

MUS 504: Analysis of Music in the 20th and 21st Centuries – Analysis of Modern Music

Instructor: Nirmali Fenn | Monday, 2pm – 4:40pm

We are two decades into the 21st Century, but by the end of the 20th, it was clear that there was no longer any ‘mainstream’ in modern and contemporary music. Every piece presents possible new challenges to players, audience, and scholars. In this course, we will look at a wide variety of music and consider a range of possible analytical approaches. It is important to remember that analysis, like any investigation, implies a viewpoint. To solidify your singular musical interpretation, analysis stimulates you to be curious. Certain questions will be asked in this course pertaining to readings, thereby introducing you to an art of questioning essential to the process of analysis itself. Therefore, this course will have as a constant undercurrent a consideration on the nature of analysis itself.

This course is suitable for all graduate students. For MM and DMA students, this fulfills the Elective Group 2 requirement. MA students in the Composition track must take either MUS 502 or MUS 504 in the first year, unless exempted via an examination or advisory assessment.

3 credits