

Paul F. Zweifel

[home](#)

[opera](#)

[supertitles](#)

[books-bridge](#)

[travel](#)

[family](#)

[contact](#)

INTRODUCTION TO OPERA UH-3004

First meeting of this class: Jan. 25, 2010

Instructor: Paul Zweifel

<http://pzweifel.com>

email: zweifel@alumni.duke.edu

tel: 540-639-1295 cell: 540-230-1150

[Printable PDF](#)



The class will meet Monday afternoons from 3:30-5:30 p.m. in Squires 162 (choral rehearsal room).

We will study six operas, watching videos and discussing the musical, dramatic, historical and/or literary attributes of each. We will also talk about the art form of opera in general, starting with Greek drama and working up to the 21st century.

The class period following the completion of

each opera studied, each student will be required to turn in a short (1-2 page) critique of the opera. Do not simply rehash the plot, but rather attempt to give some insight into the dramatic, musical or literary-historical background of the work.

The last three class periods and, if needed, the final exam period will be devoted to presentations by students of an opera not already covered in the class. Teams of students will be formed to work together on an approximately one-hour presentation. The instructor will provide a list of operas from which to choose, and will also provide videos and, if desired, assistance in preparation. Or the students can choose their own favorite opera, if a video is available.

Grading:

30% class participation (discussion)
30% critiques
40% final presentation.

Repertoire:

L'Orfeo by Claudio Monteverdi

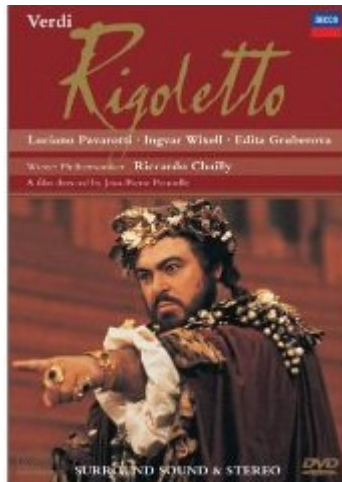




Don Giovanni by W.A. Mozart



Rigoletto by Giuseppe Verdi



Romeo et Juliette by Charles Gounod



CHARLES GOUNOD



Salome by Richard Strauss





Dr. Atomic by John Adams





Texts: *Ticket to the Opera* by Phil. G. Goulding. (Fawcett books).

Libretti: The libretti of the following operas are available online:

L'Orfeo:

<http://www.opera-guide.ch/libretto.php?id=226&uilang=de&lang=en>

(English only)

Rigoletto:

<http://www.opera-guide.ch/libretto.php?id=394&uilang=de&lang=en>

(English only)

Romeo et Juliette

<http://opera.stanford.edu/iu/libretti/romeo.htm>

(French only. Sorry.)

Dr. Atomic

<http://www.scribd.com/doc/7817182/Doctor-Atomic-Libretto>

The libretti for *Salome* and *Don Giovanni* are available

from amazon.com at reasonable prices.

You are expected to have learned the story of the operas before they are studied in class. The libretti will be useful for this. In addition, Wikipedia gives stories of all the operas. Simply Google the name of the opera and the Wikipedia website will appear.

In addition there will be a handout of an unpublished article on *Don Giovanni* written by the instructor. Also, the following webpages will be useful:

[Salome 1.](#)

[Salome 2.](#)

[Romeo et Juliette.](#)

[Don Giovanni.](#)

[Rigoletto](#)

CLASS SCHEDULE

Monday, Jan. 25

Welcome, Pictures. What is opera? Why is opera? 65 min.

L'Orfeo First part. 55 min.

Monday, Feb, 1.

Lecture and discussion. 70 min.

L'Orfeo. Second part. 50 min.

Monday, Feb.. 8. Critique of *L'Orfeo* due.
Don Giovanni. First part, 90 min.
Discussion 30 min.

Monday Feb.. 15.
Don Giovanni. Second part. 90 min.
Discussion 30 min.

Monday, Feb. 22. Critique of *Don Giovanni* due.#
Romeo. First part. 90 min.
Discussion 30 min.

Monday, Mar. 1.
Romeo. Second part. 90 min.
Discussion 30 min.

Monday, Mar. 8. Spring Break,

Monday, Mar. 15. Critique of *Romeo* due.
Rigoletto. First part. 55 min.
Discussion 60 min.

Monday, Mar. 22.
Rigoletto. Second part. 65 min.
Discussion 50 min.

Monday, Mar. 29 Critique of *Rigoletto* due.
Salome 100m min..
Discussion 15 min.

Monday, Apr. 5.
Continue discussion of *Salome*. 20 minutes.
Lecture introduction to Dr. Atomic. 20 minutes.
Dr. Atomic video 80 minutes.

Monday, Apr. 12. Critique of *Salome* due.
Dr. Atomic video 85 minutes.
Discussion 35 minutes.

Monday April 19, 26 and May 3. Critique of Dr. Atomic due April 19.
Student presentations.

indicates visiting professor for this class

[home](#)[opera](#)[supertitles](#)[books-bridge](#)[travel](#)[family](#)[contact](#)