

JOEL FREDERICK KIRK, BA, MA – TEACHING PORTFOLIO

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STUDENT TESTIMONIALS (SELECT):

Music in the Movies, Spring 2022, University at Buffalo

“The readings and numerous in-class discussions helped to hammer home the course content while the reflective reports were a great way of allowing students to demonstrate knowledge while using their own passions to guide their examples.”

“Professor always brought an infectious enthusiasm to the class matched only by his lecturing abilities and compassion for both the subject of music and the care he shows students. Class was always a joy.”

“The instructor was always approachable and enthusiastic about what he was teaching. This made me more focused and willing to participate. He also responds to emails quick. I was never afraid to ask for help! He keeps the students engaged with movie clips that have to do with the course which made it easier to understand the material. The assignments and exams were fair and did not burn me out.”

Music in the Movies, Fall 2021, University at Buffalo

“This course was very interesting and intellectually stimulating. I feel as though I gained a lot of knowledge and new perspectives regarding the topics presented.”

“I found that the way the course was organized was a highpoint. The slideshows and readings used were all relevant, interesting, and thorough in all topics. No work was unnecessary.”

“I can only praise Prof. Kirk for the teaching of this course. Lectures were clear and engaging, leaving room for discussion and new ideas from the students. Grading seemed incredibly fair to me, and the feedback was always constructive. His kind and welcoming attitude and the clear passion he has for the subject made this a joy to take.”

Theory of Music for Non-Majors, Spring 2021, University at Buffalo

“This was a very enjoyable class to take. In addition to being the only class I was allowed to attend in person, Prof. Kirk presented the class material enthusiastically and gave us many fun activities to do which greatly deepened my understanding and appreciation of music theory.”

“I loved that there wasn't an intense pressure on getting assignments and making everything due at the end of the semester. This gave me more time to really understand the material rather than to rush through it.”

“Joel was a great instructor and really made my day. Always in a good mood for teaching, made sure everybody participated, and gave us lots of fun exercises. Had plenty of jokes and opinions that were interesting to listen to, and really expanded on what music is and how it works in a great way.”