MUSIC (MUSC)

MUSC 0050 College Music Program
Private study in voice, keyboard, strings, woodwind, brass, percussion, and non-western instruments. Such study is designed to meet the artistic, technical, and/or professional needs of the student. Note: This is not a syllabus. Course requirements and assessment will be determined by the private instructor. Private lessons in the College House Music cannot be taken Pass/Fail. Please visit http://www.sas.upenn.edu/music/performance. Students cannot register through Penn In Touch. Registration will be maintained by the music department upon receipt of application and instructor permission. An additional lesson fee will be charged to student account for participation in this program.
0.5 Course Units

MUSC 0070 Ensemble Performance
Successful participation in a music department sponsored group. Ensemble groups: University Orchestra, University Wind Ensemble, Choral Society, University Choir, Collegium Musicum, Baroque and Recorder Ensemble, Chamber Music Society, Arab Music Ensemble, Samba Ensemble, Penn Flutes, Opera and Musical Theater, and Jazz Combo. This course must be taken for a letter grade (Pass/Fail registration option may not be utilized for this course).
0.5 Course Units

MUSC 0100A Marian Anderson Performance Program
Special instruction in vocal and instrumental performance for music majors and minors only. Students must demonstrate in an audition that they have already attained an intermediate level of musical performance. They also must participate in a Music Department ensemble throughout the academic year, perform in public as a soloist at least once during the year (recital), perform a jury at the end of the spring semester, and attend and participate in masterclasses.
Two Term Class, Student must enter first term; credit given after both terms are complete
0.5 Course Units

MUSC 0100B Marian Anderson Performance Program
Special instruction in vocal and instrumental performance for music majors and minors only. Students must demonstrate in an audition that they have already attained an intermediate or advanced level of musical performance. They also must participate in a Music Department ensemble throughout the academic year, perform in public as a soloist at least once during the year (recital), perform a jury at the end of the spring semester, and attend and participate in masterclasses.
Prerequisite: Students must be a music major or minor.
Two Term Class, Student must enter first term; credit given after both terms are complete
0.5 Course Units

MUSC 0110A Marian Anderson Group Performance Program
Special instruction in vocal/instrumental small group (ensemble) performance, for music majors and minors only. Students must demonstrate in an audition that they have already attained an intermediate or advanced level of musical performance. They also must participate in a Music Department ensemble throughout the academic year, perform in public as a soloist at least once during the year (recital), perform a jury at the end of the spring semester, and attend and participate in masterclasses.
Prerequisite: Students must be a music major or minor.
Two Term Class, Student must enter first term; credit given after both terms are complete
0.5 Course Units

MUSC 0110B Marian Anderson Group Performance Program
Special instruction in vocal/instrumental small group (ensemble) performance, for music majors and minors only. Students must demonstrate in an audition that they have already attained an intermediate or advanced level of musical performance. They also must participate in a Music Department ensemble throughout the academic year, perform in public as a soloist at least once during the year (recital), perform a jury at the end of the spring semester, and attend and participate in masterclasses.
Prerequisite: Students must be a music major or minor.
Two Term Class, Student must enter first term; credit given after both terms are complete
0.5 Course Units

MUSC 0160 First-Year Seminar
The primary goal of the first-year seminar program is to provide every first-year student the opportunity for a direct personal encounter with a faculty member in a small setting devoted to a significant intellectual endeavor. Specific topics will be posted at the beginning of each academic year. Please see the College’s First-year Seminar website for information on current course offerings http://www.college.upenn.edu/courses/seminars/freshman.php. Fulfills Arts and Letters sector requirement.
1 Course Unit

MUSC 0180A Music in Urban Spaces
Music in Urban Spaces is a year-long experience that explores the ways in which individuals use music in their everyday lives and how music is used to construct larger social and economic networks that we call culture. We will read the work of musicologists, cultural theorists, urban geographers, sociologists and educators who work to define urban space and the role of music and sound in urban environments, including through music education. While the readings make up our study of the sociology of urban space and the way we use music in everyday life to inform our conversations and the questions we ask, it is within the context of our personal experiences working with music programs in public neighborhood schools serving economically disadvantaged students, that we will begin to formulate our theories of the contested musical micro-cultures of West Philadelphia. This course is over two-semesters where students register for .5 cus each term (for a total of 1 cu over the entire academic year) and is tied to the Music and Social Change Residential Program in Fisher Hassenfeld College House which will sponsor field trips around the city and a final concert for youth to perform here at Penn, if possible. Students are expected to volunteer in music and drama programs in Philadelphia neighborhood public schools throughout the course experience.
Two Term Class, Student must enter first term; credit given after both terms are complete
Also Offered As: URBS 0180A
0.5 Course Units
MUSC 0180B Music in Urban Spaces
Music in Urban Spaces is a year-long experience that explores the ways in which individuals use music in their everyday lives and how music is used to construct larger social and economic networks that we call culture. We will read the work of musicologists, cultural theorists, urban geographers, sociologists and educators who work to define urban space and the role of music and sound in urban environments, including through music education. While the readings make up our study of the sociology of urban space and the way we use music in everyday life to inform our conversations and the questions we ask, it is within the context of our personal experiences working with music programs in public neighborhood schools serving economically disadvantaged students, that we will begin to formulate our theories of the contested musical micro-cultures of West Philadelphia. This course is over two-semesters where students register for .5 cus each term (for a total of 1 cu over the entire academic year) and is tied to the Music and Social Change Residential Program in Fisher Hassenfeld College House which will sponsor field trips around the city and a final concert for youth to perform here at Penn, if possible. Students are expected to volunteer in music and drama programs in Philadelphia neighborhood public schools throughout the course experience.
Two Term Class, Student must enter first term; credit given after both terms are complete.
Also Offered As: URBS 0180B
0.5 Course Units

MUSC 0181 On Belonging: Music, Displacement, and Well-Being
The 2020s has begun as a time of global existential angst: we are all living with so much uncertainty and change. Think of the impact of the COVID pandemic and the questioning of science in the form of vaccine resistance; climate change challenges; a technological and educational revolution; growing income inequality; the urgency of BLM protests in the USA, moves against dictatorships, the need to decolonize universities, and the pressure to address human rights and refugee challenges. But it is also a moment of real excitement, with increased technological access and presence in our lives. In fact, the capacity to connect to others almost anywhere in the world, immediately, is truly revolutionary. As is the capacity to plug into the sound of the world’s music in an instant. Through personal music listening, for example, we can use music to soothe, to excite, to travel imaginatively, to focus, for meditation, as a soundtrack to our everyday lives, and as emotional regulation. But the work of music for personal wellbeing and collective healing is much larger than just an individualized listening experience. This seminar as a kind of reflexive moment as you arrive on campus: as undergraduates and members of communities you will think about this seminar as a kind of reflexive moment as you arrive on campus: as undergraduates and members of communities you will think about the relationship between your own recent move/displacement and the work of music/sound as a strategy of individual and collective belonging. There will be an ABCS component to the class.
1 Course Unit

MUSC 0190 Critical Speaking Seminar: See department for current offerings
Critical Speaking Seminars utilize oral communication assignments as a primary method for learning and assessment. They have three key requirements: (1) At least half of the course grade is based on two prepared oral presentations (one group and one individual). Students will meet with an undergraduate speaking advisor outside of class at least twice. (2) One rehearsal for each of the two required presentations. (3) Students will be video-recorded and will watch the recording with either the instructor of the advisor. Critical speaking fellows are doctoral candidates who teach in the respective disciplines. Enrollment is capped at 16 students/course. For additional details regarding a critical speaking requirement, see: https://www.sas.upenn.edu/cwic/courses/critical.html
Not Offered Every Year
1 Course Unit

MUSC 0810 First-Year Seminar: Italian Music
Topics vary. See the Department’s website at https://www.sas.upenn.edu/italians/courses for a description of current offerings.
Fall or Spring
Also Offered As: CIMS 0089, ITAL 0089
1 Course Unit

MUSC 1250 Musical Interfaces and Robotics
Musical Interfaces and Robotics is a skills and discussion-based class for students interested in learning the basics of electricity and physical computing specifically for musical purposes. Discussions will be organized around readings related to art and technology with a focus on sound-based works. Students will learn to program Arduinos that control DC motors and respond to physical buttons or sensors. We will learn how to integrate these tools with music applications that communicate with MIDI such as Reaper, Logic Pro, and/or Max/MSP. As a final project students will present a working prototype for a new instrument they’ve created or plans for an art installation featuring a kinetic sculptural element.
1 Course Unit

MUSC 1270 Introduction to Electronic Musicking
An exploration of composition, style, and technique in a variety of popular and experimental electronic music genres. We’ll study and practice making works in genres including acousmatic music, beat-driven music such as hip-hop and techno, pop songwriting, and sound art. As we proceed, we’ll investigate techniques including field recording, sampling, sound synthesis, and generative music. Within each genre, we’ll begin from the analysis and technique of exemplary music, then work towards presentation and group discussion of student composition projects.
Not Offered Every Year
1 Course Unit

MUSC 1280 Audio Production
Audio Production is designed for students interested in taking their mixing, mastering, and recording skills to the next level. During this course we will conduct critiques and analysis of student projects as well as learn from local industry professionals. Through listening assignments we will refine our ears to identify the effects digital signal processing production tools have on recorded sounds. While we will examine current practices from many different genres, a special emphasis will be placed on exploring experimental approaches that you might be able to integrate into your artistic practice. A good understanding of Logic Pro is necessary to enter this course. Significant experience working with Pro Tools may substitute pending approval from the instructor.
Not Offered Every Year
1 Course Unit
MUSC 1290 History of Electronic Music
This course is a nonlinear history of electronic music, primarily in the United States. It is divided into ten topical milestones of electronic music history. Each week one topic is addressed, divided between mainstream and experimental perspectives and their interactions. Topics include early experimental electronic instruments, sampling/hip-hop, disco, and noise/glitch. Much of the class is about listening and learning to analyze music in terms both subjective and objective. Students will also train their ears to identify concrete elements within a musical track such as development and instrumentation, and consider abstract elements such as meaning and perception.
Fall or Spring
1 Course Unit

MUSC 1300 1000 Years of Musical Listening
We know that we like music and that it moves us, yet it is often difficult to pinpoint exactly why, and harder still to explain what it is we are hearing. This course takes on those issues. It aims to introduce you to a variety of music, and a range of ways of thinking, talking and writing about music. The majority of music dealt with will be drawn from the so-called "Classical" repertory, from the medieval period to the present day, including some of the 'greats' such as Handel, Beethoven, Mozart, Berlioz, and Verdi, but will also introduce you to music you will most likely never have encountered before. This course will explore the technical workings of music and the vocabularies for analyzing music and articulating a response to it; it also examines music as a cultural phenomenon, considering what music has meant for different people, from different societies across the ages and across geographical boundaries. As well as learning to listen ourselves, we will also engage with a history of listening. No prior musical knowledge is required. (Formerly Music 021).
Fulfills College Cross Cultural Foundational Requirement.
Fall or Spring
1 Course Unit

MUSC 1320 Composers: Opera Composers 1600-1900
This course will center on the biography, works, and cultural context of a specific composer or group of composers. As well as introducing students to the musical works of the composer(s), the course will examine issues such as reception history, the canon, mechanisms of cult formation, authorship and attribution, identity, historical and social contexts, and nationalism and patriotism. Fulfills Arts and Letters Requirement. The course centers on a group of composers who created or developed opera as a successful genre by setting texts in Italian: Monteverdi, Handel, Mozart, Verdi, and Puccini. We will explore how these musicians were involved in opera as a business model, how their careers took shape, how their music interacted on stage with words, bodies, and sets (enhancing narratives based on literature, mythology and history), how their works were products of larger social contexts, and finally, how and why these operas are presented today by American theatres (also adapted as Broadway musicals) or in film versions. The course is intended for non-majors, but music majors are welcome. Knowledge of Italian is not necessary.
Not Offered Every Year
Also Offered As: ITAL 1320
1 Course Unit

MUSC 1321 Composers: Verdi and Shakespeare
This course will center on the biography, works, and cultural context of a specific composer or group of composers. As well as introducing students to the musical works of the composer(s), the course will examine issues such as reception history, the canon, mechanisms of cult formation, authorship and attribution, identity, historical and social contexts, and nationalism and patriotism. Fulfills Arts and Letters Requirement. Italian composer Giuseppe Verdi wrote three famous operas based on Shakespeare, Macbeth (1847), Othello (1887), and Falstaff (1891). We will examine the intriguing relationships between the plays and the operas, explore Verdi's entire output and the conventions and contexts of Romantic opera, and finally discuss issues of race, gender, and performance that were as relevant for these two authors as they are for us today. The course is intended for non-majors, but music majors are welcome.
Not Offered Every Year
1 Course Unit

MUSC 1322 Composers: Mozart/DaPonte
This course will center on the biography, works, and cultural context of a specific composer or group of composers. As well as introducing students to the musical works of the composer(s), the course will examine issues such as reception history, the canon, mechanisms of cult formation, authorship and attribution, identity, historical and social contexts, and nationalism and patriotism. Fulfills Arts and Letters Requirement. Mozart's meeting with Lorenzo Da Ponte in Vienna in 1783 sparked one of the most successful collaborations in opera history between a poet and a composer, generating three works that are frequently staged in today's theatres worldwide, The Marriage of Figaro (1786), Don Giovanni (1787), and Cosi fan tutte (1790). We will study the literary sources of these operas, the poetic and operatic conventions of the time, and the issues (such as love, power, and gender) that these works raise, by also comparing different versions on video. The course is intended for non-majors, but music majors are welcome.
Not Offered Every Year
Also Offered As: ITAL 1322
1 Course Unit

MUSC 1323 Composers: Anonymous, History's Most Prolific Composer
This course will center on the biography, works, and cultural context of a specific composer or group of composers. As well as introducing students to the musical works of the composer(s), the course will examine issues such as reception history, the canon, mechanisms of cult formation, authorship and attribution, identity, historical and social contexts, and nationalism and patriotism. Fulfills Arts and Letters Requirement. This course traces the "anonymous," the first and most prolific composer in Western Europe, through multiple centuries, exploring what it means for music to be created by a shadowy figure of anonymity and the implications for research, analysis, and listening. The course is intended for non-majors, but music majors are welcome.
Not Offered Every Year
1 Course Unit
MUSC 1324 Composers: Medieval Songwriters
This course will center on the biography, works, and cultural context of a specific composer or group of composers. As well as introducing students to the musical works of the composer(s), the course will examine issues such as reception history, the canon, mechanisms of cult formation, authorship and attribution, identity, historical and social contexts, and nationalism and patriotism. Fulfills Arts and Letters Requirement. In this course we explore the sometimes anonymous, sometimes named creators of song across Europe, ca. 1100-1500. Some, like Philip the Chancellor, wrote serious, even polemical Latin songs, while others, such as Adam de la Halle, wrote works firmly entrenched in the poetics of courtly love. In the course we will consider issues of authorship/composership; attribution and transmission; linguistic and national song styles; and the contemporary reception of the medieval “troubadour.”
Not Offered Every Year
1 Course Unit

MUSC 1325 Composers: Fryderyk Chopin
This course will center on the biography, works, and cultural context of a specific composer or group of composers. As well as introducing students to the musical works of the composer(s), the course will examine issues such as reception history, the canon, mechanisms of cult formation, authorship and attribution, identity, historical and social contexts, and nationalism and patriotism. Fulfills Arts and Letters Requirement. Permanently exiled from his native Poland for half his short life, and debilitated by illness for much the same time, Fryderyk Chopin nonetheless produced a profoundly important repertory of music for the piano, music at times transcendentally beautiful and at times viscerally exciting. Through close listening to recordings, viewing of recorded live performances, and selected readings, this course will explore Chopin’s music and the cultures within which and for whom he composed. The course is intended for non-majors, but music majors and performers are more than welcome as well.
Not Offered Every Year
1 Course Unit

MUSC 1326 Composers: Ludwig van Beethoven
This course will center on the biography, works, and cultural context of a specific composer or group of composers. As well as introducing students to the musical works of the composer(s), the course will examine issues such as reception history, the canon, mechanisms of cult formation, authorship and attribution, identity, historical and social contexts, and nationalism and patriotism. This course will explore the nature, evolution, and meanings of Beethoven’s music. We will also consider aspects of his biography, particularly as they touch on his compositional output, and also think about the relationships between his music and cultural and political developments of his time. Listening to Beethoven’s music, discussing it, and thinking about his life and art will constitute the heart of the course. The course is intended for non-majors, but music majors and performers are more than welcome as well.
Not Offered Every Year
1 Course Unit

MUSC 1340 Performers: Dancers and Musicians
This course looks at the history of popular, vernacular, and art music in various time periods. Studying music from the ground up, we examine how performers have influenced music history. This introductory course examines the relationship of musicians and dancers from the Middle Ages up to the emergence of ballet. Engaging with musical scores, iconography, theoretical writings, and a range of other textual sources, we will consider the ways in which dance (and dancers) informed music (and musicians), and vice versa, over the course of several hundred years.
Not Offered Every Year
1 Course Unit

MUSC 1341 Performers: The Singer ca. 800-1400
This course looks at the history of popular, vernacular, and art music in various time periods. Studying music from the ground up, we examine how performers have influenced music history. Tracing the figure of the singer beginning in the court of Charlemagne to the papal outpost of Avignon in the late thirteenth century, this introductory course considers the evolving roles of singers in the Middle Ages. From monastic cantors to virtuoso soloists, we will be concerned not only the cultural function of singers but also the repertoire they performed.
Not Offered Every Year
1 Course Unit

MUSC 1342 Performers: Celebrity
This course looks at the history of popular, vernacular, and art music in various time periods. Studying music from the ground up, we examine how performers have influenced music history. This introductory course looks at the history of celebrity culture in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. From "rival queen" actress-singers on London stages to mania over virtuoso instrumentalists, we will explore how celebrities dazzled fans, popularized repertoire, manipulated their public images, and were depicted in the media.
Not Offered Every Year
1 Course Unit

MUSC 1343 PERFORMERS: Four Women -- Patrice Rushen, Twinkie Clark, Meshell Ndegeocello, and Miss Elliot
This course looks at the history of popular, vernacular, and art music in various time periods. Studying music from the ground up, we examine how performers have influenced music history. This introductory course focuses on four virtuoso women musicians, who as producers, instrumentalists, composers, arrangers, vocalists, and bandleaders have made immense and lasting contributions to American music from the mid-1970s to the present. We will produce together a musical, critical and social scaffold to engage these musicians' works, performance rhetoric, musical choices, and larger cultural implications. As four masterful leaders they occupy roles traditionally held by men. As astonishingly accomplished technicians, they each have commanded critical respect and popular success at various points for their gifts and productivity. Each pushed at the edges of genre convention in jazz, fusion, funk, gospel, neo-soul, rap, and R&B, crafting highly individual and instantly recognizable styles. Beginning with the premise that feminist musical genius exists, this course seeks to answer the question: what cultural work occurs when the master is a woman?
Not Offered Every Year
1 Course Unit
MUSC 1400 Jazz Style and History
This course is an exploration of the family of musical idioms called jazz. Attention will be given to issues of style development, selective musicians, and to the social and cultural conditions and the scholarly discourses that have informed the creation, dissemination and reception of this dynamic set of styles from the beginning of the 20th century to the present. Fulfills Cultural Diversity in the U.S.
Not Offered Every Year
Also Offered As: AFRC 1400
1 Course Unit

MUSC 1410 That's My Song!: Musical Genre as Social Contract
Music in American history has been fundamental to identity formation because, as one scholar notes, it comprises "the deepest feelings and qualities that make a group unique. Through moving and sounding together in synchrony, people can experience a feeling of oneness with others." This course examines how various musical genres have served as "social contracts" among audiences throughout the process of this country's nation building process. Within America's melting pot ideal, communities of listeners have asserted their powerful convictions about social identity through musical praxis and its "rules of engagement." The discourses surrounding the notion of "genre" have often made these meanings legible, audible and powerful for many. From Protestant church performance practices, to minstrelsy, to Tin Pan Alley to rock and hip-hop, the social agreements of musical genres help us understand the dynamism of American identities.
Not Offered Every Year
Also Offered As: AFRC 1410
1 Course Unit

MUSC 1420 Thinking About Popular Music
Catchy and controversial, fluffy and hard-hitting: by definition popular music snags our attention and entertains. This course digs into the experiences of musicians and fans, unpacking how popular music manifests the hopes, contradictions, ingenuity, and challenges of life in the United States. Music 44 is organized around three core questions: first, what counts as good music and who gets credit for being creative; second, why has popular music, at various points in history, been perceived as socially dangerous (and musicians as deviant); third, what is the history of borrowing and appropriation, and how do these habits, which overwhelmingly affect musicians of color, continue to play out today? We delve into these questions and more by analyzing the musical traits of specific repertoire, profiling artists' lives, investigating changes in the music industry, and situating popular music in U.S. cultural history from the mid-nineteenth century to today. Lectures introduce the social and cultural history of popular music. Through close listening exercises in and out of class students will learn how to hear and respond to music critically. Selected readings demonstrate for students how to form an argument using musical sources. Discussions in class, presentations and debates, exams, and writing assignments provide students the chance to build, exercise, and improve these skills.
Not Offered Every Year
1 Course Unit

MUSC 1430 History of Opera
An investigation, through a series of representative works, of the central problem of opera: how does the combination of music, text, and visual spectacle create an art form in which the whole is more powerful than its parts. Today this issue can be examined not only in live performances but also through media such as film, DVD, streaming video-- media to which this four-centuries-old multimedia form has adapted, evolving in still compelling ways. The works chosen for the course provide a chronological survey but also represent the variety of sources on which opera has drawn for it subject matter: myth and legend, the epic, the novel, and the play.
Not Offered Every Year
1 Course Unit

MUSC 1440 Film Music in Post 1950 Italy
An exploration of cinematic sound through the lens of specific composer/director collaborations in post-1950 Italy, examining scores, soundtracks, and the interaction of diegetic and non-diegetic music with larger soundscapes. Composers Nino Rota and Ennio Morricone serve as case studies, in partnership with directors Fellini, Visconti, Leone, Pontecorvo, Pasolini, and Coppola. Highlights include several excerpts form the Fellini/Rota collaboration, including The White Sheik, I vitelloni, The Road, Nights of Cabiria, La dolce vita, 8 1/2, Juliet of the Spirits, Satyricon, The Clowns, Roma, Amarcord, Casanova, and Orchestra Rehearsal. Rota's music for Visconti will be examined in Senso, the Leopard, and Rocco and his Brothers, along with his Transatlantic collaboration for The Godfather. Morricone's work with various directors will be discussed in The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly, The Battle of Algiers, and Teorema, as well as for American films such as Malick's Days of Heaven and Tarantino's The Hateful Eight. Weekly screenings required. Open to all: music majors, minors, and non-majors; will count toward requirements for music minor. Knowledge of music and Italian helpful but not required. All readings and lectures in English.
Also Offered As: CIMS 1440, ITAL 1440
1 Course Unit

MUSC 1450 Songwriting
This class will tackle song as a topic of study from the perspective of the listener and the maker. We will consider popular song, folk song, art song, and other styles, as well as styles that may be hard to categorize, taking a big picture look at the role of songs in our lives and also getting into the nitty gritty of how songs are created. Reflective and analytical work will be required of students, with the main focus being the creation of original songs.
Fall or Spring
1 Course Unit
MUSC 1500 World Musics and Cultures
This course examines how we as consumers in the "Western" world engage with musical difference largely through the products of the global entertainment industry. We examine music cultures in contact in a variety of ways—particularly as traditions in transformation. Students gain an understanding of traditional music as live, meaningful person-to-person music making, by examining the music in its original site of production, and then considering its transformation once it is removed, and recontextualized in a variety of ways. The purpose of the course is to enable students to become informed and critical consumers of "World Music" by telling a series of stories about particular recordings made with, or using the music of, peoples culturally and geographically distant from the US. Students come to understand that not all music downloads containing music from unfamiliar places are the same, and that particular recordings may be embedded in intriguing and controversial narratives of production and consumption. At the very least, students should emerge from the class with a clear understanding that the production, distribution, and consumption of world music is rarely a neutral process. Fulfills College Cross Cultural Foundational Requirement.
Fall or Spring
Also Offered As: AFRC 1500, ANTH 1500
1 Course Unit

MUSC 1510 Music of Africa
African Contemporary Music: North, South, East, and West. Come to know contemporary Africa through the sounds of its music: from South African kwela, jazz, marabi, and kwaiso to Zimbabwean chimurenga; Central African soukous and pygmy pop; West African Fuji, and North African rai and hophop. Through reading and listening to live performance, audio and video recordings, we will examine the music of Africa and its intersections with politics, history, gender, and religion in the colonial and post colonial era. (Formerly Music 053). Fulfills College Cross Cultural Foundational Requirement.
Not Offered Every Year
Also Offered As: AFRC 1510
1 Course Unit

MUSC 1530 Music in Troubled Places
In this class, we go beyond the headlines to discuss the history and cultures of peoples who have had to endure terrible suffering, particularly through ethnic conflict and civil war. We will focus on a curious phenomenon: populations typically defined as separate from one another (e.g., Israelis and Palestinians) often have a history of shared or related cultural practices, of which music is a prime example. We will survey a number of current and recent conflict zones and use music as a way to deepen our understanding of the identities and relationships between the peoples involved including through a considerarion of my own fieldwork in Sri Lanka. Querying the very definitions of music, trouble, and place, the course then broadens out to consider how musicians have been affected by and/or responded to important global problems like slavery, sexual violence, climate change and other ecological disasters, like Hurricane Katrina. Regions to be considered in our lectures and/or readings include: Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria, Burma, South Korea, the Marshall Islands, Cambodia, Mexico, and the United States.
Not Offered Every Year
Also Offered As: ANTH 1533
1 Course Unit

MUSC 1560 Seeing/Hearing Globally
This is a Penn Global Seminars Abroad semester long class with travel abroad after. It focuses on the interrelationship of music, arts, community-building, land, politics, and history. Places covered in coursework and travel vary by semester, and students have to apply for the class through Penn Global. The class is limited in student participation to no more than 20 students.
Not Offered Every Year
Also Offered As: AFRC 1560, ANTH 1560
1 Course Unit

MUSC 1700 Introduction to Theory and Musicianship
This course will cover basic skills and vocabulary for reading, hearing, performing, analyzing, and writing music. Students will gain command of musical rudiments, including notation, reading and writing in treble and bass clefs, intervals, keys, scales, triads and seventh chords, and competence in basic melodic and formal analysis. The course will include an overview of basic diatonic harmony; introduction to harmonic function and tonization. Musicianship skills will include interval and chord recognition, rhythmic and melodic dictation and familiarity with the keyboard. There will be in-depth study of selected compositions from the "common practice" Western tradition, including classical, jazz, blues and other popular examples. Listening skills—both with scores (including lead sheets, figured bass and standard notation), and without—will be emphasized. There is no prerequisite. Students with some background in music may place out of this course and into Music 170, Theory and Musicianship I. Fulfills College Formal Reasoning and Analysis Foundational Requirement.
Fall or Spring
1 Course Unit

MUSC 1810 Film Sound and Film Music
Please check the website for a current course description at: http://www.sas.upenn.edu/italians/courses
Fall or Spring
Also Offered As: ITAL 1982
1 Course Unit

MUSC 1999 Guided Research
Individual research under the supervision of a member of the faculty.
Fall or Spring
1 Course Unit

MUSC 2300 Introduction to European Art Music
This course aims to introduce students to what it means to study the European musical tradition. Students will approach the diverse music that constitute the classical tradition from a variety of scholarly perspectives. The goal of this class is to listen deeply and think broadly. Students will consider questions such as: what sort of object is music? Where is it located? What does it mean to say a work is "canonic"? What is left out of the story? This class will be in dialog with other tier-one classes, and will consider what the historian can bring to the study and understanding of music. Fulfills the requirements of the Music major.
Prerequisite: MUSC 1700
1 Course Unit
MUSC 2400 Introduction to the Music Life in America
This course surveys American musical life from the colonial period to the present. Beginning with the music of Native Americans, the European legacy, and the African Diaspora, the course treats the singular social and political milieu that forged the profile of America's musical landscape. Attention will be given to the establishment of the culture industry and to various activities such as sacred music, parlor music, concert and theater music, the cultivation of oral traditions, the appearance of jazz, the trajectory of western art music in the United States, and the eventual global dominance of American popular music. Music 070 prerequisite. Preference given to music Majors and Minors. Fulfills the Cultural Diversity in the U.S. College Requirement.
1 Course Unit

MUSC 2500 Introduction to Ethnomusicology
This course introduces students to the field of ethnomusicology through a series of case studies that explore a range of traditional, popular, and art musics from around the world. The course takes as a point of departure several works of musical ethnography, musical fiction, and musical autobiography and, through in-depth reading of these texts, close listening to assigned sound recordings, and in-class case studies, generates a context within which to think and write about music. Prerequisite: Fulfills the requirements of the Music major.
1 Course Unit

MUSC 2700 Theory and Musicianship I
Introduction to and development of principles of tonal voice-leading, harmonic function, counterpoint, and form through written analysis, composition, improvisation, and written work. Course covers diatonic harmony and introduction to chromaticism. Repertoires will focus on Western classical music. Musicianship component will include sight-singing, dictation keyboard harmony. Fulfills College Formal Reasoning and Analysis Foundational Requirement.
Fall
Prerequisite: MUSC 1700
1.5 Course Unit

MUSC 2710 Theory and Musicianship II
Continuation of techniques established in Theory and Musicianship I. Explores chromatic harmony. Concepts will be developed through analysis and model composition. Musicianship component will include sight singing, clef reading, harmonic dictation and keyboard harmony.
Spring
Prerequisite: MUSC 2700
1.5 Course Unit

MUSC 3200 Modular Electronic Music Systems & Performance
MUSC3200 offers an introduction to electronic music/sound production with a focus on modular hardware systems and performance. Guest artists will join us for in-class visits and performances during the semester. Meetings will take place in the classroom, in concert spaces and in the studio. Preference given to Music majors and minors for registration.
Spring
Prerequisite: MUSC 1700 OR MUSC 2700
1 Course Unit

MUSC 3210 Recording Music.
An introduction to music and sound recording with a focus on concerts and live performances. The entire process will be examined from start to finish, including the roles played by composers, musicians, listeners, performance spaces, and recording technology. Meetings will take place in the classroom, in concert spaces and in the studio. Music majors and minors will be given preference for registration.
Fall
Prerequisite: MUSC 1700 OR MUSC 2700
1 Course Unit

MUSC 3220 Interactive Musical Instrument Design and Coding
An exploration of creative coding, sound synthesis and manipulation, generative music, and user interface design, oriented towards the development of new and imaginative software instruments for electronic music-making. We'll learn the basics of visual programming, with an emphasis on creative and artistic uses of code in music-making. We'll think about the affordances and constraints that instruments provide, the ways instruments condition musical practice, and the distinctive instrumental possibilities offered by computation. The course culminates in individual projects using code to enable live performances of electronic music.
Spring
1 Course Unit

MUSC 3300 Historical Eras and Topics: Earlier Periods
Classes under this number offer a more in-depth look at historical eras and topics or repertories associated with a specific period of music history. Classes will focus on one historical epoch (Medieval, Renaissance, Baroque). The purpose of this course is to give students the opportunity to engage deeply with musical objects, both historically and analytically, as well as to expose them to a range of methodologies with which to study music. Topics include: the Italian and English Renaissance madrigal; Baroque Opera 1600-1750. Not Offered Every Year
Also Offered As: ITAL 3300
1 Course Unit

MUSC 3301 Historical Eras and Topics: Earlier Periods
Classes under this number offer a more in-depth look at historical eras and topics or repertories associated with a specific period of music history. Classes will focus on one historical epoch (Medieval, Renaissance, Baroque). The purpose of this course is to give students the opportunity to engage deeply with musical objects, both historically and analytically, as well as to expose them to a range of methodologies with which to study music. Topics include: medieval song and polyphony; songbooks ca. 1100-1600; inscribing music, ca. 800-1600; sound and listening in premodern Europe. Not Offered Every Year
1 Course Unit

MUSC 3310 Historical Eras and Topics: Later Periods
Classes under this number offer a more in-depth look at historical eras and topics or repertories associated with a specific period of music history. Classes will focus on one historical epoch (Enlightenment, Romantic, Modernism, etc.). The purpose of this course is to give students the opportunity to engage deeply with musical objects, both historically and analytically, as well as to expose them to a range of methodologies with which to study music. Topics will be drawn from the history of opera in Europe and the United States.
1 Course Unit
MUSC 3311 Historical Eras and Topics: Later Periods
Classes under this number offer a more in-depth look at historical eras and topics or repertoires associated with a specific period of music history. Classes will focus on one historical epoch (Enlightenment, Romantic, Modernism, etc.). The purpose of this course is to give students the opportunity to engage deeply with musical objects, both historically and analytically, as well as to expose them to a range of methodologies with which to study music. Topics include: the Classical string quartet; sacred music in the age of Enlightenment; sentimental song; music and colonial encounter.
1 Course Unit

MUSC 3312 Historical Eras and Topics: Later Periods
Classes under this number offer a more in-depth look at historical eras and topics or repertoires associated with a specific period of music history. Classes will focus on one historical epoch (Enlightenment, Romantic, Modernism, etc.). The purpose of this course is to give students the opportunity to engage deeply with musical objects, both historically and analytically, as well as to expose them to a range of methodologies with which to study music. Topics include: music in the Enlightenment; music in the long nineteenth-century; and musical modernisms.
1 Course Unit

MUSC 3320 Themes in Music History
In this course, students will have the opportunity to explore music history from a thematic or conceptual perspective, frequently through several eras. Among the topics that we will explore: opera and its literary and figurative sources 1600-1900; opera performance 1600-today; music and rhetoric ca. 1500-1800; text, music, image ca. 1500-1650.
Not Offered Every Year
1 Course Unit

MUSC 3321 Themes in Music History
In this course, students will have the opportunity to explore music history from a thematic or conceptual perspective, frequently through several eras. Among the topics that we will explore: medievalism and the reception of medieval music; vocality and sound in the Middle Ages; signs and symbols of music; anonymity and the medieval composer; the materiality of early music.
Not Offered Every Year
1 Course Unit

MUSC 3322 Themes in Music History
In this course, students will have the opportunity to explore music history from a thematic or conceptual perspective, frequently through several eras. Among the topics that we will explore: music's media and formats; music and gender.
Not Offered Every Year
1 Course Unit

MUSC 3340 Performers: Music, Rhetoric, Performance
This course looks at the history of popular, vernacular, and art music in various time periods. Studying music from the ground up, we examine how performers have influenced music history. We engage critically with issues such as music in social life, collaborative creative processes, and vernacular music's engagement with race and gender. The great variety and quality of the instrumental and vocal music composed in Europe during the period 1600-1800, roughly from the birth of opera to Mozart's death, solicits today an equally wide and intriguing array of responses from instrumentalists and singers aware of pre-Romantic performance practices. In this intermediate course fulfilling elective requirements for music majors, we will study the music from this early modern period by focusing on its performance, exploring topics such as sound, relationships between text and music, improvisation, and ornamentation, among others; for opera, we will focus on staging and acting practices, then and today. We will familiarize ourselves with issues such as: national idioms, dance music, rhetoric, the history and ideology of the performance practice movement, and the critical use of editions and of primary material, including original treatises and iconographical and literary sources.
Not Offered Every Year
1 Course Unit

MUSC 3341 Performers: Dancers and Musicians
This course looks at the history of popular, vernacular, and art music in various time periods. Studying music from the ground up, we examine how performers have influenced music history. We engage critically with issues such as music in social life, collaborative creative processes, and vernacular music's engagement with race and gender. This intermediate course fulfilling elective requirements for music majors examines the relationship of musicians and dancers from the Middle Ages up to the emergence of ballet. Engaging with musical scores, iconography, theoretical writings, and a range of other textual sources, we will consider the ways in which dance (and dancers) informed music (and musicians), and vice versa, over the course of several hundred years.
Not Offered Every Year
1 Course Unit

MUSC 3342 Performers: The Singer ca. 800-1400
This course looks at the history of popular, vernacular, and art music in various time periods. Studying music from the ground up, we examine how performers have influenced music history. We engage critically with issues such as music in social life, collaborative creative processes, and vernacular music's engagement with race and gender. Tracing the figure of the singer beginning in the court of Charlemagne to the papal outpost of Avignon in the late thirteenth century, this intermediate course fulfilling elective requirements for music majors considers the evolving roles of singers in the Middle Ages. From monastic cantors to virtuosic soloists, we will be concerned not only the cultural function of singers but also the repertoire they performed.
Not Offered Every Year
1 Course Unit
MUSC 3343 Performers: Celebrity
This course looks at the history of popular, vernacular, and art music in various time periods. Studying music from the ground up, we examine how performers have influenced music history. We engage critically with issues such as music in social life, collaborative creative processes, and vernacular music's engagement with race and gender. This intermediate course fulfilling elective requirements for the music major looks at the history of celebrity culture in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. From "rival queen" actress-singers on London stages to manias over virtuoso instrumentalists, we will explore how celebrities dazzled fans, popularized repertoire, manipulated their public images, and were depicted in the media.
Not Offered Every Year
1 Course Unit

MUSC 3450 Studies in African-American Music
This course explores aspects of the origins, style development, aesthetic philosophies, historiography, and contemporary conventions of African-American musical traditions. Topics covered include: the music of West and Central Africa, the music of colonial America, 19th century church and dance music, minstrelsy, music of the Harlem Renaissance, jazz, blues, gospel, hip-hop, and film music. Special attention is given to the ways that black music produces "meaning" and to how the social energy circulating within black music articulates myriad issues about American identity at specific historical moments. The course will also engage other expressive art forms from visual and literary sources in order to better position music making into the larger framework of African American aesthetics. (Formerly Music 146).
Not Offered Every Year
Also Offered As: AFRC 3450
1 Course Unit

MUSC 3460 The Blackness of Rock: Revisiting Histories of Race, Gender, and Genre
This course explores the history of rock music by focusing specifically on the innovations and contributions of black musicians. The course will address itself to the legacies of race records, the uninterrupted appropriation of black sounds by white artists (think Elvis), and the further complications introduced by the British Invasion, all while focusing on individual artists such as Fats Domino, Big Mama Thornton, Bo Diddley, Chuck Berry, Sister Rosetta Tharpe, and Jimi Hendrix. The course will highlight and offer hands-on explorations of the innovations brought to rock music by these black artists. And, because the guitar is such an iconic instrument in rock, the course also will introduce students, through a series of labs, to the gear that makes these sounds possible. Understanding how amplifiers, effects pedals, and guitars interact and produce radically divergent sounds depending on how they are set up will offer insights into the artistry of these early rock musicians. Understanding the circuits, and how using (and abusing) them in particular ways is part of the materiality of rock’s sound, will help shed light on the extent to which creative engagement with technology determined particular sonic pathways within the genre (distortion, overdrive, fuzz, feedback, etc.). And, these innovations literally shaped the future of rock, providing a foundation of sound and style and a particular relationship to gear that extends into the present. The final unit of the course will explore the racial politics, gender dynamics, and industry structures that have buried the black histories of rock and sidelined women's crucial contributions to the genre, contributing to rock's framing and marketing as a (mostly) male, white genre. The course will also ask how black musicians who perform rock today, such as Tosin Abasi, Lenny Kravitz, Brittany Howard of the Alabama Shakes, Big Joanie, and Living Colour, among many others, negotiate these politics, these silenced histories, these industry barriers, and these audience expectations?
Fall
Also Offered As: AFRC 3460
1 Course Unit

MUSC 3510 Music and Healing
In this class we will explore the many ways in which music around the world, and in our own neighborhoods, has been used for social-emotional healing, and individual and collective well-being. We will think about music and healing in four ways: through the lens of the musical, the social/cultural, performative, and biomedical (Roseman 2012). In other words, we read across the disciplines, to include ideas about music, the brain, and emotion; about the impact of adversity, and the work of music and creativity as vehicles of restoration and healing. There will be an Academically Based Community Service project in the Spring 2022 class. The course is intended specifically for music majors and minors, but others may request a place from the instructor.
Not Offered Every Year
1 Course Unit
MUSC 3520 Music, Religion, Ritual in South and Southeast Asia.
What role does music play in articulating religious identities and spaces? What is the importance of ritual musics as they persist and change in the modern world? How does music reflect and articulate religious ways of thinking and acting? In this course, we explore these and other questions about the interrelations between music, religion, and ritual in South and Southeast Asia. Focusing on India, Sri Lanka, Malaysia, and Indonesia, the course emphasizes musics from Hindu, Buddhist, Muslim and Christian traditions; nevertheless, it draws widely to touch upon sacred musics in Pakistan, Nepal, Burma, Thailand, Vietnam, and among some indigenous peoples in the region. Throughout, we explore ontologies of sound; sonic occurrences in religious structures, public processions, and pilgrimage sites; the construction of religion and ritual as ideas forged through colonial encounter and modern scholarship on religion; the politics of sacred sounds in today’s public spaces and contemporary media, such as television and online; and the surprising fluidity between popular and sacred musical genres.
Not Offered Every Year
Also Offered As: ANTH 3520
1 Course Unit

MUSC 3550 Accordions of the New World
This course focuses on the musical genres and styles (both traditional and popular) that have grown up around the accordion in the New World. We will begin our explorations in Nova Scotia and move toward the Midwest, travelling through the polka belt. From there, our investigation turns toward Louisiana and Texas–toward zydeco, Cajun, and Tex-Mex music. We will then work our way through Central and South America, considering norteno, cumbia, vallenato, tango, chamame, and forro. Our journey will conclude in the Caribbean, where we will spend some time thinking about merengue and rake-n-scrape music. Throughout the semester, the musical case studies will be matched by readings and film that afford ample opportunity to think about the ways that music is bound up in ethnicity, identity, and class. We will also have occasion to think about the accordion as a multiply meaningful instrument that continues to be incorporated into debates over cultural politics and mobilized as part of strategies of representation through the New World. (Formerly Music 157).
Not Offered Every Year
Also Offered As: AFRC 3550, LALS 3550
1 Course Unit

MUSC 3560 Music and Performance of Africa
This class provides an overview of the most popular musical styles and discussion of the cultural and political contexts in which they emerged in contemporary Africa. Learning to perform a limited range of African music/dance will be part of this course. No prior performance experience required. (Formerly Music 253).
Not Offered Every Year
Also Offered As: AFRC 3560, ANTH 2560
1 Course Unit

MUSC 3570 Caribbean Music and Diaspora
This course considers Caribbean musics within a broad and historical framework. Caribbean musical practices are explored by illustrating the many ways that aesthetics, ritual, communication, religion, and social structure are embodied in and contested through performance. These initial inquiries open onto an investigation of a range of theoretical concepts that become particularly pertinent in Caribbean contexts—concepts such as post-colonialism, migration, ethnicity, hybridity, syncretism, and globalization. Each of these concepts, moreover, will be explored with a view toward understanding its connections to the central analytical paradigm of the course—diaspora. Throughout the course, we will listen to many different styles and repertories of music ranging from calypso to junkanoo, from rumba to merengue, and from dance hall to zouk. We will then work to understand them not only in relation to the readings that frame our discussions but also in relation to our own North-American contexts of music consumption and production. (Formerly Music 258).
Not Offered Every Year
Also Offered As: AFRC 3570, ANTH 2570, LALS 3570
1 Course Unit

MUSC 3580 Latin American Music
This survey course considers Latin American musics within a broad cultural and historical framework. Latin American musical practices are explored by illustrating the many ways that aesthetics, ritual, communication, religion, and social structure are embodied in and contested through performance. These initial inquiries open onto an investigation of a range of theoretical concepts that become particularly pertinent in Latin American contexts—concepts such as post-colonialism, migration, ethnicity, and globalization. Throughout the course, we will listen to many different styles and repertories of music and then work to understand them not only in relation to the readings that frame our discussions but also in relation to our own, North American contexts of music consumption and production. (Formerly Music 158).
Not Offered Every Year
Also Offered As: AFRC 3580, LALS 3580
1 Course Unit

MUSC 3660 Performance, Analysis, History
Participation in the course is contingent upon a successful audition. This course must be taken for a letter grade (pass/fail option may not be utilized for this course). This weekly seminar will explore music from the past and present through class discussions of performance, historical context, and analytical aspects of the music led by a professor and/or performer. One example of a class in this number will be an indepth study of chamber music repertoire led by the Daedalus Quartet. Students will prepare for a final performance at the end of the semester as well as a paper/presentation. Students interested in this applied approach to music may also wish to take 256 and/or 276.
Spring
1 Course Unit

MUSC 3700 Theory and Musicianship III
Continuation of techniques established in Theory and Musicianship I and II. Concepts will be developed through analysis and model composition. Musicianship component will include advanced sight singing, clef reading, harmonic dictation and keyboard harmony.
Fall
Prerequisite: MUSC 2700 AND MUSC 2710
1.5 Course Unit
MUSC 3710 Composition I: Historical Practices
Studies in selected 16th through 19th century compositional practices. Possible topics may include 16th century modal counterpoint; sonata forms in Viennese classicism; advanced chromatic harmony. Course includes analysis of relevant pieces and student compositional projects reflecting course topic.
Not Offered Every Year
Prerequisite: MUSC 2700 AND MUSC 2710
1 Course Unit

MUSC 3720 Composition II: Contemporary Practices
Studies in selected 20th and 21st century compositional practices. Possible topics may include symmetry in post-tonal harmony; composing for piano; the sonata in the 20th century. Course includes analysis of relevant pieces and student compositional projects reflecting course topic.
Not Offered Every Year
Prerequisite: MUSC 2700 AND MUSC 2710
1 Course Unit

MUSC 3730 Orchestration
An introduction to writing for the instruments of the orchestra. Course will include study of individual instruments and various instrumental combinations, including full orchestra. Representative scores from the 18th century to the present day will be analyzed. Students will be responsible for several scoring projects and will have opportunities to hear readings of their projects. Prerequisite: at least two semesters of music theory or permission of instructor.
Not Offered Every Year
Prerequisite: MUSC 1700 OR MUSC 2700
1 Course Unit

MUSC 3740 Composition for Musicians
Music 3740 is a Composition Seminar that treats composing as both an end in itself and a means for thinking broadly and speculatively about music. We will work on various compositional techniques through exercises as well as 'free' composition, giving attention to skills as well as to personal voice. We will survey the current musical landscape through listening, analysis and discussion. The question of musical style itself will be pursued, and while we will be oriented to western art music, we will consider a wide range of styles, including popular music. It is assumed that students will have fluency with musical notation. Prerequisite: Music 171, or permission of the instructor.
Prerequisite: MUSC 2710
1 Course Unit

MUSC 4097 Honors Thesis (Sem1/0.5 c.u.)
Individual research under the supervision of a member of the faculty. Guidelines for Honors Thesis can be found: https://music.sas.upenn.edu/Fall
Prerequisite: (MUSC 2300 OR MUSC 2400 OR MUSC 2500) AND MUSC 2700
0.5 Course Units

MUSC 4098 Honor's Thesis (Sem2/0.5 c.u.)
Individual research under the supervision of a member of the faculty. Guidelines for Honors Thesis can be found: https://music.sas.upenn.edu/Fall
Prerequisite: (MUSC 2300 OR MUSC 2400 OR MUSC 2500) AND MUSC 2700
0.5 Course Units

MUSC 4300 Seminar in Music History
This is an advanced seminar, primarily for juniors and seniors who are prepared to engage deeply and critically with a specialized research topic. The topic of the seminar focuses on a particular genre or body of repertoire, music-maker or composer, or the cultural and social dynamics of a period in music history. Topics include: late Renaissance musical settings of vernacular texts; opera and its performance; music and digital humanities.
Not Offered Every Year
Prerequisite: MUSC 2700
1 Course Unit

MUSC 4301 Seminar in Music History
This is an advanced seminar, primarily for juniors and seniors who are prepared to engage deeply and critically with a specialized research topic. The topic of the seminar focuses on a particular genre or body of repertoire, music-maker or composer, or the cultural and social dynamics of a period in music history. Topics include: the inscription and materiality of medieval music; vocality and animality in medieval music; medievalisms; genres of the Ars Antiqua; medieval song.
Not Offered Every Year
1 Course Unit

MUSC 4302 Seminar in Music History
This is an advanced seminar, primarily for juniors and seniors who are prepared to engage deeply and critically with a specialized research topic. The topic of the seminar focuses on a particular genre or body of repertoire, music-maker or composer, or the cultural and social dynamics of a period in music history. Topics include: early modern music and gender; printing music; transcription and travel.
Not Offered Every Year
1 Course Unit

MUSC 4303 Seminar in Music History
This is an advanced seminar, primarily for juniors and seniors who are prepared to engage deeply and critically with a specialized research topic. The topic of the seminar focuses on a particular genre or body of repertoire, music-maker or composer, or the cultural and social dynamics of a period in music history. Topics include: music in the Enlightenment, music in the long nineteenth-century, and musical modernisms.
Not Offered Every Year
1 Course Unit

MUSC 4304 Seminar in Music History
This is an advanced seminar, primarily for juniors and seniors who are prepared to engage deeply and critically with a specialized research topic. The topic of the seminar focuses on a particular genre or body of repertoire, music-maker or composer, or the cultural and social dynamics of a period in music history. Topics include: music industry and activism; jazz; popular music.
Not Offered Every Year
1 Course Unit
MUSC 4500 Seminar in Ethnomusicology
This is an upper level class for Music Majors and Minors, who are interested in taking a deep dive into the research, teaching, and practices of ethnomusicology. It is intended to generate a capstone project. The content of each class will align with current issues in ethnomusicology, it may involve active engagement with a research project using ethnomusicology's methods and principles, or interaction with musical performance from a cultural perspective. The geographical area of interest is Africa, the new African diaspora, and community engagement in the United States, but the subject focus is wide ranging: immigrant studies, gender, religious practice, arts and healing.
Fall or Spring
1 Course Unit

MUSC 4501 Seminar in Ethnomusicology
This is an advanced seminar, primarily for juniors and seniors who are prepared to engage deeply and critically with a specialized research topic in ethnomusicology. The topic of the seminar is determined by the instructor, and can focus on a particular theoretical concern (for example: coloniality, race, or diaspora), and/or on a genre or body of repertoire—in this instance, as related to Caribbean and Latin American musics.
Fall or Spring
1 Course Unit

MUSC 4502 Seminar in Ethnomusicology
This is an advanced seminar, primarily for juniors and seniors who are prepared to engage deeply and critically with a specialized research topic in ethnomusicology. The topic of the seminar is determined by the instructor, and can focus on a particular theoretical concern (for example: postcolonial studies, sound studies, ethnicity, war), and/or on a genre or body of repertoire—in this instance, as related to South and Southeast Asian musics.
Fall or Spring
1 Course Unit

MUSC 4700 Seminar in Theory: Popular Music Analysis
An introduction to theoretical and analytical issues in the study of popular music, broadly understood but taken here to focus mainly, though not exclusively, on a narrower subset of genres such as pop, rock, and rhythm and blues. We will study form, meter and rhythm, pitch and tonal organization, texture, timbre, recording techniques and socio-cultural issues, in order to learn and understand how these combine in popular music to produce meaning and to express creativity.
Not Offered Every Year
Prerequisite: MUSC 2700 AND MUSC 2710
1 Course Unit

MUSC 4701 Seminar in 20th Century Composition
This is an advanced seminar, primarily for juniors and seniors who are prepared to engage deeply with study of compositional practice in the first half of the 20th century. The course will emphasize close analysis of selected compositions. It may focus on a particular composer or group of composers, or on a particular genre. The course may also include composing short studies using specific compositional techniques.
Not Offered Every Year
1 Course Unit

MUSC 4702 Seminar in 20-21st Century Compositions
This is an advanced seminar, primarily for juniors and seniors who are prepared to engage deeply with the study of compositional practices of the past fifty years, including a range of musical styles. The course will emphasize close analysis of selected compositions and songs, as well as exercises in using various compositional techniques. In addition to working on the composition of new, original projects, we will explore the use of composition as a mode for “thinking” about the music we are studying.
Not Offered Every Year
1 Course Unit

MUSC 6200 Creative and Compositional Approaches
This course focuses on methods for thinking and engaging creatively through sound, whether compositionally or through other kinds of sound objects. Topics may include: compositional strategies; recording and producing; film; sound installations; experimental ethnography; sound art; and performance practice. Students will begin to put these methodological ideas into practice by developing semester-long projects. These projects can be individual or collaborative.
Not Offered Every Year
1 Course Unit

MUSC 6210 Composing with Instruments
Students will study the capabilities of instruments, singly and in combination, and producing; film; sound installations; experimental ethnography; sound art; and performance practice. Students will begin to put these methodological ideas into practice by developing semester-long projects. These projects can be individual or collaborative.
Not Offered Every Year
1 Course Unit

MUSC 6220 Composing with Electronics
Students will study a variety of hardware and software used in making electronic music. Historical and contemporary practices will be analyzed. Creative projects will be completed. Please see department website https://music.sas.upenn.edu/courses for current term course descriptions.
Not Offered Every Year
1 Course Unit

MUSC 6230 Composing with Performers
The goal of this course is to explore and mine for possibilities the space between a score and the performance of a score. What do performers bring to a piece of music and how do composers best anticipate these possibilities? How much "room" for interpretation exists and how do composers capitalize on it? What is performance practice? The course will engage compositional techniques in connection with a wide range of performance practices. In order to highlight and pursue elements of interpretation in music performance, students will coach performers in both old and new repertoire. The course will involve interactions with live performers, often Penn's string quartet-in-residence, The Daedalus Quartet. Other topics may include notational solutions, the role of improvisation, aleatoric techniques, and music analysis. Please see department website https://music.sas.upenn.edu/courses for current term course descriptions.
Not Offered Every Year
1 Course Unit
MUSC 6300 Historical and Historiographic Approaches
This course focuses on theories and models of historical investigation. It explores, among others, methodologies and conceptions of archival research, textual criticism and editing, codicology and paleography, philology and bibliography, encoding and textual technologies, and digital humanities; critical frameworks such as performance, gender/sexuality, critical race, transnational, environmental/landscape, materiality, and ritual and religious studies; and topics concerning oral histories, notational systems, and book, manuscript, and print cultures.
Not Offered Every Year
1 Course Unit

MUSC 6310 Texts and Material Culture
Topics may include book, manuscript, and print culture; history of the book; history of music notation; codicology and paleography; textual criticism, philology, and editing; encoding and textual technologies; musical bibliographies.
Not Offered Every Year
1 Course Unit

MUSC 6410 The Interpretation of Oral Traditions
Topics may draw on methodologies derived from jazz studies, chant studies, and ethnomusicology. See department website (under course tab) for current term course description: https://music.sas.upenn.edu
Not Offered Every Year
1 Course Unit

MUSC 6500 Ethnographic and Anthropological Approaches
This course focuses on the ethics, politics, and practice of ethnography. Topics may include: fieldwork methods; collaborative practice; ethnography and the archive; power and subjectivity; multimodal approaches; reciprocity and questions of accessibility; oral histories; experimental ethnography; and the politics of transcription, inscription, and translation. Students will begin to put these methodological ideas into practice by developing semester-long ethnographic projects. These projects can be individual or collaborative partnerships, and might also connect students to ongoing community-based research.
Not Offered Every Year
1 Course Unit

MUSC 6700 Analytical and Theoretical Approaches
This course focuses on the analytical methods and theoretical approaches. Topics may include: the politics of listening; score-based analysis; social and critical theories; issues and politics of translation, inscription, and transcription; questions of form; the history of theory; performance studies; the history of musical notation; voice and vocality; and sound studies. Students will typically begin to put these methodological ideas into practice through a series of hands-on assignments which could be either individual or collaborative in nature.
Not Offered Every Year
1 Course Unit

MUSC 6710 Theory-Critical Perspectives
Study of the relation of theory and criticism to analytic, ethnographic, and historical methods. Topics may include anthropology of nature and culture; archaeology and genealogy; actor-network and assemblage theories; critical race theory; deconstruction; feminist theories; gender and sexuality; materialisms and new materialisms; media archaeology and cultural techniques; phenomenology; technics.
Not Offered Every Year
1 Course Unit

MUSC 7200 Seminar in Composition
Seminar in selected compositional problems, with emphasis on written projects. See department website (under course tab) for current term course description: https://music.sas.upenn.edu
Not Offered Every Year
1 Course Unit

MUSC 7210 Composition Studio and Forum
Composer’s Forum is a regular meeting of graduate composers, often along with other members of the Penn composing community, in which recent performances are discussed, musical issues taken up, and visitors occasionally welcomed to present their work or offer master classes. In addition to weekly Forum meetings, students will be paired with a composer for individual lessons in composition. Ph.d. Candidates in Composition in their third year in the program will continue non-credit participation in both forum and lessons.
Fall or Spring
1 Course Unit

MUSC 7300 Studies in Medieval Music
Seminar on selected topics in the music of the Middle Ages. See department website (under course tab) for current term course description: https://music.sas.upenn.edu
Not Offered Every Year
1 Course Unit

MUSC 7310 Studies in Renaissance Music
Seminar on selected topics in the music of the Renaissance.
Not Offered Every Year
1 Course Unit

MUSC 7320 Studies in Baroque Music
Seminar on selected topics in the music of the Baroque period. Please see department website https://www.sas.upenn.edu/music/courses for current term course descriptions.
Not Offered Every Year
1 Course Unit

MUSC 7330 Studies in 18th Century Music
Seminar on selected topics in the music of the Classical period. Please see department website https://www.sas.upenn.edu/music/courses for current term course descriptions.
Not Offered Every Year
1 Course Unit

MUSC 7340 Studies in 19th Century Music
Advanced research topics in the music of the 19th century.
Not Offered Every Year
1 Course Unit

MUSC 7350 Studies in 20 and 21st Century Music
Seminar on selected topics in the music of the twentieth and twenty-first century.
Not Offered Every Year
1 Course Unit

MUSC 7360 Topics in Musicology
This course investigates topics unfolding across different historical periods.
Not Offered Every Year
1 Course Unit
MUSC 7400 Seminar in African-American Music
Seminar on selected topics in African American Music. See department website (under course tab) for current term course description: https://music.sas.upenn.edu
Not Offered Every Year
Also Offered As: AFRC 7400
1 Course Unit

MUSC 7500 Seminar in Ethnomusicology
Topics in Ethnomusicology. Open to graduate students from all departments. See department website (under course tab) for current term course description: https://music.sas.upenn.edu
Fall
1 Course Unit

MUSC 7510 Intellectual History of Ethnomusicology
Topics may include the intellectual history of ethnomusicology, current readings in ethnomusicology, a consideration of theoretical principles based upon the reading and interpretation of selected monographs, and area studies. Please see department website https://www.sas.upenn.edu/music/courses for current term course descriptions.
Prerequisite: Open to graduate students from all departments.
Not Offered Every Year
1 Course Unit

MUSC 7700 Studies in Music Theory and Analysis
Seminar on selected topics in music theory and analysis. Please see department website https://www.sas.upenn.edu/music/courses for current term course descriptions.
Not Offered Every Year
1 Course Unit

MUSC 7710 Writing Sound--Sounding Literature
Seminar on selected topics in sound studies. Please see department website https://www.sas.upenn.edu/music/courses for current term course descriptions.
Not Offered Every Year
1 Course Unit

MUSC 9940 Preparation for Ph.D. Candidacy in Music Studies
MUSC 9940 registration spans both semesters, (Fall and Spring), of year three in the Ph.D. program. The Ph.D. Candidate in Music Studies will finalize the dissertation proposal and comprehensive essays. They should also expect to continue attending the colloquium series sponsored by the department, participate in the Writing and Professionalization Workshop, as well as complete remaining teaching pedagogy requirements.
Fall or Spring
1-3 Course Units

MUSC 9941 Preparation for Ph.D. Candidacy in Composition
MUSC 9941 registration spans both semesters, (Fall and Spring), of year three in the Ph.D. program. The Ph.D. Candidate in Composition will finalize their Portfolio of Compositions and Ph.D. Essay. They should also expect to continue participation in Composers’ Forum and lessons (non credit), attend the colloquium series sponsored by the department, participate in the Professionalization Workshop, as well as complete remaining teaching pedagogy requirements.
1-3 Course Units

MUSC 9999 Independent Study and Research
Individual study and research under the supervision of a member of the faculty.
Fall or Spring
1 Course Unit