPERA DI FIRENZE: ELISIR D’AMORE
Cortile di Palazzo Pitti

Wednesday, June 22
Puccini: vision and comments of an entire opera
Homework: Handout

Thursday, June 23 → 9:15PM
OPERA DI FIRENZE: BARBIERE DI SIVIGLIA
Cortile di Palazzo Pitti

Monday, June 27
Realism and the Giovane Scuola. Leoncavallo: Pagliacci, Mascagni: Cavalleria Rusticana,
Other Italian Opera Composers: Ponchielli, Boito, Catalani, Cilea, Giordano.

Wednesday, June 29 FINAL EXAM

Bibliography (all listed books available in Villa Ulivi Library)

General reference:
Denise Gallo, Opera. The Basics (for musical terminology)
David Kimbell, Italian Opera
Oxford Who’s Who in Opera, ed. Joyce Bourne
Opera. A History in Documents, ed. Piero Weiss
Studies on composers:
R. Osborne, Rossini
J. Budden, The Operas of Verdi, 3 vols.
W. Weaver (trans.), Seven Verdi Librettos
M.J. Phillips-Matz, Verdi. A Biography
M. Girardi, Giacomo Puccini: His International Art
J. Budden, Puccini. His Life and Works
J. Keolkar, Last Acts. The Operas of Puccini and His Italian Contemporaries from Alfano to Zandonai
General R. Donington, Opera and its Symbols: the Unity of Words, Music and Myth
studies J. Kerman Opera as Drama on P. Robinson Opera, Sex and Other Vital Matters
opera: D. Charlton (ed.), The Cambridge Companion to Grand Opera

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