

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

INSTRUCTOR:

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CLASS TIMES:

Lecture: Asynchronous

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 popular music and 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 21st Century 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 proctored examinations, which might or might not be online, depending on the decisions of the university board. The students are required to compose an original paper, presenting their

ideas developed by the studied material in this course. There are weekly quizzes to assess attendance, based on lecture material as well. Reading: Average 10-12 pages/week and ca. 45 minutes documentary viewing. Your input to the discussion section is also valued and graded.

RESOURCES:

Course reader (Excerpts from the books and below and selected articles):

- Attali, J. (1985). *Noise: The political economy of music*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press.
- Ross, A. (2007). *The rest is noise: Listening to the twentieth century*. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux.
- Starr, L., & Waterman, C. A. (2007). *American popular music: From minstrelsy to MP3*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Griffiths, Paul. (2006). *A concise history of western music*. Cambridge, UK ; New York : Cambridge University Press

Powerpoint slides, lecture videos, YouTube videos and documentaries.

GRADING

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

Midterm Exam	% 20
Final Exam	% 40
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. Below is the standard catalog-based scheme for letter grades, as used by the FDD.

A 100-96	B- 83-80	D+ 67-64
A- 95-92	C+ 79-76	D 64-59
B+ 91-88	C 75-72	F 58-0
B 87-84	C- 71-68	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 to study the lecture a synchronically 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, they need to be completed BEFORE the discussion sections. 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 minor alterations to this syllabus, according to progression.**

WEEKLY SYLLABUS

1: WEEK 1 28.09.2021, 15:40-16:30: *Recording sound: the end of an era, beginning of the next.* Introductory lecture (online). Reading: excerpt from J.Attali: *Noise: The Political Economy of Music* and A. Ross: *The Rest is Noise*. Watch documentary: Howard Goodall, *Big Bangs* "Recorded Sound"

Online Quiz 1 (ungraded, introductory)

2: WEEK 2 05.10.2021 *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 15:40-16:30: Discussion of Week 1 material (online)

3. WEEK 3 12.10.2021 *The Dissolution of Tonality: Serialism, the 2nd Viennese School.* Reading: excerpt from A. Ross: *The Rest is Noise*. Watch Documentary: *The Sound and the Fury* Episode 1 (BBC)

Online Quiz 3. 15:40-16:30: Discussion of Week 2 material (online)

4. WEEK 4 19.10.2021 *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. 15:40-16:30: Discussion of Week 3 material (online)

5. WEEK 5 26.10.2021 *Battle Hymns: The World wars and the political exploitation of music.* Watch Documentary: Shostakovich's *Leningrad Symphony*

Online Quiz 5. 15:40-16:30: Discussion of Week 4 material (online)

6. WEEK 6 02.11.2021 *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. 15:40-16:30: Discussion of Week 5 material (online) I might be out of my office but will hold the section.

7. WEEK 7 09.11.2021 *“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. 15:40-16:30: Discussion of Week 6 material (online)

8. WEEK 8 16.11.2021 15:40- 16:30 **MIDTERM EXAM (Live, on campus). A short exam out of necessity, with appropriate question formats, might be computer-delivered.**

9. WEEK 9 23.11.2021 *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. 15:40-16:30: Discussion of Week 7 material (online)

10. WEEK 10 30.11.2021 *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 15:40-16:30: Discussion of Week 9 material (online)

PROMPT for TERM PAPER

11. WEEK 11 07.12.2021 *Who decides on what is popular and what is art? The Radio and its impact.* Watch Documentary: *The Sound and the Fury Episode 3 (BBC)*

Online Quiz 10 15:40-16:30: Discussion of Week 10 material (online)

12. WEEK 12 14.02.2021 *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 15:40-16:30: Discussion of Week 11 material (online)

TERM PAPER DUE!

13. WEEK 13 21.12.2021 *From SuperStars to streaming: the transformation of music industry in the digital era.*

Reading: Excerpt from Starr: *American Popular Music*.

PROMPT for BONUS ASSIGNMENT

Online Quiz 12 15:40-16:30: Discussion of Week 11 material (online)

14. WEEK 14 28.12.2021 Bonus assignment presentations, general roundup.

15. FINAL EXAM date TBA according to Student Resources' schedule between 03-18 January 2022.