

9-2013

# MUSI 415.01: Music of the 20th Century to the Present

James Randall

*University of Montana - Missoula*, james.randall@umontana.edu

Let us know how access to this document benefits you.

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarworks.umt.edu/syllabi>

---

## Recommended Citation

Randall, James, "MUSI 415.01: Music of the 20th Century to the Present" (2013). *Syllabi*. 676.  
<https://scholarworks.umt.edu/syllabi/676>

This Syllabus is brought to you for free and open access by the Course Syllabi at ScholarWorks at University of Montana. It has been accepted for inclusion in Syllabi by an authorized administrator of ScholarWorks at University of Montana. For more information, please contact [scholarworks@mso.umt.edu](mailto:scholarworks@mso.umt.edu).

**The School of Music  
The University of Montana  
Music 415H: Music of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century to the Present  
Upper-Division Writing Course: 3 Credits  
Fall 2013**

**Instructor:** James Randall  
**Office/phone:** 214 Music Bldg.

**E-mail:** [james.randall@umontana.edu](mailto:james.randall@umontana.edu)  
**Office Hrs:** Wed 10-11:30, or by appt.

---

**Pre-requisites:**

Students must have completed both their upper-division recital program and piano proficiency degree requirements, or have the consent of the instructor to enroll in this course.

**Course Description:**

Our course is an introduction to Western art music of the 20<sup>th</sup> century to the present. By studying representative works of major composers, we'll learn something about the immense changes in musical style that characterize this period, and also about the important cultural, political, and social movements that inspired and shaped such diverse music. As this course fulfills the upper-division writing requirement, you'll also develop writing skills that are relevant to a professional career in music.

**Student Goals and Objectives:**

- 1) To gain practical knowledge of composers of the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries, including a familiarity with musical styles, compositional techniques, and sources of creative inspiration.
- 2) To develop active listening skills, including the ability to recognize the musical styles of particular composers
- 3) Learning skills important to writing in the discipline of music. Each essay assignment explores a specific type of musical writing, including music criticism, program notes, and original research.

**Required Texts**

You have two required texts for this course: *The Rest is Noise*, by Alex Ross, and *Strunk's Source Readings in Music History: The Twentieth Century*, vol., 7, edited by Robert Morgan. Both are available for purchase online (see Moodle for link). A few copies of *Strunk's Source Readings* are available at the UC bookstore. Additional assigned readings will be posted online in PDF format as part of your Moodle course supplement.

**Listening Materials**

Listening examples for the course will be available through Naxos Music Library or YouTube. See Moodle for weekly assignments.

**Evaluation:**

Grades will be based upon the following:

Essay I (program note)

15%

Essay II	15%
Midterm I	15%
Midterm II	15%
Paper III	20%
Attendance and Participation in Discussion Group	20%

\*Attendance will be taken at each session. More than three absences will result a letter grade deduction of your final grade.

- Paper extensions will only be permitted with a valid excuse—illness, death in the family, etc.
- Students with special needs should consult with the instructor for accommodations.

Grading scale is as follows

A	93-100%	C	73-77%
A-	90-92%	C-	70-72%
B+	88-89%	D+	68-69%
B	83-87%	D	63-67%
B-	80-82%	D-	60-62%
C+	78-79%	F	59% and below

### **Academic Misconduct and the Student Conduct Code**

All students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or disciplinary sanction by the University. All students need to be familiar with the Student Conduct Code. The Code is available for review online at [www.umt.edu/SA/VP/SA/Index.cfm/page/1321](http://www.umt.edu/SA/VP/SA/Index.cfm/page/1321).

### **SCHEDULE**

Weekly reading and listening assignments, as well as other homework will be posted in the Weekly Assignments folder on Moodle. The following schedule provides rough weekly topics of study, dates for exams, and due dates for your three essays.

#### **Week 1: Aug 27 and 29**

Illegal Harmonies: Why does 20<sup>th</sup>-century music sound so different? Or does it?

#### **Week 2: Sept. 3 and 5**

*The Rest is Noise [RIN]*: Chapter 1: The Golden Age (Mahler and Strauss)

#### **Week 3: Sept. 10-12**

*RIN*: Chapter 2: Doctor Faust (Schoenberg, Berg, Webern)

#### **Week 4: Sept. 17-19**

*RIN*: Chapter 3: Dance of the Earth (Stravinsky, Bartok, Les Six)

#### **Week 5: Sept. 24-26**

*RIN*: Chapter 4: Invisible Men (Cook, Ives, Gershwin, Ellington)  
\*TURN IN ESSAY 1

**Week 6: Oct. 1-3**

*RIN*: Chapter 6: City of Nets (Hindemith, Schoenberg, Weill, Krenek)

**Week 7: Oct. 8-10**

*RIN*: Chapter 7: The Art of Fear (Shostakovich, Prokofiev)  
\*MIDTERM I EXAM

**Week 8: Oct. 15-17**

*RIN*: Chapter 8 (Copland, Seeger, Thomson, Blitzstein)

**Week 9: Oct. 22-24**

*RIN*: Chapters 9-10: Death Fugue: Music of the Third Reich; Zero Hour: US Army and German Music 1945-1949  
\*TURN IN ESSAY II

**Week 10: Oct. 29-31**

*RIN*: Chapter 11: Brave New World (Boulez, Babbitt, Cage, Stockhausen, Xenaxis)

**Week 11 Nov. 5-7**

*RIN*: Chapter 12: Grimes! Grimes! (Britten); Chapter 13 Zion Park (Messiaen, Ligeti, Berio)

**Week 12 Nov. 12-14**

*RIN*: Chapter 14: Beethoven was Wrong (Reich, Young, Riley, Partch, Feldman)  
\*MIDTERM 2 EXAM

**Week 13: Nov. 19-21**

*RIN*: Chapter 15: Sunken Cathedrals: Music at Century's End:

**Week 14: Nov. 26 (Thanksgiving break**

TBA

**Week 15: Dec 3-5**

TBA

**Week 16: Finals Week**

Final Meeting: Tuesday Dec. 10 5:30-7:30

\*Turn in Essay 3