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 29 – Campus & Academic Orientation

Wednesday, May 31
Introduction.
Working in an Opera.
Vocal Types: Soprano, Mezzo, Alto Tenor, Baritone, Bass

Wednesday, May 31
Concerto Villa La Pietra
Il Ritorno di Ulisse in Patria – Claudio Monteverdi - 9PM

Homework: Opera Houses in Italy.

Friday, June 2
Before the Opera
Baroque opera → Claudio Monteverdi: Orfeo, Incoronazione di Poppea.
Opera Seria and Opera Buffa.
Homework: Hand-out
Monday, June 5
Mozart e Da Ponte
Le nozze di Figaro, Cosi’ fan tutte, Don Giovanni
Homework: Libretto’s analysis

Wednesday, June 7
Romanticism: Italian Bel Canto Rossini, Il barbiere di Siviglia, Cenerentola
Homework: The New Grove: Rossini; Philip Gossett pp.1-85

Wednesday, June 7
Visita Teatro La Pergola
11AM-12PM

Monday, June 12
Italian Bel Canto → Donizetti: Elisir d’amore Bellini: Norma
Homework: The New Grove: Donizetti, Bellini; W. Ashbrok, J. Budden, F. Lippmann pp.93-184

Wednesday, June 14 MIDTERM

Thursday June 15 CENERENTOLA by G. Rossini
Maggio Musicale Fiorentino
Cortile di Palazzo Pitti - Firenze

Monday June 19

Verdi’s “Trilogia Popolare”: Rigoletto, Traviata, Il Trovatore

Tuesday June 20 LA TRAVIATA
Maggio Musicale Fiorentino
Cortile di Palazzo Pitti - Firenze

Wednesday, June 21
Verdi’s late operas: Verdi: Otello, Falstaff

Monday June 23/24 → VERONA E MANTOVA
ARENA DI VERONA: NABUCCO by Giuseppe Verdi
Visita teatro Regio di Parma
Teatro Farnese di Parma
Monday June 26
Puccini’s Dramaturgy: La Boheme, Tosca, Madama Butterfly, Turandot
Homework: The New Grove: Puccini; M. Carner pp.311-342

Wednesday, June 28
Puccini: vision and comments of an entire opera
Homework: Handout

Monday, July 3
Realism and the Giovane Scuola. Leoncavallo: Pagliacci, Mascagni: Cavalleria Rusticana,
Other Italian Opera Composers: Ponchielli, Boito, Catalani, Cilea, Giordano.

Wednesday, July 5 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. Keolker, 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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