

Radford University Music Department
Analytical Techniques (Music 633)
Spring semester 2009

Instructor: Dr. Bruce P. Mahin

Class Times: Thursdays from 6:30 - 9:30 p.m. in Powell 107

Required: Lester, Joel. Analytical Approaches to Twentieth-century Music. Norton, 1989.
Morgan, Robert. Anthology of Twentieth-Century Music. Norton.

Content: This course focuses on techniques useful in the analysis of non-tonal music with emphasis on the impact of analysis on composition and performance practice. Students will learn to apply various analytical techniques, rather than a single method, as suggested by specific musical situations.

Final grades will be based on the following:

1. Quizzes: 10% (10 quizzes @ 1 point each)
2. Discussions: 20% (10 discussions at 2 points each)
3. Written Papers: 50% (10 papers at 5 points each)
4. Live Breeze Discussions: 20% (10 discussions at 2 points each)

Attendance: Regular attendance is expected. Absences will not justify tardy assignments. Please discuss planned absences with the instructor at the earliest possible date.

Participation: Reading assignments will be given to the class on a regular basis to facilitate the discussion of concepts discussed on the discussion board. Students are expected to come to class prepared to discuss the content of reading and analysis assignments in open discussion with the rest of the class.

Papers Weekly papers approximately three pages in length will be typewritten double-spaced in single-sided format. Each paper will be based on a guided design project based on a work being studied in class.

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January

Transition from tonality to free atonality

- 20 Discuss the elements of music analysis. Look at Charles Ives "General Wilkes Booth Enters Into Heaven" Assignment: Read (Lester) pp. 1-13. Guided Design No. 1 due next week.

Pitch Class Regions, Scales and Modes

- 27 Discuss Ives *At the River* in class and Bartok *Makrokosmos, vol. VI* (hand-out) in class. Assignment: Read Lester pp. 146-69. Guided Design No. 2 on Debussy, *Preludes, Book 1, "Brouillards"* due next class.

February

- 3 Discuss "Brouillards" and Schoenberg's Op. 16, nos. 1 and 5. Assignment: Guided Design No. 3 on Schoenberg's Op. 16 no. 3 "Farben" (Burkhart) due next week. Read Lester pp. 33-53.

- 10 Discuss Schoenberg's Op. 16 "Farben" and Hindemith "Ludus Tonalis" (Morgan, pp. 249-54). Assignment: Read Lester pp. 56-63. Guided Design No. 4 on Bartok *Music for Strings, Percussion and Celeste* due in two weeks.

Pitch Class Set Theory

- 17 Dr. Mahin on a road trip. Class discussion via Adobe Connect. No assignment due.

March

- 3 Discuss Bartok, *Music for Strings, Percussion and Celeste*. Assignment: Read Lester, pp. 65-91. Guided Design No. 5 on Bartok *Mikrokosmos no. 101* (Lester p. 136) due after spring break.

Spring Break!!!

- 17 Discuss Bartok, *Mikrokosmos No. 101* Assignment: Read Lester pp. 97-105. Guided Design No. 6 on Webern Movement for String Quartet, Op. 5 No. 4 (Lester-p. 137) due next week.

12-tone Serial Technique

- 24 Discuss Webern Quartet. Assignment: Read "Non-Linear Time Constructs and the Loss of 'Self'" (Mahin Reserve). Guided Design No. 7 on Varese, *Octandre* (Lester: pp. 138-42) due next week.
- 31 Discuss Varese, *Octandre* and "Non-linear time constructs". Assignment: Read Lester, pp. 173-208.

April

- 7 Discuss Serial Technique. Assignment: Guided Design No. 8 on Webern Wie bin ich Froh! (pp. 187-88).
- 14 Discuss Webern, *Wie bin ich Froh!* Assignment: Read Lester pp. 209-218, 256-274. Guided Design No. 9 on Babbitt 3 Compositions for piano, no. 1 (Burkhart).
- 15 – 16 New Horizons concert, Covington Arts Center
- 21 Discuss Babbitt, 3 Compositions.
Assignment: Read Boroff (ON RESERVE) pp. 189-99, 206-210. Guided Design No. 10 on George Crumb, Madrigals Book I no. III. next class.
- 28 Discuss Crumb, Madrigals Book I no. III. Discuss Cage Aria in class.