

**MUS 557: Topics in Theory: Music Theory and the Body Politic**  
**Instructor: August Sheehy | Tuesday, 1pm – 3:50pm**

Over the course of the long nineteenth century in Europe the following happened: music became, in Walter Pater's famous expression, "the condition to which all arts aspire"; the locus of sovereignty moved from the singular body of the monarch to the body politic; music theory began to assume its modern disciplinary form, in which theoretical knowledge would be founded on analysis of a representative body (corpus) of musical works and an understanding of the individualized human body.

This seminar will explore connections between these historical developments and consider the ramifications of these connections for the present and future of music theory. Readings will be drawn from a variety of literatures, e.g., music theory and analysis, history, philosophy, political theology, feminist music studies.

*This seminar is primarily intended for MA and PhD students. Any MM or DMA students may enroll with permission from Prof. Sheehy; MM and DMA students must also check with their large ensemble instructor to see if this course would conflict with the ensemble's rehearsal schedule. If it will conflict, the student must check with the course instructor if absences for this reason would be permitted. For students in the MA/PhD in Critical Music Studies track, it satisfies the Elective Group 3 requirement. For DMA students, it fulfills the Elective Group 2 requirement.*

*3 credits*