

The UNLV School of Music Graduate Music History Placement Examination

Newly admitted Master of Music and Doctor of Musical Arts candidates are required to take the Graduate Placement History Examination upon matriculating. New doctoral candidates who completed a Master's degree in music at UNLV no more than five years prior to matriculation are not required to take the Examination.

The Placement Examination is diagnostic. It evaluates the breadth and depth of your existing music-historiographical, historical, and stylistic knowledge, understanding, and perception. The Examination helps ensure that all degree candidates can participate productively and beneficially in graduate-level music-historical and historically-oriented course work, and that graduates of UNLV's music programs are thus appropriately equipped to think, speak, and write with authority and understanding about Western musical repertoires and practices, whether during subsequent graduate studies or professional careers, which in many instances demand teaching, public lecturing, or writing about music of Western traditions.

Suitable preparatory and review materials include Burkholder's *A History of Western Music* (in any recent edition) and the accompanying volumes of the *Norton Anthology of Western Music*. Any current, eminent college-level music history text and related score anthology, however, can be used for the purpose.

It is important that you be able to reference and discuss examples of repertoire throughout the Examination, so preparation and review should not be limited to mere historical and biographical facts (e.g., "Beethoven died in 1827"); rather, it is more important that you have in mind a broad historical repertoire of works that you have studied or performed that can be invoked to demonstrate important historical phenomena (e.g., "Beethoven's Third Symphony is a good example of..", "Debussy's String Quartet in G Minor demonstrates the use of...", etc.).

Administration of the Examination

The **Graduate Music History Placement Examination** will be administered on-line through UNLV's Canvas course management system. The Examination has a time limit of three hours and may be taken during any convenient three-hour interval that falls within this date and time range. Be sure to start the Examination at least three hours prior to the 11:59 PM closing time. Do not start the Examination until you are prepared to complete it in its entirety. Once started, it must be completed in one sitting. No part of the Examination may be reopened or repeated after it has been started and its duration has ended. You should select a time to take the Examination (a) when you feel prepared to do so, (b) when you have the necessary time to devote uninterrupted attention to it, and (c) are in a location where you will be able to work undisturbed. If you run into technical problems while taking the Examination, contact I.T. Support (702-895-0777) as a first step toward resolving your problem. If they are unable to assist you, notify the members of the Musicology Division by email (anthony.barone@unlv.edu, Jonathan.r.lee@unlv.edu, and Richard.miller@unlv.edu) of your difficulty. We recommend that you plan to take the Examination during business hours (local Pacific Time) to ensure that I.T. phone support is available to you; check on their hours in advance if you have concerns about

this. Note that the Musicology division's response time will vary according to our schedule, and inquiries sent after business hours might not be addressed until the following day.

Enrolling to Take the Examination

Newly matriculating graduate students will be identified by the School of Music and reported to the Musicology faculty, who will add them to the enrollment of the special Canvas course titled "Music History: Graduate Placement Exam." Those students will receive an email invitation to join this course. Additionally, any student who has not yet passed the Examination and should retake it will be added. Once a student has accepted the invitation to join the course, they will have access to three important items, listed below:

- Instructions of Lockdown Browser and Respondus Monitor
- Sample Graduate Placement Quiz: Technology Check (Requires Respondus LockDown Browser + Webcam)
- Graduate Placement Exam - [semester and year] (Requires Respondus LockDown Browser + Webcam)

The Examination requires the use of Lockdown Browser and Respondus Monitor, two Canvas-integrated tools that help ensure the integrity of on-line examinations. The instructions for using these tools are reproduced at the end of this document and should be read carefully at the earliest opportunity. The Instructions and the Sample Quiz will be immediately available to students; the Graduate Placement Exam itself will only become available at the start of the examination window.

Description of the Placement Examination

The Examination has four parts: (1) terminology, (2) multiple-choice questions, (3) style analyses of scores, and 4. an essay. The four parts are designed as follows:

- (1) You will be presented with columns of terms representing different periods of music history (loosely corresponding to "Medieval/Renaissance," "Baroque," "Classical," "Romantic," "Modern") from each of which you will choose two terms to explain with brief paragraph definitions that include examples of composers and/ or works that illustrate in a salient way the significance of the terms.
- (2) You will be presented with a series of twenty-eight multiple-choice questions that address a spectrum of music-historical matters across all periods.
- (3) You will be given a set of five score excerpts, of which you will choose four to discuss with respect to their stylistic and technical features, with the aim of assigning the score to a particular style period and/or movement and speculating on its possible composer. The aim here is to ascertain your ability to draw conclusions about musical style, genres, forms, technique, and processes from notated music. Each score can probably be addressed with an essay of between 80 and 150 words, but there is no specific length requirement. Examinees are advised to provide as much detailed evidence as appropriate to substantiate their conclusions.

- (4) You will choose one from among four essay-length questions on broad music-historical topics. A response of 250-400 words may be appropriate, but there is no specific required length.

Any of the four parts of the Examination may be assigned a specific, restricted duration within the three-hour exam window. The design and content of the Examination is subject to change; substantive changes will be announced and described in advance of any subsequent Examination offering.

The Examination is graded by members of the musicology faculty. The minimum passing score is 70%. In practice this means that one does not need to have a comprehensive mastery of all music historical periods to pass. An adequate performance on the Examination will nevertheless indicate your capacity to apprehend and communicate ideas about a substantial diversity of historical and conceptual facets of music.

Integrity of the Examination

The Examination is governed by University “Academic Misconduct” and other relevant policies (see: <https://www.unlv.edu/studentconduct/misconduct/policy>). Examinations may be assessed using any tools available for the detection of misconduct. Students alleged to be in violation of Academic Misconduct policies will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. Penalties for such violations may include the nullification of individual results.

Passing Result on the Examination

Students who pass the Examination may enroll—subject to individual course prerequisites—in graduate music history seminars, as required by their degree programs.

Remediation for Students Who Have Not Passed the Examination

Students who do not pass the Examination must remediate their deficiencies. Schedule a consultation with a member of the Musicology faculty to discuss the result of your Examination and determine an optimal course of action. This should be done as soon as possible after receiving the result. Students must select one of two acceptable remediation paths: (a) self-study and retaking the examination or (b) participation in an undergraduate music history course (normally MUS 341, 342, or 343) with the advice and approval of the course instructor. Completion of one of these remedies is a prerequisite for enrollment in graduate music history seminars (with the exception of MUS 690, which may be taken concurrently with the remediation process).

The options are described below.

- a) You may prepare to retake the Examination through self-study, best undertaken in consultation with members of the musicology faculty. Following self-study, a student will retake the Examination when it is next offered, which will be during the week prior to the first day of classes of the next semester.

- b) You may audit one or more appropriate undergraduate music history courses based on the recommendation of the musicology faculty. **Do not register for these courses; you must request admission to the course from your course instructor, who will take steps to add you to the course so that you have access to its Canvas materials.**

To demonstrate adequate remediation, you must attend at least 80% of all class meetings, take all quizzes and examinations, complete assignments given in the course, and achieve a course grade of at least 70%.

Instructions on Lockdown Browser and Respondus Monitor

LockDown Browser + Webcam Requirement

This course requires the use of LockDown Browser and a webcam for online exams. The webcam can be the type that's built into your computer or one that plugs in with a USB cable.

Watch this brief video to get a basic understanding of LockDown Browser and the webcam feature: <https://www.respondus.com/products/lockdown-browser/student-movie.shtml>

Download Instructions

Download and install LockDown Browser from this link:
<https://download.respondus.com/lockdown/download.php?id=734432924> (Links to an external site.)

Once Installed

- Start LockDown Browser
- Log into to Canvas
- Navigate to the quiz

Note: You won't be able to access a quiz that requires LockDown Browser with a standard web browser. If this is tried, an error message will indicate that the test requires the use of LockDown Browser. Simply start LockDown Browser and navigate back to the Examination to continue.

Guidelines

When taking an online quiz, follow these guidelines:

- Ensure you're in a location where you won't be interrupted
- Turn off all other devices (e.g. tablets, phones, second computers) and place them outside of your reach
- Before starting the test, know how much time is available for it, and also that you've allotted sufficient time to complete it
- Clear your desk or workspace of all external materials not permitted - books, papers, other devices

- Remain at your computer for the duration of the test
- If the computer, Wi-Fi, or location is different than what was used previously with the "Webcam Check" and "System & Network Check" in LockDown Browser, run the checks again prior to the Examination
- To produce a good webcam video, do the following:
 - Avoid wearing baseball caps or hats with brims
 - Ensure your computer or device is on a firm surface (a desk or table). Do NOT have the computer on your lap, a bed, or other surface where the device (or you) are likely to move
 - If using a built-in webcam, avoid readjusting the tilt of the screen after the webcam setup is complete
 - Take the Examination in a well-lit room, but avoid backlighting (such as sitting with your back to a window)
- Remember that LockDown Browser will prevent you from accessing other websites or applications; you will be unable to exit the test until all questions are completed and submitted

Getting Help

Several resources are available if you encounter problems with LockDown Browser:

- The Windows and Mac versions of LockDown Browser have a "Help Center" button located on the toolbar. Use the "System & Network Check" to troubleshoot issues. If an exam requires you to use a webcam, also run the "Webcam Check" from this area
- [As applicable, insert information about your institution's help desk, including details about how to contact them. Some help desks want students to run the "System & Network Check" and the "Webcam Check" before they are contacted - and even, to forward the results of these checks at the time of opening a ticket.]
- Respondus has a Knowledge Base available from support.respondus.com. Select the "Knowledge Base" link and then select "Respondus LockDown Browser" as the product. If your problem is with a webcam, select "Respondus Monitor" as your product
- If you're still unable to resolve a technical issue with LockDown Browser, go to support.respondus.com and select "Submit a Ticket". Provide detailed information about your problem and what steps you took to resolve it

Questions about the Placement Examination

Questions about the Examination may be directed to the Musicology Area coordinator, Dr. Anthony Barone (Anthony.barone@unlv.edu).