This class meets with another MUS-Z 101. Z101 is a course that will change the way you listen to music! We will use a two-prong approach in which both musical and historical components will be used to examine the repertoire we cover. We are interested in history, because this course introduces music listening as something that can be informed and enriched by an understanding of the culture and society from which it originates. Nevertheless, regardless of the style or genre, all music is built on some combinations of basic musical elements—such as melody, rhythm, harmony, texture, timbre, dynamics, and form. If we listen for these elements we can better understand how a piece of music actually works. These elements also provide us with a basic vocabulary to talk about the music. After the initial unit on the elements of music, the course moves from the Middle Ages to contemporary times with the focus on what you hear in the music. Most of the music we cover is from the Western classical tradition.

You do not need a musical background to have a successful semester. Through listening, discussion, and reading, the objective is to deepen your experience of music. By the end of the semester, specific information about many important composers and works will be familiar to you and you will have discovered music you never imagined existed! Whether you plan to be a music listener, performer, or composer, this course will enhance your understanding and increase your enjoyment of musical experiences. This class teaches music listening via small-group exercises, following the methods of Team-Based Learning (TBL).