**HUM 324 MAJOR WORKS OF 20th CENTURY MUSIC– SPRING 2021 Syllabus**

**INSTRUCTOR:**

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**CLASS TIMES:**

Lecture: Tuesday 12:40-14:30 (1st week live, the rest is recorded)

Discussion: Tuesday 15:40-16:30 (online – live on Zoom)

**OFFICE HOURS:**

**Per appointment**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION AND GOALS**

The aim of Major Works of 20th Century Music course is to navigate the turbulent 20th Century and figure out why the music of the past millennia of the human experience is dramatically different from the music of the 21st century. As individuals born into a whirlwind of multimedia experience, the values system and parameters of music ought to be redefined for a solid intellectual basis and conscious, productive consumption of music as a social capital. The course concentrates on the development of an attentive style of listening with regard to style and genre, enhancing students’ awareness through the study of representative works of music and presenting them in their social, economic and cultural contexts through the 20th Century.

This course is designed to provide fundamental knowledge concerning music in a wider sense, thus not concentrating on music history, but a musicological and sociological understanding of music. Besides the 20th Century avant-garde art music, the impact of developing music technology and mass media on music consumption will be taken into consideration. Therefore, although the weight remains on art music, important popular music phenomena such as the birth of jazz and rock and inner workings of music industry will also be presented. The course is not intended for developing musicianship, rather, the learning objective is providing guided listening for developing musical interest. There will be very limited mention of music theory (when there is, it will be treated as a black box- there is no avoiding of music theory when the distinction between tonal music and serial music is to be understood, for instance) thus it can be completed by any student regardless of musical background. Students will be instructed to listen to and study music through the course reader, audio-visual recorded lectures, accompanying slides, auxiliary material and interaction during the discussion sections. Material will be uploaded weekly into their designated folder under resources. A complementary list of documentaries, readings and listenings will be assigned weekly, when necessary.

**To complete the course requirements, the students are required to take two online, proctored examinations and compose an original paper, presenting their ideas developed by the studied material in this course. There are weekly quizzes based on lecture material as well. Reading: Average 10-12 pages/week and ca. 45 minutes documentary viewing. Your input to the discussions is also valued and graded.**

**RESOURCES:**

Course reader (Excerpts from Attali, Ross, Starr, Griffiths). Powerpoint slides. Lecture videos. YouTube videos and documentaries.

**GRADING**

The course is graded by examinations, attendance quizzes and a written assignment:

Midterm Exam % 25

Final Exam % 35

Weekly Online Quizzes based on studying the lectures                                            % 12

Discussion participation % 8

One short essay on a specified prompt (ca. 1500 words) %20

**IMPORTANT GUIDELINES:**

**Passing threshold for HUM 3xx coded courses is %60. I will be using the standard catalog-based scheme for letter grades, as of all HUMXXX coded courses.**

**A 100-96**

**A- 95-92**

**B+ 91-88**

**B 87-84**

**B- 83-80**

**C+ 79-76**

**C 75-72**

**C- 71-68**

**D+ 67-64**

**D 64-59**

**F 58-0**

**NA-not attending**

**During the discussions, the lecture video, assigned reading and the supplementary materials specified one week ago will be the discussion topic. You will not be able to participate if you haven’t studied them until then! You will have the choice of watching the lecture video either synchronically in its designated time slot or asynchronically, thus later on according to your own schedule. Please bear in mind that there will be a deadline for the weekly online quizzes based on studying the lectures. Do not attempt to take these quizzes without studying the lecture videos, as these are auto graded and you will lose points. You will get an NA grade if you do not attend more than half of the discussion sections (thus 7 hours in total). You will lose points for each absence after the first one. Absence includes turning your camera off or being busy with something else during discussion sections, thus not responding when prompted. There might be alterations to this syllabus, according to progression.**

WEEKLY SYLLABUS

**1:** 23.02.2021 *Recording sound: the end of an era, beginning of the next*. Live, interactive lecture, introductory lecture.

Watch documentary: Howard Goodall, Big Bangs “Recorded Sound”

Reading: excerpt from J.Attali: Noise: The Political Economy of Music and A. Ross: The Rest is Noise

NO DISCUSSION. **Online Quiz 1 (ungraded)**

**2:**  02.03.2021 *Backwards is the way to go: Primitivism and the folkloric foundations. Stravinsky, Bartok.* Reading: excerpt from P. Griffiths: A Concise History of Western Music. **Online Quiz 2**

**3.** 09.03.2021 *The Dissolution of Tonality: Serialism, the 2nd Viennese School.* Reading: excerpt from A. Ross: The Rest is Noise.

**Online Quiz 3.**

**Watch Documentary: The Sound and the Fury Episode 1 (BBC)**

**4.** 16.03.2021 *The last great masters of traditional vocal music: G. Puccini and C. Orff.* Reading: excerpt from P. Griffiths: A Concise History of Western Music. Watch Documentary: Howard Goodall, 20th Century Greats, Leonard Bernstein.

**Online Quiz 4.**

**5.** 23.03.2021 Battle Hymns: *The World wars and the political exploitation of music.*

Watch Documentary: Shostakovich’s Leningrad Symphony

**Online Quiz 5.**

**6.** 30.03.2021 *Electroacoustic, Spectral, Minimalist... New bones to old flesh? Philip Glass, Olivier Messiaen, Edgar Varese.* Reading: excerpt from A. Ross: The Rest is Noise. **Watch Documentary: The Sound and the Fury Episode 3 (BBC)**

**Online Quiz 6.**

**7.** 06.04.2021 *“Are there still composers?” The avant-garde Western art music in the late 20th Century.* Reading: excerpt from A. Ross: The Rest is Noise.

**Online Quiz 7.**

**8.** 13.04.2021 12:40- 14:30 **MIDTERM EXAM (online, with proctoring, there will be a question pool where a random draw will be given to each student by SuCourse+. There will be both autograded questions and short essay-type questions, no long essay).**

NO DISCUSSION.

**9.** 20.04.2021 *Let there be Jazz: the crosspollination of Western Art Music*

**Reading: Theodor Adorno: On Jazz**. Watch documentary: Howard Goodall, The Story of Music Episode 6 “The Popular Age”

**Online Quiz 8.**   
**10.** 27.04.2021 *Music for spectacle or spectacle for music? Hollywood, Broadway, West End*. **Reading: Excerpt from Starr: American Popular Music.** Watch documentary: Howard Goodall, 20th Century Greats “Bernard Herrmann”

**Online Quiz 9**

**PROMPT for TERM PAPER**

**11.** 04.05.2021 *Who decides on what is popular and what is art? The Radio and its impact*.  
**Online Quiz 10**

**Watch Documentary: The Sound and the Fury Episode 3 (BBC)**

**12.** 18.05.2021 *Rock’n Roll is here to stay, 50s and 60s Rock, the Beatles, birth of Heavy Metal*

Watch documentary: Howard Goodall, 20th Century Greats “The Beatles”  
**Online Quiz 11**  
  
**13.** 25.05.2021 *From SuperStars to streaming: the transformation of music industry in the digital era.*   
**Reading: Excerpt from Starr: American Popular Music.**

**Online Quiz 12**  
**TERM PAPER DUE!**

**14.** **Final Exam date TBA according to Student Resources’ schedule between 29-12 June 2021. For proctored exams, your webcam and microphone should be on during the exam. In the case of non-compliance with this and other declared exam procedures, your exam will be void. Make sure to check that your webcam and microphone function properly before the exam. You must attend the synchronous Zoom lectures, recitations, etc. and real-time online exams with your SU email account.**