

MUSIC IN FILM AND MEDIA

Professor Drew Schnurr, PhD

MUCP 4695.001, MUCP 5695, MRTS 4412.001, MRTS 5702.004

Mondays, 4-6:50 PM, RTFP 184

Office Hours: Mondays 2-4 PM, MU 2003

UNT College of Music / Department of Media Arts

SYLLABUS

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course explores music in film and visual media, outlining skills for critical listening and viewing of audio-visual works. Modes of creative practice and interaction between filmmakers and composers are discussed and explored in the analysis of films and in collaborative student project assignments. Not a historical survey (comprehensive chronology is not the focus), trends in visual-music practice will be considered as a backdrop for understanding the artistic and practical imperatives of composers and directors working with music in film and media. Through selected surveys, analyses, and discussions, participants will better understand the creative potentials of visual-music collaboration.

CROSS-LISTED PARAMETERS

This class is a “cross-listed” collaboration between the Department of Media Arts and the Division of Composition Studies in the College of Music. The coursework is designed so students from each area work within their respective disciplines, working together in contexts reflecting professional workflow paradigms in media production.

“MEETS WITH” PARAMETERS

The class also carries a “meets with” designation. All students must execute the standard class requirements, with additional requirements for students enrolled at the graduate level outlined in the addendum below.

CLASS REQUIREMENTS

Composers and filmmakers will be arranged in groups throughout the semester to collaborate on the analysis of music from various films and on a final creative project at the end of the semester that applies learned concepts and techniques creatively. The final project will require the production of both original music and video elements by composers and filmmakers in collaboration.

GRADED ASSESSMENTS

- micro-analysis presentations and discussions (in-class and online)
- large-scale collaborative film analysis project
- collaborative media project
- graduate students will write an additional analysis paper (see addendum)

GRADING PERCENTAGES

- Analysis Projects: 35%
- Class/Lab Participation: 35%
- Final Project: 30%

SCALES

- A = 90-100%
- B = 80-89%
- C = 70-79%
- D = 60-69%
- F = Below 60%

REQUIRED TEXT

Kalinak, Kathryn. *Film Music: A Very Short Introduction*. (UNT Online: [Link](#))

TOPICS AND TECHNIQUES

- *Ethos* of music.
- *Referential* use of music in film and media.
- *Iconic* musical structures in film and media.
- *Musical texture* in film and media.
- *Emotional effect* of music in film and media.

SCHEDULE

Week 1

Musical Ethos

Week 2

Why does film music work?

Week 3

Referentialism

Week 4

Iconicism

Week 5

Textualism

Week 6

Emotionalism

Week 7

Strategy for Analysis

Week 8-9

Case Studies

Week 10-11

Student Paper Presentations

Week 12-14

Final Project Production

Week 15

Final Project Presentations

UNIVERSITY INFORMATION AND POLICIES

Academic Integrity vpaa.unt.edu/dcgcover/resources/integrity/

Student Behavior deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct/

Access to Information – Eagle Connect eagleconnect.unt.edu/

Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) disability.unt.edu/ phone: (940) 565-4323

Diversity and Belonging idea.unt.edu/diversity-inclusion

Health and Safety music.unt.edu/student-health-and-wellness

Semester Academic Schedule (with Add/Drop Dates) registrar.unt.edu/

Academic Calendar at a Glance unt.edu/catalogs/

Final Exam Schedule registrar.unt.edu/

Financial Aid and Satisfactory Academic Progress

Undergraduates financialaid.unt.edu/sap/

Graduates financialaid.unt.edu/sap/

Retention of Student Records ferpa.unt.edu/

Counseling and Testing

UNT's Center for Counseling and Testing at studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services.

More information on mental health issues at speakout.unt.edu.

Myriam Reynolds, College of Music Counselor
Chestnut Hall, Suite 311
(940) 565-2741 Myriam.reynolds@unt.edu

Add/Drop Policy registrar.unt.edu/

Student Resources [unt.edu/sites/default/files/resource_sheet.pdf/](http://unt.edu/sites/default/files/resource_sheet.pdf)

Care Team studentaffairs.unt.edu/care-team

GRADUATE STUDENT ADDENDUM

Graduate students are responsible for the following additional requirements:

Four **additional readings** will be assigned from one or more of the following sources:

- Chion, Michel. *Audio-Vision: Sound on Screen*.
- Cooke, Mervyn and F. Ford, ed. *The Cambridge Companion to Film Music*.
- Dowling, W. Jay and Dane Hardwood. *Music Cognition*.
- Hickman, Roger. *Reel Music: Exploring 100 Years of Film Music*.
- Kalinak, Kathryn. *Settling the Score: Music and the Classical Hollywood Film*.
- Karlin, Fred. *Listening to the Movies*.
- Meyer, Leonard B. *Emotion and Meaning in Music*.

The instructor will schedule four additional one-hour group meetings with enrolled graduate students to discuss selected reading assignments. Each student's participation in these discussions will count toward his or her final "class/lab participation" percentage assessment.

Finally, graduate students will write a **four-to-six-page paper** on one of the following topics: *musical ethos, musical referentialism, musical iconicism, musical texturalism, and/or musical emotionalism*. Papers will conform to MLA formatting standards and include at least two media analysis examples. Students must present their findings to the class in lecture form. The paper analysis and lecture presentation will apply to the student's final "analysis projects" percentage assessment.