

Music 70 : History of Music

Fall 2020



Professor: Delia Casadei

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Office Hours: Weds 10-11am PST

Thurs 3-5pm PST

GSI: Virginia Georgallas

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Office Hours: Tuesdays

3:30-4:30pm PST

Structure and Rationale

This course will consist of 10 weeks of instruction and 5 weeks of guided work on your Final Projects. After a week of introductions, the semester will look like this:

Weeks 2-10:

Starting from week 2, we will focus on three units of three weeks each: **Writing** (Weeks 2-4), **Style** (Weeks 5-7), and **Value** (8-10). Each of these units will treat an aspect of how, in the Western musical tradition, we came to store, classify, evaluate and then write histories of musical practices. You will learn some of the skills involved in writing a music history, and will be asked to evaluate scores, performances, and primary sources for the kind of information they give us about the past; and you will ultimately be asked to consider the advantages and the dangers of writing a long, and highly selective story about something as invisible, ephemeral, and affecting as the art of sounds.

Week 11-15:

Starting from week 11 we will switch to a simpler weekly structure, in which you will work on drafts of the different elements going into your final project. For your final project, you will create a 10 minute podcast that you will research, script, and record yourself on a topic of your choice (to be approved by your instructor). In order to give you time to do your research, there will be no discussion sections starting from week 11. You will continue to produce weekly assignments (due on Thursday) in which you will work on creating a draft of your final project in stages (topic, research question, thesis statement, plan, draft script, final submission). This part of the semester will allow you to work independently and build on what you learned thus far, while receiving feedback from your instructors and peers.

Online Learning: How Will it Work Exactly?

This class will be taught a-synchronously by your professor (Delia Casadei) and Graduate Student Instructor (Virginia Georgallas).

What does this mean?

There won't be any live lectures to attend; your section will be run on bCourses via a weekly online discussion (to which you will participate all together--not as two separate sections) on Wednesday.

You will be provided with all the reading, viewing, and listening materials on bCourses, including a weekly 30 minute lecture podcast by me. And you will be able to meet your professor and GSI at weekly Zoom Office Hours.

Why are we doing it this way?

There are many reasons for this decision: we live in unpredictable times, and it's not certain whether we will all be able to gather online at the same time every week; internet connections are famously unreliable right now; accessibility issues are easier to deal with when learning is not delivered live; and screen fatigue and exhaustion is a very real issue for many of us, and learning should be a privilege, not a punishment!

What do I (the student) need to do?

The course will unfold (for the first 10 weeks, before we switch to individual projects) according to a weekly schedule. I strongly recommend that you memorize this schedule and set reminders in your phone so that you keep track of it. Here it is below:

Weekly Schedule (Weeks 2-10)

Tuesday, 9.30am: podcast lecture is released on bCourses, along with reading and listening

Tuesday, 11.59pm: Short Quiz Due on bCourses

Wednesday, 4pm: Discussion post and peer response due on bCourses

Thursday, 9.30am: Individual guided study and assignment are released

Saturday, 11.59pm: Individual guided study and assignment is due on bCourses

What if I have a question?

I understand that many questions will arise as we move along, and I want to make sure we are all on the same page and nobody feels alienated or left behind. There will be an open discussion thread you can post questions into, and someone will get back to you within twenty-four hours. Otherwise, come to Office Hours: I hold three office hours per week, Virginia holds one. You can always e-mail me or Virginia as well, though the first two methods are preferable.

Grades

I know grades are important to you, and I want you to do well in this class. It doesn't do either of us any good to talk grades in the last week of semester or after final grades are in, since UC Berkeley has a policy that prohibits grade changes based on the re-evaluation of student work. Grade Focused conversations are welcome when they are proactive (i.e. there is still enough time in the course to impact your grade), realistic (the math adds up), and framed around concrete goals for the course (needing an A to get a certain GPA is not a reason for extra grade considerations, but wanting to achieve content/skill mastery may be). The best thing you can do for your final grade is give steady, consistent attention to your work for this class.

Grade Breakdown:

Office Hour attendance: 5% of grade

You will be expected to come to office hours at least twice over the course of the semester for two 15-minute conversations with your instructor and/or GSI. This will help me and Virginia get to know our students and also learn about significant learning issues as they arise. You are very welcome to come more often than just twice per semester should you want to talk to us, but it is not a requirement.

Weekly Quizzes (Weeks 2-10): 5% of grade

After every Tuesday podcast lecture, you will be asked to complete a 5-minute quiz on bCourses, to make sure you have listened to the podcast and are learning the key concepts and terminology. It will be a timed quiz, and you only get to take it once, so make sure you have listened to the Tuesday lecture and taken notes before you start. It won't be a difficult quiz, and I will disregard your lowest score in the final grade.

The quiz will help you get a sense of what you have learned during that week (and also give you a sense of the concepts you are struggling with, so that you can go over them again either by yourself or with me or Virginia).

Weekly Online Discussion Section on bCourses (Weeks 2-10): 30% of grade:

This will be the equivalent of your discussion section. A topic or discussion activity will be posted under Discussions in bCourses, and you will need to post your own thoughts on there by Wednesday, 4pm PST. You will have needed to listen to the Tuesday lecture podcast (and done the relevant readings) in order to participate, but this part of the week is about exploring the week's concepts in a more informal way. Your grade will be determined by the timeliness with which you participate, whether your post is relevant to the prompt you were given, whether you demonstrate an understanding of class content when you post, and your ability (when required) to engage with the work of your peers.

Weekly Assignments (Weeks 2-10): 30% of grade

On Thursdays at 9.30am PST, you will receive an assignment to be completed by Saturday, 1159pm PST. This assignment will have many parts and will, essentially, guide you into teaching yourself a music history topic by asking you to research and learn about a piece of music, its cultural context, and/or a significant historical debate around this particular piece. It is very important that you do these assignments carefully, as they will teach you how to do the kind of research you will need to do for your final project, and because they will introduce you to new and surprising music, or historical questions, that will feed into the following week's topics. You will be evaluated on the thoroughness and accuracy of the research you carry out, as well as on the ability to show that you have listened carefully to the music you have been assigned. As you move from week to week, you will be asked to make more and more sophisticated arguments about how the music connects to the social, and historical developments that surrounded it.

Weekly Preparatory Assignments and Final Submission: (Weeks 10-14): 10% of grade

Once we switch to individual projects, you will be asked to submit one part of your final project every week, on Thursday at 9.30am PST. These elements will be largely graded for timeliness and completion: what matters is ultimately the quality of your completed final project. However, you will receive feedback on these submissions, and the feedback will be essential to ensuring that your final project is well researched and well crafted.

Final Project Submission (Week 15): 20% of grade

You will devise, script, and record a 10-minute podcast on a music history topic that builds on class materials; your podcast will be scripted and will include musical examples that you will commentate and elucidate for your listeners. You will be able to choose your own topic, but it will need to be approved by your instructor or GSI, and will need to have an obvious link to class content, and reflect, in some way, about the practice of writing music history.

Week by week overview

***** Please note: detailed descriptions of every week's topics, as well as materials and assignments, are found in Modules on your bCourses Website. This below is a general overview of the class topics.**

Week 1 (begins Thurs, Aug 27) **Introductions**

Unit 1: Writing

Week 2 (begins Tue Sep 1) **What is the History of Music?**

Week 3 (begins Tues Sep 8) **Medieval Music from Sign to Sound**

Week 4 (begins Tues Sep 15) **Early Music From Authenticity to Reinvention**

Unit 2: Style

Week 5 (begins Tues Sep 22) **What is Style?**

Week 6 (begins Tues Sep 29) **The Power of Style**

Week 7 (begins Tues Oct 6) **Style and Inclusion, Style as Exclusion**

Unit 3: Value

Week 8 (begins Tues Oct 13) **What is the Value of Western Art Music?**

Week 9 (begins Tues Oct 20) **How is Music Valued?**

Week 10 (begins Tues Oct 27) **How Is Music Devalued?**

Final projects work:

Week 11 (begins Tues Nov 3) **Coming up with a topic of interest and a list of sources**

Week 12 (begins Tues Nov 10) **How to ask a research question**

Week 13 (begins Tues Nov 17) **Planning a podcast and shaping an argument**

Week 14 (begins Tues Nov 24) **Script Draft**

Week 15 (begins Tues Dec 1) : **Final Projects due on bCourses on Friday 4 December at 11.59pm**