MUS 504, Analysis of Music in the 20th and 21st Centuries: 20th-21st Century Tonal Analysis

Instructor: Nirmali Fenn

We are two decades into the 21st Century, and it was quite clear by the end of the 20th that there was no longer any 'mainstream' in contemporary music. Every piece presents possible new challenges to players, audience, and scholars. We will therefore 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. In the selected papers, certain questions are asked, and they (and only they) are answered. Therefore, this course will have as a constant undercurrent a consideration of the nature of analysis itself.

Coursework includes weekly readings, two presentations and a lot of discussion.

This counts as a theory course for MM and DMA students, and is intended for all graduate students

3 credits