Course Description:
The course covers the evolution of opera from Monteverdi to the early 20\textsuperscript{th} century. The genres analyzed in this course are \textit{favola in musica}, \textit{intermezzo}, \textit{opera seria}, \textit{opera buffa}, \textit{grand opera}, \textit{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 articles about operas and composers; and listening sections from the operas analyzed in class.

Text:
(Optional for Opera plots)
The Operagoer's Guide: One Hundred Stories and Commentaries, M. Owen Lee

Monday, May 28 – Campus & Academic Orientation

Wednesday, May 30
Introduction.
Working in an Opera.
Vocal Types: Soprano, Mezzo, Alto Tenor, Baritone, Bass

Thursday, May 31
Teatro dell’Opera di Firenze
La Battaglia di Legnano – Giuseppe Verdi - 8PM

Homework: Opera Houses in Italy.

Friday, June 1
Before the Opera
Baroque opera → Claudio Monteverdi: \textit{Orfeo, Incoronazione di Poppea}.
\textit{Opera Seria} and \textit{Opera Buffa}.
Homework: Hand-out

Monday, June 4
Mozart e Da Ponte
*Le nozze di Figaro, Cosi’ fan tutte, Don Giovanni*
Homework: Libretto’s analysis

Wednesday, June 6
Romanticism: Italian Bel Canto Rossini, *Il barbiere di Siviglia, Cenerentola*
Homework: The New Grove: Rossini; Philip Gossett pp.1-85

Friday, Saturday June 8/9
Parma and Mantova

Monday, June 11
Italian Bel Canto → Donizetti: *Elisir d’amore* Bellini: *Norma*
Homework: The New Grove: Donizetti, Bellini; W. Ashbrook, J. Budden, F. Lippmann pp.93-184

Monday, June 11
Roberto’s Piano Concert @ Limonaia Villa La Pietra 8PM

Wednesday, June 13  MIDTERM

Friday, Saturday June 15/16
Roma
Friday, June 15
Teatro dell’Opera di Roma
*Bohème – Giacomo Puccini* - 8PM

Monday June 18
Verdi’s “Trilogia Popolare”: *Rigoletto, Traviata, Il Trovatore*

Wednesday, June 20
Verdi’s late operas: Verdi: *Otello, Falstaff*

Monday June 25
Puccini’s Dramaturgy: *La Boheme, Tosca, Madama Butterfly, Turandot*

**Homework: The New Grove: Puccini; M. Carner pp.311-342**

**Wednesday, June 27**
Puccini: *vision and comments of an entire opera*

**Homework: Handout**

**Monday, July 2**
Realism and the Giovane Scuola. Leoncavallo: *Pagliacci*, Mascagni: *Cavalleria Rusticana*,
Other Italian Opera Composers: Ponchielli, Boito, Catalani, Cilea, Giordano.

**Wednesday, July 4 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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