

***Debussy & Ravel***

**SYLLABUS**

---

**Instructor**

Dr. Reginald Bain, Professor  
Composition and Theory

**Contact Information**

E-mail: [rbain@mozart.sc.edu](mailto:rbain@mozart.sc.edu)  
Phone/Voice mail: (803) 777-8183  
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, B3WEB<sup>1</sup>  
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. Other Chamber Music
  6. Vocal Music
  7. Comparative Analysis
  8. Orchestration
- 

**Prerequisite**

Undergraduate tonal harmony and voice leading

**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, recordings, and analytical media will be made available in electronic format via Blackboard and the course website.

**Learning Objectives**

Students will learn how to:

- Analyze the music of Debussy and Ravel
- Compare/contrast the music of Debussy, Ravel, and related composers
- Compare/contrast contemporary performances/interpretations works by Debussy & Ravel
- Create structural diagrams and analytical musical examples for works by Debussy & Ravel
- Navigate online resources for Debussy and Ravel scholarship
- Plan, research, develop, and deliver an oral presentation on an instructor-approved topic

**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.

---

<sup>1</sup> 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.

## Course Requirements

Weekly reading, score study, listening/analysis, and assignments/activities (see *Daily Schedule* and *Listening/Analysis* on the course website). Daily participation in class. Weekly use of the course Blackboard page and website. There will be an online midterm and final exam. There will also be a midterm *Analysis Project* (on a work by Debussy or Ravel) and *Final Presentation* (a 10-min. oral presentation on a Debussy and/or Ravel 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, recordings, scores, analyses, quizzes, software, 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 an *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 attendance 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 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 information, 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](mailto:sadrc@mailbox.sc.edu), or phone (803) 777-6142.

## Classroom Policies

I am committed to making each day we meet a safe, active, focused, positive, and distraction-free learning environment for everyone in the class. I expect all students to follow the university guidelines for classroom *safety* and *acceptable conduct*, as well as the *classroom etiquette* guidelines below:

- Please do not enter the classroom while music is playing. You may enter the classroom (as quietly as possible) when the when the music stops playing.
- Cell phones should be put in silent mode before the class begins and should typically be out of plain sight.
- The use of laptops and tablets can be a significant distraction to others. Please be sensitive to this fact and limit their potential for distraction by using your electronic devices only for class-related activities.

## 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/Activities	15%	-	Midterm Exam
20%	-	Analysis Project	15%	-	Final Exam
30%	-	Final Presentation			