

BASIC PROGRAM of LIBERAL EDUCATION for ADULTS

Autumn Quarter 2024

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

INSTRUCTOR	DATES AND TIMES	LOCATION
Charles and Amy Thomas Elder	COURSE LENGTH: 10 Weeks DATES: Oct. 3 – Dec. 12	Gleacher Center 450 N. Cityfront Plaza Drive
EMAIL: celder@uchicago.edu ; amythomas@uchicago.edu Instructors can be contacted through Canvas message	DAY OF THE WEEK: Thursday TIMES: 9:30 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.	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

1. Copland, Aaron, *Music and Imagination* (Charles Eliot Norton Lectures) (Harvard University Press; New Ed edition) 978-0674589155
2. Mann, Thomas, *Doctor Faustus*, tr. John E. Woods (Vintage) 978-0375701160
3. Rochberg, George, *The Aesthetics of Survival: A Composer’s View of Twentieth-Century Music* (University of Michigan Press; Revised, Expanded edition) 978-0472030262
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

WEEKLY READING SCHEDULE

DAY	AUTHOR	READING ASSIGNMENT
WEEK 1 Oct. 3	Scruton Mann	<i>Understanding Music</i> , Chaps. 1 & 2 (pp. 3-32) [Suggested: Scruton, "Music and the Transcendental," from <i>Music as an Art</i> , pp. 71-84, posted to Canvas] <i>Doctor Faustus</i> , chaps. I-VII (pp. 5-52)
WEEK 2 Oct. 10	Scruton Mann	<i>Understanding Music</i> , Chaps. 3-6 (pp. 33-82) <i>Doctor Faustus</i> , chaps. VIII-XII (pp. 53-107)
WEEK 3 Oct. 17	Schoenberg Mann	"The Relationship to the Text," "New Music, Outmoded Music, Style and Idea," in <i>Style and Idea</i> (pp. 1-6, 37-51) [Suggested: Hegel, "From Aesthetics" (GEOM: 70-76)] <i>Doctor Faustus</i> , chaps. XIII-XVII (pp. 108-58)
WEEK 4 Oct. 24	Schoenberg Mann	"Composition with Twelve Tones," and "Heart and Brain in Music," in <i>Style and Idea</i> (pp. 102-143; 153-179) [Suggested: Rochberg, "Tradition and Twelve-Tone Music," in <i>The Aesthetics of Survival: A Composer's View of Twentieth-Century Music</i> (pp. 29-45) and Scruton, "Tonality," from <i>Music as an Art</i> (pp.85-107)] <i>Doctor Faustus</i> , chaps. XVIII-XXIII (pp. 159-225)
WEEK 5 Oct. 31	Schoenberg Mann	"Criteria for the Evaluation of Music," "On Revient Toujours," "The Blessing of the Dressing," "This Is My Fault," and "To the Wharfs," in <i>Style and Idea</i> (pp. 180-195, 211-221) <i>Doctor Faustus</i> , chaps. XXIV-XXV (pp. 226-65)
WEEK 6 Nov. 7	Sessions Copland Mann	"How a 'Difficult' Composer Got That Way," in <i>Roger Sessions on Music</i> (pp. 169-71) [Canvas] <i>Music and Imagination</i> , Introduction and Part One, "Music and the Imaginative Mind" (pp. 1-57) <i>Doctor Faustus</i> , chaps. XXVI-XXX (pp. 266-326)
WEEK 7 Nov. 14	Copland Mann	<i>Music and Imagination</i> , Part Two, "Musical Imagination and the Contemporary Scene" (pp. 61-111) <i>Doctor Faustus</i> , chaps. XXXI-XXXIV (pp. 327-98)
WEEK 8 Nov. 21	Rochberg Mann	"On the New Image of Music," "The Fantastic and the Logical," and "The Marvelous in Art," in <i>The Aesthetics of Survival: A Composer's View of Twentieth-Century Music</i> (pp. 3-25; 189-211) [Suggested: Rochberg, "Indeterminacy in the New Music," in <i>The Aesthetics of Survival</i> , pp. 3-15.] <i>Doctor Faustus</i> , chaps. XXXV-XXXVIII (pp. 399-436)

WEEKLY READING SCHEDULE

WEEK 9 Dec. 5	Rochberg Mann	“On Schoenberg and Serialism,” in <i>The Aesthetics of Survival</i> (pp. 29-68) <i>Doctor Faustus</i> , chaps. XXXIX-XLIV (pp. 437-95)
WEEK 10 Dec. 12	Rochberg Mann	“In Search of Music,” “No Center,” “Humanism versus Science,” and “On the Third String Quartet,” in <i>The Aesthetics of Survival</i> (pp. 151-160; 164-173; 239-242) <i>Doctor Faustus</i> , chaps. XLV-Epilogue (pp. 496-534)

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.