

MUS 504: Analysis of Music in the 20th and 21st Centuries – Analysis of Music of the 21st Century
Instructor: Nirmali Fenn | Thursday, 3:30pm – 6:20pm

We are two decades into the 21st Century, and still there is no ‘mainstream’ in modern and contemporary music. Every piece presents individual challenges to composers, performers, listeners, and scholars.

To consider the nature of analysis itself, this course hones your skill in asking questions – deep, penetrative ones that will solidify the strength of your personal musical interpretation and engagement with contemporary music. We will therefore look at a wide variety of music and consider a range of possible analytical approaches. The analytic papers that construct a part of the course remind us that analysis, like any investigation, implies a viewpoint. The questions you will be assigned will challenge those analytic assumptions, honing your skill in zooming-in and zooming-out of a piece in order to concretize the significance of your individual artistic interpretation.

This course is suitable for all graduate students. For MM and DMA students, this fulfills the Elective Group 2 requirement. MA students in the Composition track must take either MUS 502 or MUS 504 in the first year, unless exempted via an examination or advisory assessment.

3 credits