MUTH 5680/6680 – PRO SEMINAR

Discourses of Musical Serialism and their Contexts

Fall 2021

Syllabus

This seminar consists of classroom sessions and some asynchronous online sessions. See below and Modules 1 through 4, pages "Content and Schedule," for details.

Instructor: Dr. Frank Heidlberger, Professor of Music

First class: Tuesday, August 24, 2021

Last class: Thursday, December 2, 2021

Thanksgiving Break: November 25-26, 2021

Final essay due: December 9, 2021, 11:59pm.

Class meetings: TR 11-12.20, MUS 322, required for all participants.

Contact the instructor: email heidlberger@unt.edu

Office hours: TR 9-10, MUS 1004. Zoom office hours upon email request.

 Objectives:

In this course we will explore developments of musical serialism, beginning with Arnold Schoenberg's Twelve-tone technique, through its extensions and modifications before World-War II, and then focusing on the emergence of serialism after WW II in Europe and the US, particularly during the 1950s.

Through Schoenberg's emigration (and that of other composers) serialism quickly became a global phenomenon, influential for diverse musical styles of the 20th century in general. It is the objective of this course to discuss and understand the various renditions of serialism, both in compositional practice and in critical theory. Finally, we are looking at the wider contexts of serialism, particularly post-serialistic examples of the 1950s and 60s. The understanding of the discourse related to serialism is essential for a deeper understanding of 20th-century music and its related schools of thought.

Materials for the course will be mostly presented on CANVAS. Additional material may be available in the music library.

A syllabus as pdf document, literature, and presentation lists are available in the business module.

This course requires a large amount of self-responsible work on class projects that will be presented and turned in as assignments.

The course structure is organized in four Modules (detailed schedules for each Module can be found on CANVAS

Module 1: Introduction. The origins of serial techniques: Schoenberg, Webern, Berg. Week 1-4

Module 2: Criticism and development of the Twelve-tone Technique after Schoenberg, until c. 1945. Week 5-7

Module 3: History, Theory, and Practice of total Serialism after World War II. Week 8-10

Module 4: The discourse of post-Serialism (late 1950s and 1960s). Week 11-15

Method:

In class we will discuss texts and compositions, applying appropriate methods. Each participant will choose a main topic that will be presented in a classroom session. Topics will be discussed and refined in advance with the instructor. Own ideas regarding examples, works, repertoires, composers, techniques, methods... by the participants are always welcome. A list of topics is available in the business module, as preliminary inspiration, not necessarily as finalized topics. Topics may vary and may include discussions of the significance of a particular composer, the analysis of an exemplary work, the discourse of particular schools of thought, or of a particular historical or critical issue. This applies not only to musical sources in a narrow sense, but may include aspects of philosophy, literature, and social sciences.

In this class, the participants will learn how to contribute to a discussion of musical serialism as a historical and critical phenomenon in an informed way. The "discussion" function of CANVAS will be used extensively to provide a platform for an inspired exchange of ideas. This class will also provide the opportunity to practice academic writing and presentation skills, relevant for doctoral-level students that will be working on their dissertation proposals/papers/articles soon.

There is no textbook required. Reading of secondary literature and studying relevant scores and performances are central components of the class activity. This is also reflected in the grading key:

Grading:

discussion: 20%

assignments and "small presentation": 20%

presentation: 30%

Final Essay: 30%

Further explanation of the required activities, and grading rubrics:

Class Discussion: Class Discussion may be based on composers, works, sources, secondary literature provided to be studied and read as homework, or as part of a presentation. It is expected that each participant is well prepared and able to contribute to an informed discussion in the classroom and on the CANVAS discussion board. Active participation and exchange of critical ideas are very important components of this class.

Classroom and CANVAS Discussions will be graded for the level of activity, responsiveness, and diversity of contributions to the discussion.

CANVAS Discussions are based on a topic and reading assignment, particularly for asynchronous session projects

Assignment: an assignment is related to a synchronous or asynchronous worksheet project. Instructions may vary but most often an assignment consists of a short essay (2-3 pages) summarizing a text, reading, analytical example. It can be seen as a draft of a section for an imaginary larger essay/article.

Small presentation (optional, depends on class size): a small presentation may be scheduled short term to further explore topics of a discussion or to introduce to another composer/work. It is a basic fact-oriented presentation, maximum 20 minutes of length. This can include a biography, a short survey of main works by a composer, or a short exemplary analysis and style description.

Presentation: The presentation provides the opportunity to practice how to present a paper at a professional conference. The topic will be discussed and determined with the instructor, but own thoughts and ideas by the participant are not only welcome but expected. The topic stems directly from the topical areas mentioned in the modules of the class. It is essential that participants start with determining a presentation early on, so that there is enough preparation time. A presentation could last about 30 minutes plus discussion, lead by the presenter. The presenter may show a Powerpoint presentation or handouts. It is also possible to include self-recorded video clips of parts or the whole presentation in order to practice online teaching methods. The presenter may also "assign" readings and preparation in advance of her/his presentation. The presentations are scheduled throughout the semester, but concentrated in Modules 3 and 4.

Presentations will be graded for consistency and clarity of the topic, presentation style and organization, handling of media (PowerPoint, audiovisual material), and interaction with the audience.

Final essay: The final essay is a written version of the presentation, concentrated on its main points. Alternatively participants may choose a different or related topic, if appropriate and approved by the instructor.

Its length will be 5-7 pages (not counting music examples, footnotes, bibliography). Other than the presentation the essay will only focus on specific research problems related to the topic (whereas the presentation will also provide more general information and survey aspects of the topic).

The final essay will be graded for accuracy of writing about a research problem, and for compliance with formal requirements (correct quotations, bibliographical information, language).

UNT policies
updated for Fall, 2021

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY
Students caught cheating or plagiarizing will receive a "0" for that particular assignment or exam [or specify alternative sanction, such as course failure]. Additionally, the incident will be reported to the Dean of Students (Office of Academic Integrity), who may impose further penalty. According to the UNT catalog, the term "cheating" includes, but is not limited to: a. use of any unauthorized assistance in taking quizzes, tests, or examinations; b. dependence upon the aid of sources beyond those authorized by the instructor in writing papers, preparing reports, solving problems, or carrying out other assignments; c. the acquisition, without permission, of tests or other academic material belonging to a faculty or staff member of the university; d. dual submission of a paper or project, or resubmission of a paper or project to a different class without express permission from the instructor(s); or e. any other act designed to give a student an unfair advantage. The term "plagiarism" includes, but is not limited to: a. the knowing or negligent use by paraphrase or direct quotation of the published or unpublished work of another person without full and clear acknowledgment; and b. the knowing or negligent unacknowledged use of materials prepared by another person or agency engaged in the selling of term papers or other academic materials.
See: Academic Integrity
LINK: https://policy.unt.edu/sites/default/files/06.003.AcadIntegrity.Final_.pdf

STUDENT BEHAVIOR
Student behavior that interferes with an instructor's ability to conduct a class or other students' opportunity to learn is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated in any instructional forum at UNT. Students engaging in

unacceptable behavior will be directed to leave the classroom and the instructor may refer the student to the Dean of Students to consider whether the student's conduct violated the Code of Student Conduct. The university's expectations for student conduct apply to all instructional forums, including university and electronic classrooms, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. See: Student Code of Conduct
Link: https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct

ACCESS TO INFORMATION – EAGLE CONNECT

Your access point for business and academic services at UNT occurs at my.unt.edu. All official communication from the university will be delivered to your Eagle Connect account. For more information, please visit the website that explains Eagle Connect.
See: Eagle Connect
LINK: eagleconnect.unt.edu/

ODA STATEMENT

The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Access (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide you with an accommodation letter. You can now request your Letters of Accommodation ONLINE and ODA will mail your Letters of Accommodation to your instructors. You may wish to begin a private discussion with your professors regarding your specific needs in a course. Note that students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester.For additional information see the Office of Disability Access.
See: ODA
LINK: disability.unt.edu. (Phone: (940) 565-4323)

UNT Policy Statement on Diversity

UNT values diversity and individuality as part of advancing ideals of human worth, dignity and academic excellence. Diverse viewpoints enrich open discussion, foster the examination of values and exposure of biases, help educate people in rational conflict resolution and responsive leadership, and prepare us for the complexities of a pluralistic society. As such, UNT is committed to maintaining an open, welcoming atmosphere that attracts qualified students, staff, and faculty from all groups to support their success. UNT does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, disability, genetic information, or veteran status in its application and admission process, educational programs and activities, employment policies and use of university facilities.
See: Diversity Statement

Link:
https://policy.unt.edu/sites/default/files/04.018_PolicyStateOnDiversity.pub8_.18.pdf

Registration Information for Students
See: Registration Information
Link: https://registrar.unt.edu/students

Academic Calendar at a Glance, 2020-2021
See: Academic Calendar
Link:
https://registrar.unt.edu/sites/default/files/Fall_2021_Academic_Calendar.pdf

Final Exam Schedule
See: Fall Final Exam Schedule
https://registrar.unt.edu/exams/final-exam-schedule/fall

Financial Aid and Satisfactory Academic Progress

Undergraduates
A student must maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) to continue to receive financial aid. Students must maintain a minimum 2.0 cumulative GPA in addition to successfully completing a required number of credit hours based on total hours registered.   Students cannot exceed attempted credit hours above 150% of their required degree plan. If a student does not maintain the required standards, the student may lose their financial aid eligibility.

Students holding music scholarships must maintain a minimum 2.5 overall cumulative GPA and 3.0 cumulative GPA in music courses.

If at any point you consider dropping this or any other course, please be advised that the decision to do so may have the potential to affect your current and future financial aid eligibility. It is recommended that you to schedule a meeting with an academic advisor in your college or visit the Student Financial Aid and Scholarships office to discuss dropping a course before doing so.
See: Financial Aid
LINK: http://financialaid.unt.edu/sap

Graduates
A student must maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) to continue to receive financial aid. Students must maintain a minimum 3.0 cumulative GPA in addition to successfully completing a required number of credit hours based on total registered hours per term. Music scholarships require a 3.5 cumulative GPA. Students cannot exceed maximum timeframes established based on the

published length of the graduate program. If a student does not maintain the required standards, the student may lose their financial aid eligibility.

If at any point you consider dropping this or any other course, please be advised that the decision to do so may have the potential to affect your current and future financial aid eligibility. It is recommended you schedule a meeting with an academic advisor in your college, an advisor in UNT-International or visit the Student Financial Aid and Scholarships office to discuss dropping a course. See: Financial Aid
LINK: http://financialaid.unt.edu/sap

RETENTION OF STUDENT RECORDS
Student records pertaining to this course are maintained in a secure location by the instructor of record. All records such as exams, answer sheets (with keys), and written papers submitted during the duration of the course are kept for at least one calendar year after course completion. Course work completed via the Canvas online system, including grading information and comments, is also stored in a safe electronic environment for one year. You have a right to view your individual record; however, information about your records will not be divulged to other individuals without the proper written consent. You are encouraged to review the Public Information Policy and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) laws and the university's policy in accordance with those mandates.
See: FERPA
Link: http://ferpa.unt.edu/

COUNSELING AND TESTING
UNT's Center for Counseling and Testing has an available counselor whose position includes 16 hours per week of dedicated service to students in the College of Music and the College of Visual Arts and Design. Please visit the Center's website for further information:
See: Counseling and Testing
Link: http://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services.

For more information on mental health issues, please visit:
See: Mental Health Issues
Link: https://speakout.unt.edu.

The counselor for music students is:
Myriam Reynolds
Chestnut Hall, Suite 311
(940) 565-2741
Myriam.reynolds@unt.edu

ADD/DROP POLICY
Please be reminded that dropping classes or failing to complete and pass registered hours may make you ineligible for financial aid. In addition, if you drop below half-time enrollment you may be required to begin paying back your student loans. After the 12th class day, students must first submit a completed "Request to Drop" form to the Registrar's Office. The last day for a student to drop a class in Fall, 2021 is November 12. Information about add/drop may be found at:
See: Dropping a Class
Link: https://registrar.unt.edu/registration/dropping-class

STUDENT RESOURCES
The University of North Texas has many resources available to students. For a complete list, go to:
See: Student Resources
Link: https://www.unt.edu/sites/default/files/resource_sheet.pdf