

# *Brahms and the Twilight of Romanticism*

## Syllabus

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**Instructor**

*John Gibbons*

**Quarter:** Winter

**Start – end date:** January 4<sup>th</sup> – February 23<sup>rd</sup>

**Session day/time:** Thursdays, 10:00 am – 12:30 pm

**Course Code and Section:** HUAS78005 24W1

**Email**

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**Course Overview**

This course examines the nostalgic (yet forward-looking) symphonies, piano music, and chamber music in which Brahms, along with his contemporaries, Wolff and Bruckner, created an enduring testimonial to Europe at the zenith of its cultural power. Music literacy is not required.

**Modality**

Remote learning

**Course readings**

| Week   | Reading Assignment   |
|--------|--|
| Week 1 | The view from the mountaintop: Beethoven's 9th and Brahms's 1st symphonies Half a century of "Faust" settings: Liszt's sonata, Wagner's "Faust" Overture, Brahms's "Tragic" Overture |
| Week 2 | The view from the Cosmos: Beethoven's 9th and Bruckner Pastoral Idyll: Brahms's 2nd and Dvorak's 6th symphonies  |
| Week 3 | Longing for the forest: Schumann's Forest Scenes, Brahms's selected lieder and waltzes, Goldmark's Rustic Wedding Symphony   |
| Week 4 | Brahms's 3rd and 4th Symphonies, Brahms's Piano Concerto   |
| Week 5 | Hugo Wolff and early Mahler: their relationship with Brahms "Culture wars" of Vienna's music scene Brahms's string quintets  |
| Week 6 | Brahms's late piano music, part 1: Opp. 116-117  |
| Week 7 | Brahms's late piano music, Part 2: Opp. 118-119 Brahms's clarinet quintet and clarinet sonatas   |
| Week 8 | Brahms's Four Serious Songs and Chorale Preludes, Op. 122 Zemlinsky and Schoenberg   |

## Optional/Recommended readings

Some instructors like to provide optional readings for their courses. If that's you, please use the table below to format your optional readings. If not, feel free to delete this section.

| Author                  | Title   |
|-------------------------|---|
| Reinhold Brinkmann      | <i>Late Idyll: The Second Symphony of Johannes Brahms</i>           |
| Walter Frisch           | <i>Brahms: The Four Symphonies</i>                                  |
| Hans Gal                | <i>Johannes Brahms: His Work and Personality</i>                    |
| Karl Geiringer          | <i>Brahms: His Life and Work</i>                                    |
| Malcolm MacDonald       | <i>Brahms</i>   |
| Arnold Schoenberg       | <i>Style and Idea: Selected Writings</i> ("Brahms the Progressive") |
| Robert Haven Schauffler | <i>The unknown Brahms: His life, character and works</i>            |

## Accessing remote courses

Remote courses are taught through our Canvas platform. Approximately two weeks before your class begins, we will add you to your canvas site using the email address you provided at the time of registration. An invitation will then be sent to that email. Click the "Get Started" button in the email to begin the Canvas login process. For step-by-step instructions, please visit <https://grahamschool.uchicago.edu/academic-programs/online/learning-resources/liberal-arts>. Once you've created your Canvas account, you can access any Graham School canvas course for which you are registered at: <https://canvas.uchicago.edu>.

## Accessibility information

Student Disability Services (SDS) works to provide resources, support and accommodations for all students with disabilities and works to remove physical and attitudinal barriers, which may prevent their full participation in the University community. Students that would like to request accommodations should contact SDS in advance of the first class session at 773.702.6000 or [disabilities@uchicago.edu](mailto:disabilities@uchicago.edu).

## UChicago CARES Statement:

The University and its faculty are committed to creating a safer and more inclusive learning environment for all students. At the University, all faculty, staff, graduate student instructors, and teaching assistants are considered "Individuals with Reporting Responsibilities" and are required to let the University's Title IX Coordinator know about any disclosures they receive from students about experiences of sexual misconduct (including sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, stalking, and sexual harassment). This includes disclosures of experiences that happened before their time at the University. This is to ensure that all students who have experienced sexual misconduct receive support, options, and information about their rights and resources. Students are not obligated to respond to this outreach, and this will not generate a report to law enforcement.

For more information, please see [this handout for students](#) as well as the [University's Policy on Harassment, Discrimination and Sexual Misconduct](#) and [Policy on Title IX Sexual Harassment](#). You can also reach out

directly for services and support from the Office for Sexual Misconduct Prevention and Support by emailing [titleix@uchicago.edu](mailto:titleix@uchicago.edu).

If you, or another student you know, wishes to speak to a confidential resource who does not have this reporting responsibility, please contact the Sexual Assault Dean on Call through the UChicago Safe App or at 773.834-HELP.

Questions? Contact Zoë Eisenman at [zmel@uchicago.edu](mailto:zmel@uchicago.edu).