

MUS 480: Advanced Seminar in Musicological Topics

Topics: Fall 2008 – Spring 2010

While we will make every effort to adhere to what appears below, topics may occasionally change

Fall 2008

MUS 480: *The Music of Benjamin Britten* (counts as a 20th/21st-century topic)

Instructor: Speare

This course will focus on the operas, *War Requiem* and selected orchestra and chamber music.

Spring 2009

MUS 480: *Music in Latin American Culture* (counts as a 20th/21st-century topic)

Instructor: Connell

A survey of select folk, popular and art music traditions in Central and South America and the Caribbean. In particular, this class will examine the ways in which music embodies concepts of identity, nationalism, race, and class within the region.

Fall 2009

MUS 480: *Aaron Copland: His Music and His World* (counts as a 20th/21st-century topic)

Instructor: Aponte

This seminar will examine Aaron Copland and his music from several perspectives: we will look into the aesthetics of musical modernism, the challenges of producing a type of music that could be regarded as “American,” and the role of politics in shaping public life in the U.S. in the 1930s, 40s, and 50s.

Spring 2010

MUS 480: *Music of J. S. Bach*

Instructor: Gibson

An exploration of Bach’s music and its contexts, with special emphasis on the six *Brandenburg Concertos* and the *St. Matthew Passion*. With the help of recent scholarship and performances, we will study the intersections of Bach’s music with performance practice, aesthetics, analysis, social and political contexts, and musical symbolism.

- **For updates, check the “links” area at http://www.jmu.edu/music/faculty_areas/music_history/index.html**
- **Address any questions to Profs. Aponte, Connell, Gibson, or Speare**
- **Feel free to contact musicology faculty members with suggestions for seminar topics you would like to see offered**

MUS 480 Information and Requirements by Area:

Following completion of the core music history surveys (MUS 373-376), MUS 480 offers students the opportunity to venture beyond general survey approaches and to explore specific topics within classes of no more than 20 students. The course focuses on a different topic each semester, allowing students to hone their critical abilities and develop music-specific research and writing skills via the topic of their choice. MUS 480 fulfills the writing-intensive requirement for music majors.

Requirements by area typically fulfilled with one or more MUS 480 courses (see Undergraduate Catalog for more information):

- **Vocal Performance** – approved music electives (**2 credits**)
- **Piano Performance** – approved music electives (**8 credits**), including at least **two iterations of MUS 480**
- **Piano Accompanying/Coaching** – approved music electives (**5 credits**)
- **Instrumental Performance** – **MUS 480 on a 20th/21st-century topic required.*** Additional MUS 480 may be taken to fulfill approved music electives (**6 credits**)
- **Composition** – **MUS 480 on a 20th/21st-century topic required.*** Additional MUS 480 may be taken to fulfill approved music electives (**2 credits**)
- **Music Industry** – “free” electives (**3 credits**)
- **Music Theatre** – music, theatre, or dance electives (**3 credits**)
- **Music Education** – no MUS 480 or elective requirements

*** Notes:**

- Instrumental performance majors and composition majors *must* take MUS 480 when it focuses on a 20th/21st-century topic. Such topics will be offered in fall of odd-numbered years, and possibly at other times as well.
- Students without MUS 480 or “elective” requirements may still choose to take the course if space is available.