

# MU171

## BERLIN: CITY OF MUSIC

### FALL 2023

Seminar Leader: Benjamin Hochman  
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Class Location: P98 Seminar Room 1  
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 throughout the city as well as musical performances in digital format. Choice of events to attend will depend on scheduling and the availability of low-cost tickets. Venues will include the Philharmonie Berlin, the Schillertheater, Hangar 1 of the former Tempelhof Airport, and the Villa Elisabeth. We will prepare for each event by reading texts (musicological, historical, critical), listening to recordings, and watching videos. We will host several guests representing the rich variety of current musical life in Berlin. Written requirements will include weekly short assignments, two short quizzes, and two longer assignments: a midterm and a final. 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, where all materials will be provided.

#### Requirements

Students are expected to:

- Turn off phones during class time.

- Respond to emails from their professors in a timely manner.
- Attend punctually and completely all classes and off-campus events.
- Complete assigned work on time.
- Actively participate 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 and off-campus excursions is a crucial part of the education offered by Bard College Berlin. To account for minor circumstances, one absence (that is, absence from one three-hour session) will not affect the participation grade or require documentation.
- Students should not attend class when they test positive for COVID-19. The option of remote participation in class is not offered this semester. Bard College Berlin may 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.
- You may encounter circumstances that prevent you from attending classes for which you may be excused, meaning that the absence will not impact your grade. These circumstances include illness, religious observance, military obligation, attendance at a conference, a Bard Network event, a civic engagement initiative, a research trip or other compelling circumstance outside of your control (i.e. court appearance, visa appointment, death of a family member). Optional non-academic travel, hosting visiting family and friends, or work schedules are not ground for excused absences. You will be allowed to self-report your

absence one time, meaning that a notification informing your instructor about the reason for your absence before or within 24 hours of the class is sufficient. If you miss class more than once you will need to provide your instructor with appropriate documentation in order to be excused (i.e. a doctor's note).

- If you have any general medical issues or other concerns that could impact your compliance with these regulations, you need to inform your instructor during the first week of the semester. For information on disability accommodation, you should consult with Maria Anderson Long, Head of Student Life: [m.andersonlong@berlin.bard.edu](mailto:m.andersonlong@berlin.bard.edu). Tardiness after fifteen minutes will be considered an absence.
- All unexcused absences will lower the final grade by one step (i.e. if your final grade is a B, you will be downgraded to a B-).
- Please note that 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, whether excused or unexcused. The full Bard College Berlin attendance policy can be found in the Student Handbook, Section 2.8

#### Policy on Late Submission of Papers

- Assignments (essays, presentations, homework) that are up to 24 hours late will be downgraded one full grade (Example: B+ becomes C+). The professor is not obliged to accept essays that are more than 24 hours late. Grades and comments will be returned to students in a timely fashion. Students are also entitled to make an appointment to discuss 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.

### Assessment

Participation and preparation: Please complete the required homework (readings, listening, viewing, assignments) and contribute creatively and meaningfully to the exercises and discussions in class. You will receive a participation grade which is based on your in-class engagement and completion of homework. Please reserve 3 hours on average for weekly class preparation and asynchronous class work. Readings will be made available on Google Classroom.

### Assignments and due dates

Students are asked to:

- Complete weekly short written assignments: approximately 300 words each. Due in advance of each class.
- Take two quizzes: on Oct. 17 and on Nov. 21. The quizzes will review previous homework assignments and material already covered in class.
- Submit a midsemester essay: Approximate length 1000 words. Due October 20 by midnight.
- Create a final Project, in two parts:
  - Part I: a first draft of final essay, approximately 1000-1200 words, presented in class on Nov. 28 as an 8-10 minute oral presentation.
  - Part II: a final essay, approximate length 1500 words. Due December 15 by midnight.

### Course Grade Breakdown

- Active classroom participation: 10% (attendance, contributions to discussions)
- Weekly written assignments: 20%
- Quizzes: 20% (10% per quiz, two quizzes in total)
- Midterm essay: 20%
- Final Project: 30%, of which 10% is the 10-minute presentation and written draft, 20% is the final essay

Schedule

**\*\*\* Please note: this schedule is subject to change due to additional off-campus opportunities and/or unforeseen changes. It is the student's responsibility to pay close attention to our regular communications via email and Google Classroom \*\*\***

Week 1

**NO CLASS**

There is no class on Sept. 5. Our first class will take place on Sept. 12.

Make-up class will be the Sept. 21 concert visit, listed below.

Week 2

Tuesday, Sept. 12, 15:45-19:00

In-class Meeting

Subject: Introductions. The Fall of the Wall.

Week 3

Tuesday, Sept. 19, 15:45-19:00

In-class Meeting

Subject: Preparation for Mahler Chamber Orchestra concert.

BEETHOVEN Violin Concerto

ADÈS Three Studies from Couperin

HAYDN Symphony No. 45 (Farewell)

M. MAZZOLI Dissolve, O my Heart

**Thursday, Sept. 21****Concert Visit: Mahler Chamber Orchestra****Meet at 19:30 at Berliner Philharmonie****Herbert-von-Karajan-Straße 1, 10785 Berlin****The concert begins at 20:00 and ends by 22:30.****PLEASE BRING YOUR STUDENT ID****<https://mahlerchamber.com/concerts/690>**

Week 4      Tuesday, Sept. 26, 15:45-19:00  
 In-class Meeting  
 Subject: Preparation for Das Floß der Medusa by Hans Werner Henze

Week 5      **Monday, Oct. 2**  
**Opera Visit: Das Floß der Medusa by Hans Werner Henze**  
**Komische Oper Berlin**  
**Meet at 19:30 at Hangar 1 of the former Tempelhof Airport**  
**Columbiadamm 10, 12101 Berlin-Templehof**  
**The opera begins at 20:00 and ends by 22:30.**  
<https://www.komische-oper-berlin.de/spielplan/a-z/das-floss-der-medusa/>

**Tuesday, Oct. 3: FEDERAL HOLIDAY: NO CLASS**

Week 6      Tuesday, Oct. 10, 15:45-19:00  
 In-class Meeting  
 Guest teacher: Jesse Brault  
 Subject: On Being a Composer

Week 7      Tuesday, Oct. 17, 15:45-19:00  
 In-class Meeting  
**Quiz # 1. Details will be provided in advance.**  
 Class Subject: Preparation for Chamber Music Concert on Oct. 20.

Clara Schumann: Romance in D flat major op. 22 Nr. 1, for violoncello and piano

Johanna Müller-Hermann String quartet in E flat major op. 6

Rebecca Clarke ›Morpheus‹ for viola and piano

Germaine Tailleferre Berceuse for violin and piano

Ernest Chausson Concerto for violin, piano and string quartet in D major op. 21

Friday, Oct. 20

Concert Visit: Chamber Music Concert, Deutsche Symphonie-Orchester

Meet at 19:30 at Villa Elisabeth, Invalidenstraße 3, 10115 Berlin

Although Fall Break begins on Oct. 21, attendance at this concert, as all others in our course, is required. Please plan accordingly.

The concert begins at 20:00 and ends by 22:30.

<https://www.dso-berlin.de/de/konzert/kammerkonzert-streichquartett-villa-elisabeth-20-10-2023/>

Midterm essay is due Friday, Oct. 20, at midnight.

Instructions for the essay will be provided early in the semester.

Fall break: Monday, October 23, - Sunday, October 29, 2023

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| Week 8  | Tuesday, Oct. 31, 15:45-19:00<br>In-class Meeting<br>Guest: Elinor Rufeizen<br>Subject: On Being a Conductor                                      |
| Week 9  | Tuesday, Nov. 7, 15:45-19:00<br>In-class Meeting<br>Guest: Avery Morris<br>Subject: Gideon Klein, Music in the Holocaust                          |
| Week 10 | Tuesday, Nov. 14, 15:45-19:00<br>In-class Meeting<br>Guest teacher: Andrew Munn<br>Subject: Introduction to Die Zauberflöte and On Being a Singer |

- Week 11      Tuesday, Nov. 21, 15:45-17:00  
**Quiz #2. Details will be provided in advance.**  
Directly followed by an **Opera Visit**.  
**Mozart: Die Zauberflöte**  
**The opera begins at 19:00 and ends by 22:00.**  
**Schillertheater: Bismarckstraße 110, 10625 Berlin**  
<https://www.komische-oper-berlin.de/en/what/schedule/the-magic-flute/304/>
- Week 12      Tuesday, Nov. 28, 15:45-19:00  
In-class meeting  
**Student Presentations. Essay draft is due at start of this class.**
- Week 13      Tuesday, Dec. 5  
**Concert Visit**  
**Karajan-Akademie of the Berlin Philharmonic, Carte Blanche**  
**Meet at 16:30 at Berliner Philharmonie**  
**Herbert-von-Karajan-Straße 1, 10785 Berlin**  
**The concert begins at 17:00 and ends by 19:30.**  
<https://www.berliner-philharmoniker.de/konzerte/kalender/details/55097/>
- Week 14      Tuesday, Dec. 12  
Time and Location TBC  
End of semester celebration
- Week 15      Completion week  
**Final essay is due Friday, Dec. 15, at midnight.**  
**Instructions for the essay will be provided after fall break.**

### Assigned Materials and Course Cost

Materials for reading, listening, and viewing, will be provided throughout the semester on Google Classroom. No purchases of texts or course readers are required for this class. In lieu of that cost, there will be a modest expense to each student for concert tickets. 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 will not exceed 30 Euros per student per semester.