20th century: the crisis of tonality: music at an impasse

INSTRUCTOR
Charles and Amy Thomas Elder

INSTRUCTOR CONTACT
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Instructors can be contacted through Canvas message

DATES AND TIMES
COURSE LENGTH: 10 Weeks
DATES: Oct. 3 – Dec. 12
DAY OF THE WEEK: Thursday
TIMES: 9:30 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.

LOCATION
Gleacher Center 450 N. Cityfront Plaza Drive
COURSE CODE and SECTION: BASC 50113 24A1
PREREQUISITES:
At least 2 years of the Basic Program

COURSE DESCRIPTION
We will look at some of the momentous innovations in classical music in the twentieth century, specifically in respect to tonality and problems of “form”—in the seminar, as viewed by three major composers—Arnold Schoenberg, Aaron Copland, and George Rochberg—and framed through Roger Scruton’s insightful and accessible (if controversial) book, Understanding Music; in the tutorial, as imaginatively configured through Thomas Mann’s great novel, Doctor Faustus. Some familiarity with modern classical music is essential. (Musical expertise will be appreciated.) In addition to the readings listed, we also recommend—and will occasionally refer to: Ross, Alex, The Rest is Noise.

REQUIRED TEXTS
2. Mann, Thomas, Doctor Faustus, tr. John E. Woods (Vintage) 978-0375701160
4. Schoenberg, Arnold, Style and Idea (Philosophical Library) 978-0806530956
5. Scruton, Roger, Understanding Music: Philosophy and Interpretation (Continuum) 978-1847065063

RECOMMENDED TEXTS
1. Ross, Alex, The Rest is Noise (Picador) 978-0312427719
2. Scruton, Roger, Music as an Art (Continuum) 978-1472955715
3. German Essays on Music: Theodor W. Adorno, Ernst Bloch, Thomas Mann, and others (German Library) (Continuum) 978-0826407214
Students can purchase books at the Gleacher Center Bookstore online at https://chicagobooth.bncollege.com/shop/chicagobooth/page/find-textbooks using the Textbook order form, or by using the ISBN number to order the correct edition elsewhere.
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<th>DAY</th>
<th>AUTHOR</th>
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| WEEK 1  | Scruton Mann | *Understanding Music*, Chaps. 1 & 2 (pp. 3-32)  
[Suggested: Scruton, “Music and the Transcendental,” from *Music as an Art*, pp. 71-84, posted to Canvas]  
*Doctor Faustus*, chaps. I-VII (pp. 5-52) |
| Oct. 3  |        |                    |
| WEEK 2  | Scruton Mann | *Understanding Music*, Chaps. 3-6 (pp. 33-82)  
*Doctor Faustus*, chaps. VIII-XII (pp. 53-107) |
| Oct. 10 |        |                    |
| WEEK 3  | Schoenberg Mann | “The Relationship to the Text,” “New Music, Outmoded Music, Style and Idea,” in *Style and Idea* (pp. 1-6, 37-51)  
[Suggested: Hegel, “From Aesthetics” (GEOM: 70-76)]  
*Doctor Faustus*, chaps. XIII-XVII (pp. 108-58) |
| Oct. 17 |        |                    |
| WEEK 4  | Schoenberg Mann | “Composition with Twelve Tones,” and “Heart and Brain in Music,” in *Style and Idea* (pp. 102-143; 153-179)  
[Suggested: Rochberg, “Tradition and Twelve-Tone Music,” in *The Aesthetics of Survival: A Composer’s View of Twentieth-Century Music* (pp. 29-45) and Scruton, “Tonality,” from *Music as an Art* (pp.85-107)]  
*Doctor Faustus*, chaps. XVIII-XXIII (pp. 159-225) |
| Oct. 24 |        |                    |
*Doctor Faustus*, chaps. XXIV-XXV (pp. 226-65) |
| Oct. 31 |        |                    |
| WEEK 6  | Sessions Copland Mann | “How a ‘Difficult’ Composer Got That Way,” in *Roger Sessions on Music* (pp. 169-71) [Canvas]  
*Music and Imagination*, Introduction and Part One, “Music and the Imaginative Mind” (pp. 1-57)  
*Doctor Faustus*, chaps. XXVI-XXX (pp. 266-326) |
| Nov. 7  |        |                    |
| WEEK 7  | Copland Mann | *Music and Imagination*, Part Two, “Musical Imagination and the Contemporary Scene” (pp. 61-111)  
*Doctor Faustus*, chaps. XXXI-XXXIV (pp. 327-98) |
| Nov. 14 |        |                    |
*Doctor Faustus*, chaps. XXXV-XXXVIII (pp. 399-436) |
| Nov. 21 |        |                    |
WEEKLY READING SCHEDULE

| WEEK 9  | Rochberg Mann | “On Schoenberg and Serialism,” in *The Aesthetics of Survival* (pp. 29-68) 
Doctor Faustus, chaps. XXXIX-XLIV (pp. 437-95) |
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<td>Dec. 5</td>
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<td><em>Doctor Faustus</em>, chaps. X-XXIX (pp. 437-95)</td>
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<th>WEEK 10</th>
<th>Rochberg Mann</th>
<th>“In Search of Music,” “No Center,” “Humanism versus Science,” and “On the Third String Quartet,” in <em>The Aesthetics of Survival</em> (pp. 151-160; 164-173; 239-242)</th>
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<td>Dec. 12</td>
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<td><em>Doctor Faustus</em>, chaps. XLV-Epilogue (pp. 496-534)</td>
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Students will receive an invitation to join the Graham School Student Community Canvas Site, a place to read announcements, have discussions, ask questions, and find resources.

**DISABILITY 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 meeting at 773.702.6000 or disabilities@uchicago.edu.