

MUSC 3541 – Music Analysis Seminar

Fall 2019 – Mondays and Wednesdays 2:50pm-4:30pm – Room 215 Ryder Hall
Instructor: James Gutierrez, Ph.D. (jgutierrez@northeastern.edu)

Prerequisites

MUSC 2304 (Theory 4): minimum grade of C

MUSC 2344 (Musicianship 4): minimum grade of C

Course Objectives

This seminar is devoted to music analysis, broadly conceived. We will study a variety of analytical approaches and apply them to music from a variety of historical and cultural traditions. The course has numerous goals. We will develop our abilities to *listen* analytically to music; to think *creatively* about music; to understand and think *critically* about analytical writing; and to *express* analytical ideas in verbal and graphic forms.

Required Texts and Materials

There is no text for this class; all scores and readings will be posted on blackboard. Print off copies of all assigned scores and readings and bring them to class.

Assignments and Grading

PREPARATION AND PARTICIPATION (30%): Preparation and participation are essential in this class. Everyone is expected to come to class having done the assigned listening and reading. In many cases, I will ask you to be prepared to discuss specific aspects of the music or readings. I will also frequently ask you to write up informal responses to specific questions; I'll occasionally collect these unannounced. There will be occasional small assignments that are not included in the official grade breakdown; these will be accounted for in the preparation grade as well. I will give each student a progress report midway through the semester.

RESPONSE PAPERS (10%): For each session taught by a guest instructor, you will write a short response paper in which you articulate your reactions to the ideas presented. The paper should address, as specifically as possible: what you learned, what ideas were most compelling, anything you may have disagreed with, and any new ideas sparked by the instructor. Papers are due at the beginning of the following class. They should be about 250-350 words long.

WEEK 7 PRESENTATION (10%) Each student will make a short presentation expressing the analysis of a familiar piece or song. Creative approaches are welcome. I'll provide more details early in the semester.

WEEK 10 ANALYSIS PAPER (10%) Each student will write a short analytical paper (2-3 pages) on an assigned topic. You will exchange papers with your classmates as a starting point for our class session on analytical writing in Week 10.

FINAL PAPER (25%): The final paper will provide an opportunity to develop one of the approaches we have studied in class or to pursue an analytical idea outside of the material we've covered. Each student will choose their own topic in consultation with the instructor. I'll provide more information in Week 10.

FINAL PRESENTATION (15%) The presentation is a chance to present your final project to the class. Presentations will be given during Weeks 13 and 14; each student will be assigned a twenty-minute time slot.

All grades will be assigned numerically as follows:

93-100 = A	87-89 = B+	77-79 = C+	67-69 = D+	0-59 = F
90-92 = A-	83-86 = B	73-76 = C	63-66 = D	
80-82 = B-	70-72 = C-	60-62 = D-		

Blackboard

All students have access to Blackboard online: login to "myneu" (myneu.neu.edu), and click on "Services and Links" to find a link to Blackboard. Once you have enrolled in this class, a link will automatically appear when you enter Blackboard. The following tools/materials will be available:

- The course syllabus and list of policies
- Assignments (click on the "Assignments" bar)
 - Assignments will be organized in weekly folders. Each assignment will be posted in the folder for the week in which it is due. For example, the "Week 2" folder will contain the assignments due during Monday and Wednesday of Week 2.
 - Assignments will be announced in class and displayed on Blackboard as well. **If you miss class, it is your responsibility to find out what homework was assigned.**
- Scores, recordings, and readings (included as links with the relevant assignments)

If you have any technical difficulties using Blackboard, call the Northeastern help desk (dial H-E-L-P), which provides assistance with Blackboard or computer-related problems.

Tutors

Tutors will be available to meet with you outside of class if you would like additional help; this service is provided by the Peer Tutoring Program (101 Lake Hall). Please see me if you think a tutor would be helpful for you, at any point during the semester. You may request a tutor at any time either by visiting the Tutoring office or by filling out an online form at <http://www.northeastern.edu/csastutoring/setting-up-appointments/>.

Ethical behavior

Students are encouraged to discuss topics from this course outside of class, but no collaboration is allowed on graded homework assignments unless specifically stated. No one else should write anything for you; you should not borrow anyone else's written work when you are working on an assignment. If two students' work is suspiciously similar, both students will be held accountable. In your written work, if you incorporate information or ideas from a book, online source, etc., you must identify the source clearly and what information or ideas you obtained from it. If you want to incorporate actual words from another source, you must identify the source *and* use quotation marks. If any aspect of this policy is unclear, please ask me for clarification. For Northeastern's Academic Integrity Policy, see <http://www.northeastern.edu/osccr/academichonesty.html>.

Trace

You will be required to complete an anonymous TRACE evaluation of this course. I'll provide more information near the end of the semester

POLICIES FOR MUSIC-THEORY CURRICULUM

(Fundamentals of Western Music Theory, Music Theory for Music Industry 1-2, Music Theory 1-4, Musicianship 1-4, Music Analysis Seminar)

Regular attendance, participation, and submission of homework are all crucial to your success in the music-theory sequence. The following rules are designed to help you have the best experience possible in these classes:

- Every homework assignment must be completed on time, or it will automatically receive a zero. If you must miss class, it is still your responsibility to submit your homework on time.
- Any graded assignments or exams should represent your work alone: collaboration on graded work is inappropriate unless otherwise stated by your instructor. Any work in violation of this policy will automatically receive a zero and could lead to more serious ramifications. (For more information, please consult the Undergraduate Student Handbook, pp. 38- 39.)

- Any absence from class meetings may affect for your grade, according to the discretion of the instructor. After **three** absences (excused or unexcused) in a class that meets three times per week, or after **two** absences in a class that meets once or twice per week, each additional absence will automatically reduce your final grade by 5%. Students must arrive on time and attend the entire class to be counted as present.
- Any student who misses class on the day of an exam will receive a zero. The only valid exceptions are a serious illness or death in the family.
- Any issues (such as illness, family emergencies, learning disabilities, etc.) that require exceptions to these or other rules must be fully documented and discussed with your instructor as soon as possible. For an illness, bring a photocopy of the dated slip from the health service or doctor on the first day you return to class. For a death in the family or other emergency, you must supply a note from the dean of students.
- **A final grade of a C (73%) or higher is required to pass each theory and musicianship course.**