

University of South Carolina  
School of Music

BAIN MUSC 726  
*Topics in Music Theory*

*Debussy & Ravel*

**SYLLABUS**

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**Instructor**

Dr. Reginald Bain, Professor  
Composition and Theory

**Contact Information**

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Office: Music Building, R227  
Office Hours: MTW 3:50-4:10 pm, or by appointment

**Course Information**

Term: Summer 2023, 3-Week Session III (3S5)  
Dates: June 19 - July 6  
Time: MTW: 4:10-7:40 pm<sup>1</sup>  
Website: <<https://reginaldbain.com/vc/musc726d/>>  
Blackboard: <<https://blackboard.sc.edu/>>

**COURSE MODULES**

1. Piano Music
2. Ballet Music
3. String Quartets
4. Solo & Chamber Music
5. Opera, Vocal and Choral Music
6. 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.

*Prerequisite:* Undergraduate tonal harmony and voice leading.

**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 (e.g., active learning exercises, flipping, and online activities). Students will complete analysis, writing, listening, and score reading exercises 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 by Debussy & Ravel using traditional and recently developed analytical techniques
- Compare/contrast the styles of the two composers
- Explain how analysis may inform contemporary performances
- Navigate online resources for Debussy and Ravel scholarship
- Engage in, and lead, an analytical discussion
- Plan, research, develop and present an analytical oral presentation with supporting documentation that includes musical examples and diagrams

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<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/Tuesday/Wednesday and activities/assignments are completed asynchronously online by students in lieu of a Thursday meeting. The university-scheduled final exam day is Friday, July 7.

## Course Requirements

Daily reading, analysis, writing, score study and listening. Daily participation in the in-class exercises and class discussions. Daily use of the course Blackboard page and website to access digital course materials. Two analysis projects (1. *Debussy Project*, and 2. *Ravel Project*), and a final oral presentation (*Final Project*) with supporting documentation. Three asynchronous Thursday projects: 1. *Visualizing Debussy & Ravel*, 2. *Special Topics*, and 3. *Final Project Self-Reflection*. See the *Daily Schedule* and Blackboard for due dates/times.

## 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. PDF is the required digital document submission format. For more detailed information, see *Links for Students > Blended Course Information* on the course website.

## 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.

## 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/>

## Classroom Policies

I am committed to making each day we meet an 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 instructor indicates that the current active listening exercise has ended.
- 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.
- During certain *active learning activities*, electronic devices may need to be stowed away.
- In the case of *illness* or *extended absence*, be sure to keep the instructor informed via e-mail.
- Students are expected to be *fully attentive* to the *presentation of work by colleagues*.
- Students are expected to communicate ideas clearly and effectively. All work must reflect *acceptable standards of written English*. If you need help with your writing, the USC Writing Center (703 Byrnes Building, 803-777-2078) is committed to helping students take advantage of all the opportunities for learning that exist within the writing process.

## 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

- 5% - Daily attendance, course engagement, preparation, and interaction with colleagues
- 30% - Three asynchronous projects (10% ea.)
- 20% - Debussy Project
- 20% - Ravel Project
- 25% - Final Project

## COURSE OVERVIEW

### Calendar

	<b>M</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>Th</b>
June	19	20	21	22
June	26	27	28	29
July	3	4	5	6

### Daily Schedule

<b>Week 1</b>	<b>June 19-22</b>	<b>Topics</b>	<b>Reading</b>
	Mon., 6/19	<i>Piano Music</i>	Ross 2018
	Tues., 6/20	<i>cont.</i>	Tymoczko 2011 Puri 2017
	Wed., 6/21	<i>Ballet Music</i>	Pritchard 2018 Kilpatrick 2011
	Thurs., 6/22	<i>Async. Thursday Activity #1: Visualizing Debussy &amp; Ravel</i>	Howat 1983
<b>Week 2</b>	<b>June 26-29</b>		
	Mon., 6/26	DEBUSSY PROJECT DISCUSSIONS <i>String Quartets</i>	Yih 2000 Heinzelmann 2011
	Tues., 6/27	<i>Solo &amp; Chamber Music</i>	Cook 1994 Lewin 1987 Kaminsky 2003
	Wed., 6/28	<i>Opera, Vocal and Choral Music</i>	Kaminsky 2000 Shearin 1979
	Thurs., 6/29	<i>Async. Thursday Activity #2: Special Topics</i>	DeVoto 2004
<b>Week 3</b>	<b>July 3-6</b>		
	Mon., 7/3	RAVEL PROJECT DISCUSSIONS Project Consultations	
	Wed., 7/5	FINAL PRESENTATIONS	
	Thurs., 7/6	<i>Async. Thursday Activity #3: CAP Self-Reflection</i>	

### References

See BAIN MUSC 726D Bibliography, available online at: <https://reginaldbain.com/vc/musc726d/pub/biblio.html>.