

MU171
BERLIN: CITY OF MUSIC
FALL 2024
PRELIMINARY VERSION, JULY 7, 2024, NOT FINAL

Seminar Leader: Benjamin Hochman
Email: b.hochman@berlin.bard.edu
Class Location: Lecture Hall, P98A
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 orchestral 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, Tempelhof Airport, and the Piano Salon Christophori. We will prepare for each event by reading texts (musicological, historical, critical), listening to recordings, and watching films. We will host several guests representing the rich variety of musical life in Berlin. Written requirements for the course will include weekly short assignments, two short quizzes, and two longer assignments: a midterm and a final. No prior musical knowledge is required: 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 in a timely fashion.

- Attend punctually and completely all classes and all off-campus events.
- Complete all 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, one absence from one three-hour session) will not affect the grade or require documentation.
- 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. 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.

<https://www.berlinerfestspiele.de/musikfestberlin/programm/2024/kalender/ensemble-modern-ii>

Guest Leader: James Helgeson, Professor and Dean at the Barenboim-Said Akademie.

<https://www.barenboimsaid.de/en/professor/james-s-helgeson>

Week 3 Monday, Sept. 16, 15:45-19:00 Conductors of the Berlin Philharmonic.

Week 4 Monday, Sept. 23, 15:45-19:00 Guest Leader: Tomoki Park, pianist.

<https://www.tomokipark.com/>

Peter Serkin's Synthesis of Performance and Composition.

Part I: Immigration of Cultures.

Week 5 Monday Sept. 30, 15:45-19:00 Preparation for Handel's Messiah.

Saturday, Oct. 5, 18:00-22:30 Handel Messiah at Tempelhof Airport.

<https://www.komische-oper-berlin.de/en/what/schedule/2024-09/messiah/649/>

Week 6 Monday, Oct. 14, 15:45-19:00

Guest: Sommer Ulrickson, choreographer and director. A Night at the Opera.

<https://sommer-ulrickson.com/vita.php>

Quiz # 1. Information about the quiz will be provided early in the semester.

Friday, Oct. 18, 23:59. Midterm essay due.

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

Week 7 Mon, Oct. 21 - Sun, Oct. 27 Fall break

- Week 8 Monday, Oct. 28, 15:45-19:00
 Guest: Peter Laki, Prof. of Music Emeritus, Bard College.
<https://www.bard.edu/faculty/details/?id=2122>
 Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau, Celebrating the 100th Anniversary of his Birth.
- Week 9 Monday, Nov. 4, Guest Leader: Tomoki Park.
 Peter Serkin's Synthesis of Performance and Composition
 Part II: Bringing New Music to Life
- Week 10 Monday, Nov. 11, 15:45-19:00 Gideon Klein and Music in the Holocaust.
- Week 11 Monday, Nov. 18, 15:45-19:00 TBA
- Week 12 Monday, Nov. 25, 15:45-19:00 Guest: Saleem Ashkar, pianist.
<https://www.saleemashkar.com/>
Quiz #2. Information about the quiz will be provided after Fall Break.
- Week 13 **Monday, Dec. 2, 19:30-22:30**
Concert Visit: Benjamin Hochman Recital at Piano Salon Christophori
https://www.konzertfluegel.com/N_konzerte.html
 Works by Beethoven, Benjamin, Downland, Josquin de Prez
- Week 14 Monday, Dec. 9, 15:45-19:00
 Guest: Misagh Joolaei <https://www.misaghjoolaei.com/>
 Persian Classical Music
- Week 15 **Friday, Dec. 13, at 23:59. Final essay due.**
 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.