

## **Music and Human Experience**

*Tuesdays 7:00 – 9:45*

*Jonsson Performance Hall*

Dr. Robert Xavier Rodríguez  
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JO 4.640 T - 1:00-2:00 (by appt. only)

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GR 4.202 T - 4:30-5:15

### **Syllabus**

1. **Aug. 25 - Overview/Definitions/Approaches**
2. **Sept. 1 - Elements of Music & Psychology**  
Reading: Copland (*What to Listen for in Music*), Butler/McManus
3. **Sept. 8 - Perception and the Brain**  
Reading: Storr plus Dowling handout
4. **Sept. 15 - Memory/Musical Form(s) and Style I**  
Reading: Hallam handout I, Wingell
5. **(GR 4.208) Sept. 22 - Memory/Musical Form(s) and Style II**  
Reading: Bernstein
6. **Sept. 29 - Emotion, Information and Human Behavior I**  
Reading: Meyer, Copland (*Music and Imagination*)
- Oct. 2 – 8:00 p.m. CONCERT – SOLI Ensemble – JO Performance Hall**
7. **Oct. 6 - Emotion, Information and Human Behavior II**  
Reading: Gazzaniga
8. **Oct. 13 - The Creative Process**  
Reading: Stravinsky, Hallam handout II
9. **(GR 4.208) Oct. 20 - Artists and Their Work / Abnormal Behavior**
10. **Oct. 27 - Musical Representations of Religion, Death/Afterlife and the Supernatural**
11. **Nov. 3 - Musical Representations of Humor**
12. **Nov. 10 - Musical Representations of Sexual Experience**
13. **Nov. 17 - Mozart as Psychologist**
14. **Nov. 24 - Social Psychology of Music/Personality**

15. Dec. 1 - Conclusion

Dec. 4 - 8:00 p.m. CONCERT - *Musica Nova* - JO Performance Hall (Notebooks Due)

## Guidelines for Musical Discussion

### **Definition of Music:**

human construction of sound and time intended for or perceived as aesthetic experience.

### **Points of Attack for Verbalization/Criticism in the Arts:**

reporter, theorist, analyst, historian, judge, companion, independent creator

### **The Elements of Music:**

Location: antiphonal music, performance spaces, environmental music

Intensity: dynamics, crescendo/ diminuendo, ppp/ fff/ balance

Duration: rhythm (regular, irregular), meter (simple/ compound, duple/ triple), tempo, accent/ stress, syncopation, accelerando/ ritardando, beat/ pulse, measures, prestissimo/ larghissimo, rubato, articulation, legato/ staccato

Timbre: voice types, families of musical instruments, score order, pizzicato, solo, tutti, electronics

Pitch: note/ tone, register (soprano, alto, tenor, bass), voices/ texture, pitch class, interval/ unison, harmony, melody, ratios, overtone series, dissonance/ consonance, tension/ resolution, musical gravity, common practice, keys/ scales, chords, sequences, parallel/ contrary motion, diatonic circle of 5ths, modulating circle of 5ths, pandiatonic, polytonality, atonality, 12-tone (serial), microtones, clusters, sound mass

### **The Organization of Music:**

Elements of Form: unity/ variety, motif, theme/ melody, phrase, period, movement, variation, counterpoint, imitation, texture

Musical Forms: ABA, variations, ground bass (chaconne/ passacaglia), ritornello, binary, ternary, rondo (ABACA), canon, fugue, sonata-allegro, concerto, cadenza, serial techniques, open form (aleatoric), improvisation

Dramatic Structure: exposition, conflict, crisis, climax, dénouement

### **Emotion and Meaning in Music:**

Absolute vs. Program Music; Absolute vs. Inherent vs. Referential; Imitation, Symbol, System

### **Music in Society (Historical Context):**

Dates, Periods, Style Characteristics, Schools of Thought (isms), Major Figures and their Musical Personalities, Representative Masterworks, Political/ Economic/ Social Climate (Power Structure and Market), Corollaries in Literature/ Theater/ Visual Art