

**MUS 504, Analysis of Music of the 21st Century:  
Analyzing Tonal Music from the 20th and 21st Centuries  
Instructor: Matthew Barnson  
Monday, 10am – 12:50pm**

This course acknowledges that, despite the theoretical and analytical attention to post-tonal or atonal music in academia over the past century, much of the most exciting and beloved music composed since 1900 has been and continues to be tonal. Yet the tools used to analyze Western classical music prior 1900 are imperfect and the tools used to analyze post-tonal repertoires are often irrelevant. In this course we'll look at various theoretical analytical approaches drawn from both in order to better understand the works of composers ranging from Debussy, Price, and Rachmaninoff to Thomas Ades, Julius Eastman, and Caroline Shaw. We will also examine the influence from and the influence on film, Broadway, and popular musics on recent Western classical music exemplified by Sondheim, John Williams, Howard Shore, Reich, Glass, Pärt, and Adams; the "postmodernism" of Schnittke, Rihm, and Gubaidulina; and a younger generation of composers like Jessie Montgomery, Nico Muhly, and Sarah Kirkland Snider.

Regular coursework will include reading some theoretical texts, critically listening, weekly analysis assignments, and short, phrase-length model composition exercises. Students should allot about 6 hours of work outside of class per week. Regular participation and short presentations will be required.

*This course is suitable for all graduate students. For MM and DMA students, it fulfills the Elective Group 2 requirement. Students in the MA in Composition and the MA in Critical Music Studies must take either MUS 502 or MUS 504 in the first year, unless exempted via the relevant examination (Composition) or advisory assessment (Critical Music Studies).*

*3 credits*