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Fall 9-1-2017

### MUSI 415.50: Music of the Twentieth Century to the Present

James Randall

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**Music 415H.50 (ONLINE)**  
**Music of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century to the Present**  
**Upper-Division Writing Course: 3 Credits**  
**Fall 2017**

**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.

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**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). 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)	20%
Essay II	20%
Midterm Exam I	10%
Midterm Exam II	10%

Essay III	20%
Participation in Discussion Group	20%

- 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/VPSA/Index.cfm/page/1321](http://www.umt.edu/SA/VPSA/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 31-Sept 10)

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

#### Week 2 (Sept 11-17)

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

#### Week 3: (Sept 18-24)

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

#### Week 4 (Sept 25- Oct 1)

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

#### Week 5 (Oct 2-8)

*RIN*: Chapter 4: Invisible Men (Cook, Ives, Gershwin, Ellington)

\*TURN IN ESSAY 1

#### Week 6 (Oct. 9-15)

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

#### Week 7: (Oct. 16-22)

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

**Week 8 (Oct. 23-29)**

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

**Week 9 (Oct. 30-Nov 5)**

*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 (Nov. 6-12)**

*RIN*: Chapter 11: Brave New World (Boulez, Babbitt, Cage, Stockhausen, Xenaxis)  
\*Required concert: New Music Missoula, Nov 9: 7:30pm, Music Recital Hall  
(streaming option will be available for students not residing in Missoula)

**Week 11 (Nov 13-19)**

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

**Week 12 (Nov 20-26)**

New Music in Missoula  
THANKSGIVING BREAK!

**Week 13 (Nov 27- Dec 3)**

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

**Week 14 (Dec 4 - Dec 10)**

*RIN*: Chapter 15: Sunken Cathedrals: Music at Century's End  
\*Turn in Essay 3

**Week 15: Finals Week**

EXAM 2: Due by Friday Dec. 15 at 5:00pm