

Debussy & Ravel

SYLLABUS

Instructor

Dr. Reginald Bain, Professor
Composition and Theory

Contact Information

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Office: Music Building, R227
Office Hours: MW 1:00-2:00 pm, or by appointment

Course Information

Term: Fall 2024
Format: MW: 10:50-11:40 pm, B3WEB¹
Location: Music Building, R213
Website: <<https://reginaldbain.com/vc/musc726d/>>
Blackboard: <<https://blackboard.sc.edu/>>

COURSE MODULES

1. Introduction
 2. Piano Music
 3. Ballet Music
 4. String Quartets
 5. Solo and Other Chamber Music
 6. Vocal Music
 7. Comparative Analysis
 8. Orchestral Music
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Description

Analysis of melody, harmony, rhythm, form, style, and orchestration in the music of Claude Debussy and Maurice Ravel.

Course Materials

Reading assignments, digital scores, and analytical media will be made available in electronic format via Blackboard and the course website.

Instructional Methods

This course will be taught using multiple instructional methods that include lecture, group discussion, and student-centered learning approaches. Students will complete reading, analysis, listening, and score reading assignments that focus on model analyses of major works that illustrate the main topics of the course. The capstone project for the course is an instructor-mentored student presentation with associated critical discussion.

Course Goals and Objectives

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Analyze the music of Debussy and Ravel
- Compare/contrast the music of Debussy, Ravel, and related composers
- Explain how analysis may inform contemporary performances of Debussy & Ravel's music
- Navigate online resources for Debussy and Ravel scholarship
- Engage in, and lead, an analytical discussion
- Create a structural diagram and analytical musical examples for a work by Debussy or Ravel
- Plan, research, develop and deliver an oral presentation on an instructor-approved topic

¹ Blended/Hybrid Up to 49% web. Course that is taught both face-to-face and online with 49% or less of the course offered online. Course meets in-person on Monday/Wednesday and assignments/activities are completed asynchronously online by students in lieu of a Friday meeting.

Technical Requirements

A computer, Web access, and a university-provided Blackboard account are required to access the digital course materials and submit work via Blackboard. Microsoft Word (.docx), Excel (.xlsx), and PowerPoint (.pptx) are the preferred document creation formats. These programs are available for free to all USC students. For more information, see *Links for Students > Blended Course Information* on the course website.

Course Requirements

Weekly reading, score study, listening, analysis, and asynchronous assignments/activities (see *Daily Schedule* and *Listening/Analysis*). Daily participation in class. Daily use of the course Blackboard page and website. There will be an online midterm exam and online final exam. There will also be an *Analysis Project* and a *Final Presentation*. The later be an oral presentation on a Debussy and Ravel-related topic with required supporting printed handout and digital media.

Course Format & Policies

This course is being offered as a blended course. The course meets face-to-face (f2f) twice per week (Mondays and Wednesdays). Typical activities in the f2f classroom include lecture, interacting with your instructor and classmates, analytical discussions, open Q & A sessions, review sessions, presentations, etc. Assignments/activities are completed asynchronously by students in lieu of a Friday meeting. Most of the work for the course will occur online in Blackboard. The learning modules in Blackboard are organized into weekly assignments/activities that include links to videos, scores, recordings, analyses, quizzes, exercises, software for computer-aided instruction, etc. Online activities and in-class activities are designed to build on each other. Weekly assignments/activities will be posted on Wednesday and are due the following Monday at class time (unless otherwise stated). Completion of the online assignments/activities in a timely manner and active participation in class are critical to success in this course. Late work cannot be accepted – except in the case of a documented excused absence. Work that is not submitted is averaged into the student's grade using a score of zero. For more information, see *Links for Students > Blended Course Information* on the course website.

Attendance Policy

This course will follow the university's attendance policy which is available online at:

<https://academicbulletins.sc.edu/undergraduate/policies-regulations/undergraduate-academic-regulations/#text>

Attendance will be taken at every face-to-face meeting and the record posted in Blackboard. It is the student's responsibility to sign the daily *attendance sheet*. Attendance is subject to the university's "5% Rule." If the student exceeds this unexcused absence threshold, the instructor may exact a one-letter grade penalty.

University Policies

As described on the university's *Carolinian Creed*, *Honor Code* and *Center for Teaching Excellence* websites, students are expected to practice the highest possible standards of academic integrity and classroom etiquette. For more detailed info., see *Links for Students* on the course website.

Student Services

Information about **Graduate Student Opportunities and Support, Wellness at the School of Music**, and **other student services** is also available on the course website under *Links for Students*.

Student Disability Resource Center

If you are registered with the Student Disability Resource Center (SDRC), please make sure I receive a copy of your accommodation letter by the first day of class so I may work with you (and with SDRC, as necessary) to make sure your accommodations are met. The SDRC is located in Close-Hipp, Suite 102. You may reach the SDRC via e-mail sadrc@mailbox.sc.edu, or phone (803) 777-6142.

Grading Scale

A = 90-100%; B+ = 85-89%; B = 80-84%; C+ = 75-79%; C = 70-74%; D+ = 65-69%; D = 60-64%; F = 0-59%

Grade Distribution

20%	-	Assignments and Activities	15%	-	Midterm Exam
20%	-	Analysis Project	15%	-	Final Exam
30%	-	Final Presentation			