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. All the
events outside the class are mandatory. 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:
(Optional for Opera plots)
The Operagoer’s Guide: One Hundred Stories and Commentaries, M. Owen Lee

Monday, May 27 – Campus & Academic Orientation

Wednesday, May 29
Introduction.
Working in an Opera.
Vocal Types: Soprano, Mezzo, Alto Tenor, Baritone, Bass

Homework: Opera Houses in Italy.

Friday, May 31
Legislative day. Monday Schedule.
This class will be held before the event on Thursday June 6.
Monday, June 3
Before the Opera
Baroque opera → Claudio Monteverdi: Orfeo, Incoronazione di Poppea. Opera Seria and Opera Buffa.
Homework: Hand-out

Wednesday, June 5
Mozart e Da Ponte
Le nozze di Figaro, Così fan tutte, Don Giovanni
Homework: Libretto’s analysis

Ore 11AM Visita del Teatro La Pergola

Thursday, June 6
Villa La Pietra 6:30PM Discussion
Concert Recital at 8:30PM: Continuum Theater

Singing Verdi in the Twenty-First Century:
A Pre-Concert Discussion with Young Singers from Accademia Verdiana di Parma, moderated by Francesco Izzo and Larry Wolff.

Friday, Saturday June 7/8/9
Roma
Teatro dell'Opera di Roma
Rossini – Cenerentola – 8PM

Monday, June 10
Romanticism: Italian Bel Canto Rossini, Il barbiere di Siviglia, Cenerentola
Homework: The New Grove: Rossini; Philip Gossett pp.1-85

Wednesday, June 12

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 12 - 9:30PM-

Roberto Scarcella Perino
Furiosus @ Amphitheater - Villa La Pietra 9:30 PM

Monday June 17  (Midterm Exam)

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

Monday June 17 - 8:30PM
Maggio Musicale Fiorentino
Teatro dell’Opera
Mozart: Le Nozze di Figaro

Wednesday, June 19
Verdi’s late operas: Verdi: Otello, Falstaff

Friday, Saturday June 21/22
Parma – Mantova

Monday June 24
Puccini’s Dramaturgy: La Boheme, Tosca, Madama Butterfly, Turandot
Homework: The New Grove: Puccini; M. Carner pp.311-342

Wednesday, June 26
Puccini: vision and comments of an entire opera
Homework: Handout

Monday, July 1
Realism and the Giovane Scuola. Leoncavallo: Pagliacci, Mascagni: Cavalleria Rusticana,
Other Italian Opera Composers: Ponchielli, Boito, Catalani, Cilea, Giordano.

Wednesday, July 3 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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