

MUMH 5030

Advanced Research Methods

Verdi's *Aida* and Empire, Then and Now



MTWR 10:00-11:50
Zoom and Canvas
University of North Texas
College of Music
Summer 2021

Instructor – Dr. Peter Mondelli
Email – peter.mondelli@unt.edu
Office Hours – By appointment

This course will provide a thorough overview to the methods and resources needed to conduct doctoral-level research in music. The skills we will develop include not only navigating libraries and reference works, but also critically assessing arguments others have made about music. The cultivation of good research skills is the means to another end: the ability to communicate original ideas about music effectively. This course will provide a collegial environment in which to hone this invaluable skill.

To help keep our discussions and projects focused, this course will focus on Verdi's *Aida*. We will consider not only the opera itself, but also its international history as a vehicle for continuing conversations about art, race, and empire.

Readings and Recordings

Readings will be posted either as a PDF or a link in the relevant Canvas module. Audio and video recordings can be found on Opera in Video, Met Opera on Demand (both available through the UNT Library), or through other digital services.

Reading and listening assignments should be completed before contributing to discussion boards or attending Zoom meetings.

Attendance and Class Participation

This class will operate in part through discussion boards on Canvas (twice a week) and in part through live meetings on Zoom (twice a week).

Regular attendance is expected at Zoom meetings. I will keep a record of absences, and will reserve the right to withdraw or fail any student who misses three or more classes. Of course, I recognize that personal and professional lives can get hectic, and am willing to make accommodations *with advance notice*.

Regular participation is also expected both on Zoom and on Canvas. This is a graduate level course, therefore you should expect to learn as much from each other as from me and the readings. You should come to class prepared to discuss the topic at hand. I intend to keep the day-to-day workload light in order to facilitate more in-depth discussions. These conversations cannot happen, however, if you have not put in work outside of class. Your level of preparedness and participation will figure heavily into your final grade.

Music Resource and Database Presentations

During week 2, you will give two short presentations (5-10 minutes each) on important resources for music research.

This will be followed by an assignment that requires you to use these resources.

Research Project

Over the course of the term, you will develop the beginning of a research project. This process will be broken down into the following steps:

Week 1: Statement of research interests

Week 2: Finding a Topic

Week 3: Independent Reading and Research

Week 4: Abstract and Preliminary Bibliography

Week 5: Short Proposal with Bibliography, and Informal Presentation

Grading

Research Project – Discussion Boards (Weeks 1-2)	10%
Research Project – Abstract and Preliminary Bibliography	10%
Research Project – Informal Presentation	10%
Research Project – Short Proposal with Bibliography	10%
Music Resource and Database Presentations	10%
Music Resource and Database Assignment	10%
Other Canvas Discussion Boards	20%
Zoom Attendance and Participation	20%

Academic Integrity

Students caught cheating or plagiarizing will receive a “0” for that particular assignment or exam. 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)
- 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
- 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.

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 classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc.

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.

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 to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You may request accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class.

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.

Financial Aid and Satisfactory Academic Progress

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.

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.

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.

The counselor for music students is:

Myriam Reynolds

Chestnut Hall, Suite 311

(940) 565-2741

Myriam.reynolds@unt.edu

Course Overview

Specific reading and listening assignments subject to change—see weekly updates during the term.

Week 1 – Understanding *Aida*

Monday 7/6: Discussing the Opera (Zoom)

Listening:

Verdi's *Aida* (any production is fine)

Tuesday 7/7: Background and Interpretations (Canvas)

Assignment:

Contribute to discussion board on Canvas

Reading:

Julian Budden, *The Operas of Verdi*

Naomi André, *Black Opera*

Wednesday 7/8: Background and Interpretations (Zoom)

Reading:

See Tuesday 7/7

Thursday 7/9: Research Interests and Questions (Canvas)

Assignment:

Contribute to discussion board on Canvas

Week 2 – Sources and Resources

Monday 7/13: Music Resource Presentations 1 (Zoom)

Assignment:

Presentation on your assigned resource (5-10 minutes)

Tuesday 7/14: Egyptian and Italian Contexts (Canvas)

Assignment:

Contribute to discussion board on Canvas

Reading:

Maurus Reinkowski, “Uncommunicative Communication”

Alessandro Roccatagliati, “The Italian Theatre of Verdi’s Day”

Wednesday 7/15: Music Resource Presentations 2 (Zoom)

Assignment:

Presentation on your assigned resource (5-10 minutes)

Thursday 7/16: Finding a Topic (Canvas)

Assignment:

Contribute to discussion board on Canvas

Week 3 – *Aida* and Empire 1

Monday 7/20: Edward Said, *Aida*, and Orientalism (Canvas)

Assignment:

Turn in music resource and database assignment
Contribute to discussion board on Canvas

Reading:

Edward Said, *Orientalism*
Edward Said, *Culture and Imperialism*
Paul Robinson, “Is *Aida* an Orientalist Opera?”

Tuesday 7/21: Edward Said, *Aida*, and Orientalism (Zoom)

Reading:

See Monday 7/20

Wednesday 7/23: Musicology, *Aida*, and Orientalism (Canvas)

Assignment:

Contribute to discussion board on Canvas

Reading:

Katherine Bergeron, “Verdi’s Egyptian Spectacle”
Gabriela Cruz, “Aida’s Flutes”

Thursday 7/24: Musicology, *Aida*, and Orientalism (Zoom)

Reading:

See Wednesday 7/23

Week 4 – *Aida* and Empire 2

Monday 7/27: Broadening the Conversation (Canvas)

Assignment:

Turn in preliminary topic paragraph and bibliography
Contribute to discussion board on Canvas

Reading:

Ralph Locke, “Beyond the Exotic”

Tuesday 7/28: Broadening the Conversation (Zoom)

Reading:

See Monday 7/27

Wednesday 7/29: New Perspectives (Canvas)

Assignment:

Contribute to discussion board on Canvas

Reading:

Ralph Locke, “*Aida* and Nine Readings of Empire”

Christopher Gauthier and Jenneifer McFarlane-Harris, “Nationalism, Racial Difference, and
‘Egyptian’ Meaning in Verdi’s *Aida*”

Thursday 7/30: New Perspectives (Zoom)

Reading:

See Wednesday 7/29

Week 5 – New Directions for Research

Monday 8/3: Dissertations and Dissertation Proposals (Canvas)

Assignment:

Contribute to discussion board on Canvas

Tuesday 8/4: Presentation Day 1 (Zoom)

Assignment:

Informal presentation on your final project (10-15 minutes)

Wednesday 8/5: Research and Writing Day

Thursday 8/6: Presentation Day 2 (Zoom)

Assignment:

Informal presentation on your final project (10-15 minutes)

Turn in short proposal and bibliography