

## **MU 171 BERLIN: CITY OF MUSIC, Fall 2022**

Seminar Leader: Benjamin Hochman  
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Course time: Tue 15:45-19:00  
Office Hours: By appointment

### **Course Description**

Berlin's musical life presents an embarrassment of riches- where to begin? This course helps you chart a path through Berlin's endlessly fascinating musical offerings, from chamber music to symphonic music and opera, covering a wide range of musical styles from the last three hundred years. We will attend concerts and rehearsals throughout the city as well as musical performances in digital format. Choice of events to attend, in person or virtually, will depend on Corona regulations, scheduling, and the availability of low-cost tickets. Venues may include the Philharmonie Berlin, the Komische Oper, the Boulez Saal, and other venues. We will prepare for each event by reading texts (musicological, historical, critical), listening to recordings, and watching videos. We will host guests representing the rich variety of current musical and interdisciplinary art in Berlin. Written requirements will include short weekly assignments relevant to the week's subject and two longer assignments (midterm and final) such as a concert review or a response to one of the musical events we attend. Additionally, each student will give an oral presentation on a piece of music, performer, composer, or musical organization with ties to Berlin. No prior musical knowledge is required for this course: music-lovers and musicians of all levels are equally welcome. This course is organized with Google Classroom. Materials will be provided there.

### **Requirements**

Students are expected to:

- Turn off phones during class time.

- Read and respond to emails in a timely manner.
- Attend punctually and completely classes and off-campus events.
- Complete assigned work on time.
- Participate actively in class discussions.
- Remain open, curious, and engaged throughout the semester

### **Academic Integrity**

Bard College Berlin maintains the highest standards of academic integrity and expects students to adhere to these standards at all times. Instances in which students fail to meet the expected standards of academic integrity will be dealt with under the Code of Student Conduct, Section 14.3 (Academic Misconduct) in the Student Handbook.

### **Attendance**

Attendance at all classes is a crucial part of the education offered by Bard College Berlin. To account for minor circumstances, two absences from twice-per-week courses or the equivalent (e.g. one absence from a once-per-week course) should not affect the participation grade or require documentation. Bard College Berlin does not offer credit for any course in which a student has missed more than 30% of classes, regardless of the reasons for the absences. The full Bard College Berlin attendance policy can be found in the Student Handbook, Section 2.8.

**SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR FALL 2022:** Some students may need to begin the semester remotely due to travel restrictions caused by the pandemic. In addition, all students and instructors must refrain from in-person attendance if they are feeling ill. Instructors will make efforts to offer alternatives to in-person attendance where needed, including remote participation or asynchronous options.

### **Assignments and due dates**

1. Weekly written responses to assigned material, approximately 400 words each. Due dates as specified in Google Classroom.
2. An oral presentation, around 20 minutes long, on a piece of music, performer, composer, or musical organization with ties to Berlin. The presentation should include background and discussion. Detailed instructions will be provided. To be presented in class on a date to be coordinated. The presentation will be completed no later than December 6.
3. A midsemester essay reporting on a concert attended by the student. The student will choose the concert, which must be outside of the events already planned by the instructor. Approximate length, 1000 words. Detailed instructions will be provided. Due Friday, October 14, by midnight.
4. An end of semester essay elaborating on one of the themes or experiences of our class. Approximate length, 1500 words. Detailed instructions will be provided. Due Friday, December 9, by midnight.

### **Policy on Late Submission of Papers**

Essays that are up to 24 hours late can be downgraded up to one full grade (from B+ to C+, for example). Instructors are not obliged to accept essays that are more than 24 hours late.

Where a professor agrees to accept a late assignment, it should be submitted by the new deadline agreed upon by both parties. Thereafter, the student will receive a failing grade for the assignment. Grades and comments will be returned to students in a timely fashion.

Students are also entitled to make an appointment to discuss essay assignments and feedback during instructors' office hours. Students receive mid- and end-of-semester grades for their seminar work. Students are entitled to make an appointment with an instructor to discuss seminar participation, or may be asked to meet with the instructor at any stage in the semester regarding class progress.

### **Grade Breakdown**

1. On-time responses to weekly written assignments: 20%
2. Active classroom participation: 20%
3. Oral presentation: 20%
4. Midterm essay: 20%
5. Final essay: 20%

### **Schedule**

The fall semester runs from Monday, August 29 until Friday, December 16, with fall break planned from Monday, October 24 – Sunday, October 30.

- Normal course sessions end on Friday, December 9.
- Completion week is from Monday, December 12 through Friday, December 16.
  - Make-up classes and final exams can take place in completion week.
  - Students are required to be on campus during completion week.

Please note that our schedule is LIKELY to change as the semester unfolds due to additional off-campus opportunities and/or unforeseen changes. Maximum notice will always be given to the extent possible. It is the student's responsibility to pay close attention to communications via email and Google Classroom.

Week 1	Tuesday, August 30	Introductions
Week 2	Tuesday, September 6	Music of Lachenmann, Xenakis, Lim
Week 3	Tuesday, September 13	NO CLASS
	Thursday, September 15, 19:30-22:00	
	JACK Quartet concert visit	
	Meet at 19:30 at Philharmonie Berlin, Herbert-von-Karajan Straße 1	
	<a href="https://www.berlinerfestspiele.de/en/berliner-festspiele/programm/bfs-gesamtprogramm/programmdetail_372195.html">https://www.berlinerfestspiele.de/en/berliner-festspiele/programm/bfs-gesamtprogramm/programmdetail_372195.html</a>	
Week 4	Tuesday, September 20	<i>Das Lied von der Erde</i>

- Week 5 Tuesday, September 27, 16:45-20:00  
*Off-campus visit tbd*
- Week 6 Tuesday, October 4, 16:30-19:00  
Karajan Akademie concert visit  
Meet at 16:30 at Philharmonie Berlin, Herbert-von-Karajan Straße 1  
<https://www.berliner-philharmoniker.de/en/concerts/calendar/details/54558/>
- Week 7 Tuesday, October 11 *Magic Moments of Music: Berlin Wall concert*  
A documentary by Eric Schulz
- Week 8 Tuesday, October 18, 16:45-20:00 Guest: Vijay Gupta  
Founder of *Street Symphony*, MacArthur Fellowship recipient
- Week 9 Fall Break October 24-30 NO CLASS
- Week 10 Tuesday, November 1 *The Rise and Fall of the City of Mahoganny*
- Week 11 Tuesday, November 8 NO CLASS  
Sunday, November 13, 18:30-21:30  
*Wir sind Erde* concert visit (TBC)  
<https://www.staatsoper-berlin.de/en/veranstaltungen/klimakonzert-orchester-des-wandels.11099/>
- Week 12 Tuesday, November 15 NO CLASS  
Sunday, November 20, 15:30-19:00  
*The Rise and Fall of the City of Mahoganny*, opera visit  
Meet at 15:30 at Komische Oper Berlin, Behrenstraße 55-57  
<https://www.komische-oper-berlin.de/en/whats-on/a-z/mahagonny/>
- Week 13 Tuesday, November 22 The Berlin Philharmonic  
*Our History*, A documentary by Eric Schulz
- Week 14 Tuesday, November 29 TBC
- Week 15 Tuesday, December 6 Guest: Gregor Mayrhofer, composer and conductor
- Week 16 Tuesday, December 13 Final Debrief and informal gathering

### Assigned Materials and Course Cost

Materials for reading, listening, and viewing, will be provided throughout the semester via Google Classroom. There are no textbook or book purchases required for this class. In lieu of that cost, there will be a modest expense to each student for concert tickets, as follows. Every effort is being made to arrange concert attendance for the lowest possible cost. Most tickets for concert visits will be purchased through the college, though some tickets may need to be purchased directly by each student at their own expense. Total cost to each student should not exceed 30 Euros per student per semester.