MUS 190a: Proseminar in Music Since 1900  
Spring 2018

Course Number: MUS 190B  
Meeting Time: M 9:00-11:50  
Classroom: Pearlman Seminar Room (Library)

Instructor: Dr. Paula Musegades  
Email: musegade@brandeis.edu  
Office Hours: T/F 9:45-10:45 and by appointment  
Office: Slosberg 224 (TF) and Brown 310 (MWH)

Course Description:
This pro-seminar examines the wide range of musical styles developing in both Europe and the United States of America after 1900. Using major historical events as our guideposts, this course divides roughly into four periods: music from 1900-WWI, music of the interwar years, WWII and the early cold war, and 1960s to the present. Within these time periods, we will explore select developments in compositional style, as well as interactions of music with cultural and political history. We will consider how composers both built upon and rejected earlier Western art music traditions, while also examining the broader role of performance, criticism, patronage, and evolving technology on the development 20th and 21st century music.

Learning Goals:
- A deeper understanding of select music and compositional approaches within in the 20th and 21st century art music tradition.
- An awareness of the relationship between new compositional methods and contemporary shifts in politics, society, and the academy.
- Develop analytical tools for listening to, reading about, and discussing these musical styles specifically, as well as their broader social, political, and intellectual contexts.

Course Requirements:
- Active engagement and participation in all readings and coursework.
- Research paper 10-12 pages  
  o Abstract for paper  
  o Weekly check-in reports, 3-4 pages each  
  o Conference-style presentation at end of the semester
- Lead two class discussions

Research paper:
For this course, you will choose a topic of interest from the 20th or 21st century (a style of music, composer, piece etc.), which you will research throughout the semester. You should select this topic within the first few weeks of class. Four times throughout the course we will check in on the progress of your research and writing. The first check-in is an abstract of 350 words that outlines your argument and the main objective of your paper. We will workshop the abstracts together in class. The following three check-ins involve a 3-4 page essay that discusses your new research and the progress of your project overall. You will share these findings in class with your colleagues. The final paper is 10-12 pages in length. You will present this paper on the last day of class in the form of a conference-style presentation: 20 minutes followed by 10 minutes for questions.


**Lead two class discussions:**
Throughout the semester, each student will lead two class discussions. For these discussions, you are responsible for creating an extensive list of questions about each reading, which you will email to the class 24 hours before seminar. These questions should consider both broader themes of the reading(s) and specific sections within each text.

On the day of class, the discussion leader should provide a thorough overview of the readings discussing the strengths and/or weaknesses of the author’s arguments, approaches, ideas etc. We will then continue with a discussion of the readings based on your questions. You are welcome to create a handout of specific quotes/ideas to help guide the discussion, if you wish.

**Texts:**
The majority of the course readings are posted on LATTE or available through JSTOR. Additional background references include:


**Academic Integrity:**
In an academic setting, it is critical that the work you present is original, and that when you use outside sources, you cite them appropriately. This course is no different. The Brandeis policy on academic integrity is available in Section 3 of the **Rights and Responsibilities Handbook** (available at http://www.brandeis.edu/studentlife/sdc/rr/). Faculty will refer any suspected instances of alleged dishonesty to the Office of Student Development and Conduct. Instances of academic dishonesty may result in sanctions including but not limited to failure on the assignment in question, failure in the course, or suspension from the University and/or educational programs. If you have any questions or concerns about citation, plagiarism, or academic standards of originality, please ask; I am happy to discuss them with you. It is always better to ask if you are not sure about quoting, citing, or referring to another person’s work.

**Disabilities:**
If you are a student who requires academic accommodations because of a documented disability, please contact me and present your letter of accommodation as soon as possible. If you have questions about documenting a disability or requesting academic accommodations, please contact Beth Rodgers-Kay in Academic Services (x63470 or brodgers@brandeis.edu) Letters of accommodation should be presented at
the start of the semester to ensure provision of accommodations, and absolutely before the day of an exam or test. Accommodations cannot be granted retroactively.

**Four-Credit Course (with three hours of class-time per week):**
Success in this 4 credit hour course is based on the expectation that students will spend a minimum of 9 hours of study time per week in preparation for class (readings, papers, discussion sections, preparation for exams, etc.).

**Course Outline**

**Syllabus is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor. Students are responsible for making note of any schedule or assignment changes announced in class, even when absent.**

Readings for each week are available on LATTE.

**January 15:** Introduction – Bridging the gap: Early Modernism

**January 22:** New Musical Language: Early Modernism II

**January 29:** Musical Nationalism

**February 5:** The Jazz Years

**February 12:** Guest Lecture, Liane Curtis on 20th Century Female Composers

**February 19:** February break – no class

**February 26:** The Jazz Years cont. – Paris and America

**March 5:** Establishing an American Tradition

**March 12:** Establishing an American Tradition Cont.

**March 19:** Guest Speaker: Meet in Slosberg Recital Hall at 9:00 a.m.

**March 26:** Minimalism

**April 2:** April break – no class

**April 9:** Mixed media and Performance Art

**April 16:** Film Music

**April 23:** Paper presentations