



## Introduction to Music in Western European History (3 Credits)

Mus-154, Spring Semester 2025

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Instructor	Dr Tim Williams
E-mail	twilliams@harlaxton.ac.uk
Course Meeting Days and Time	Mondays, 11am-12.15pm and Wednesdays 11am-12.15pm through term
Course mode	In-person classes
Required Experiential Learning Dates	Field visit to St Wulfram's Church, Grantham, currently being confirmed  Mondays and Wednesdays, 10am till 1.30pm
Office Hours	Dr Williams is also regularly in college on Tuesday evenings, rehearsing the college choir

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### Catalog Description:

This course gives a broad introduction to aspects of the history of music as an artform in western European history. No previous technical understanding of music will be required or assumed, and students do not need to play instruments. Although this course would be of interest to those who are musicians, it is not primarily designed for those who are music majors. It is hoped that all who take this course wish to enhance and enrich their understanding of cultural, intellectual and societal history through learning about the role that music has played in all of these dimensions.

Although the course will be broadly chronological, beginning by explore aspects of medieval music-making and ending with classes on contemporary music, much of the focus will be on the intersection of music in culture in the intervening eras, such as the Renaissance, the Baroque, the Classical period, Romanticism and Modernism. Approaches to music will focus on specific composers and musical artworks, consider themes such as the interrelation of music with intellectual thought, canon and marginalisation, the role of performers and listeners in musical reception, and the development of newer musical genres. How (as well as reflecting changes in other arts) has music uniquely shaped the cultural landscape of Western Europe?

### Credit Hour Policy Statement:

"This class meets the federal credit hour policy of 1 hour of class with an expected 2 hours of additional student work outside of class each week for approximately 15 weeks for each hour of credit, or a total of 45-75 total hours for each credit." (Def 1)

### General Education Requirements:

This course meets the General Education requirements for Outcome 5.

### Course Learning Objectives:

MUS-154 focuses on a selection of major musical composers, artworks and trends that have shaped (and been shaped by) aspects of Western European cultural history. The course aims to deepen students' appreciation of music across many different historical eras, and to equip students to engage with music history. It is hoped that this appreciation will enhance student's overall education and understanding of cultural history. The outcomes of this learning will include development of skills in:

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- a. Musical, artistic, philosophical, intellectual and historical appreciation
- b. Intercultural knowledge and understanding
- c. Critical and creative thinking
- d. Inquiry, research, and analysis
- e. Written and oral communication
- f. Information and literacy
- g. Teamwork and problem solving

### Methods of Instructions:

A combination of in-class discussion of musical artworks, short lectures, and class-related activities.

### Textbooks and Required Reading:

The following texts give an introduction to many of the issues and historical styles addressed in the course. Further specific reading and listening and online resources will be assigned during each week of class.

Nicholas Cook, *Music: A Very Short Introduction* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2020)

J Peter Burkholder, Donald Jay Grout and Claude V. Palisca, *A History of Western Music* (New York, multiple editions)

### Course Schedule:

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(Classes commencing Monday 13 January, 2025)

#### Week One:

Seminar 1: Introduction. How does music influence cultural identity?

Seminar 2: What is musicology?

#### Week Two:

Seminar 1: Introduction to the earliest origins of Gregorian chant

Seminar 2: Manuscripts as historical documents: how do we construct music history?

#### Week Three:

Seminar 1: Musical identity in late medieval society

Seminar 2: Renaissance and Reformation

Thursday 30 January, deadline: Assignment on primary/secondary evidence in music history

#### Week Four:

Seminar 1: Palestrina and the Counter-Reformation

Seminar 2: A new musical world: understanding the Baroque

#### Week Five:

Seminar 1: Detailed study of selected sections of G.F. Handel's oratorio *The Messiah*

Seminar 2: Sacred and secular musical identities: J.S. Bach

#### Week Six:

Seminar 1: Writing about music workshop

Seminar 2: Detailed study of selected sections of J.S. Bach's *St Matthew Passion*

#### Week Seven:

Seminar 1: Experiential visit to St Wulfam's Church, Grantham, exploring the relation of sound, space and music history

Seminar 2: Review, including time to support the music in historical context assignment

Thursday 27 February deadline: Music in historical context essay

#### Mid-Semester Break

(Classes re-commence Monday 10 March, 2025)

#### Week Eight:



Seminar 1: Viennese Classical Music and the age of Enlightenment  
Seminar 2: Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, the 'Eternal Child'?

*Week Nine:*

Seminar 1: Mozart's 'last word': the *Requiem* in context  
Seminar 2: The growth of Romanticism in music

*Week Ten:*

Seminar 1: Ludwig van Beethoven, the Ninth Symphony and Schiller's *Ode to joy*  
Seminar 2: Canon formation - how do we define greatness in music?

*Week Eleven:*

Seminar 1: Poetry, literature and artistic representation via music in the nineteenth century.  
Seminar 2: Music from the margins: alternative perspectives on music history  
[Thursday 3 April deadline - assignment on musical identity](#)

*Week Twelve:*

Seminar 1: The crisis of modernity - the early twentieth century  
Seminar 2: Beyond tonality - the new musical landscapes

*Week Thirteen:*

Seminar 1: Research paper workshop  
Seminar 2: The twentieth-century avant-garde, and the growth of popular styles  
[Thursday 17 April deadline - research paper on music history topic](#)

*Week Fourteen*

Seminar 1: Musical soundtracks - the growth of the recording industry  
Seminar 2: Music at the crossroads: defining our contemporary moment

## Grading Criteria:

The course is assessed via four assignments spaced through term, covering the major aspects of the course:

- discerning primary and secondary source material in music history;
- situating music in its historical context, and seeing how later generations have found new meanings in musical works;
- considering values and problems in researching music history;
- researching particular composers and historical influences on their music

The four written assignments, spaced through the semester, tackle each of these aspects in turn, building towards the research paper. There is also a mark to reflect preparation and contributions in seminars. The distribution of marks and criteria is explained below.

Assignment on source material in music history 15%

- An assignment given at the end of Week 3, with six pieces of primary and secondary evidence that have been presented in the early seminars of the course. Students are asked to comment on the types of evidence presented, and to answer further questions on what can and cannot be concluded for music history from the evidence provided. This must be submitted through Blackboard.

Music in historical context paper (6 pages) 30%

An essay assignment, on a piece of music, tracing its context in cultural history - both via its composition/production, initial performance(s), and its later reception. Technical discussion of musical features is not expected, but assessment will be based on how the student situates the musical artwork in historical context. Documentation can include photographs, and hyperlinks to musical performances online, as well as scholarly sources. There is no standard number of sources expected for this assignment, but a list of sample pieces or topics that could work well will be



provided in Week 4. The subject needs to be agreed by the course instructor by the end of Week 4 of term and must be historically substantially different from the subject to be presented in the research paper. This must be submitted through Blackboard.

Assignment on Musical identity formation (3 pages) 15%

- At the beginning of Week 9, students are given a choice of three questions on the subject of musical identity - these will relate to issues of canon, marginalisation and gender. The response will be in the form of a short essay, which will relate to the music presented in weeks 9 to 11. This must be submitted through Blackboard.

Research paper (6 pages) 30%

- A short research paper responding to a provided essay question on an aspect of music history from the subjects presented through the course. Your choice of primary text, composer or musical style must be different historically from the text chosen for your music in historical context paper (this is agreed by the course instructor- who will require the subject matter to be from a different century). The subject must be agreed by the course instructor by Week 12 of term (sample research essay questions will be provided for information). This must be submitted through Blackboard. A minimum of four scholarly secondary sources, as well as three pieces of primary evidence must be cited.

Class participation, including prepared seminar presentations 10%

This mark given for evidence of preparation for seminars, and for contributions made during seminars throughout the course.

Grade Scales:

**A** 93+ **A-** 90-92. **B+** 87-89 **B** 83-86 **B-** 80-82 **C+** 77-79 **C** 73-76 **C-** 70-72 **D+** 67-69 **D** 60-66

A grading rubric is provided for all assignments, and how this works is explained in seminars before assignments are due. Students are invited to use any standard system for referencing, but it is expected that this system is used consistently.

### Withdrawal and Attendance policies:

Harlaxton College expects regular class attendance by all students. Students are considered sufficiently mature to appreciate the necessity of regular and punctual attendance, to accept this personal responsibility and to accept the consequences of failure to attend. When absences occur due to emergency or medical reasons, students are expected to notify their instructors of the absence prior to class or to seek the assistance of the College nurse or a member of the Student Experience Team for help in notifying instructors.

Instructors have the authority to grant excused absences for medical, psychological, or personal reasons upon review of appropriate documentation and professional recommendation supporting such a request. In the event of long-term illness, reasonable accommodations will be made to allow a student to complete a course. In these cases, the Dean will need to approve the long term nature of the accommodation.

The Dean of Harlaxton College has the authority to grant excused absences for medical, psychological, or personal reasons.

Each instructor is expected to maintain an attendance policy in keeping with the nature of the Harlaxton program and may consider it in evaluating performance in their courses.

### Policy Governing Unexcused Absences:



Harlaxton College operates an attendance policy that is binding on all faculty and students. The number of unexcused absences that are allowed before incurring a penalty is related to the number of times a class meets each week. For courses which meet three times a week, students are allowed a maximum of three unexcused absences during the semester without attracting penalty points. For courses meeting twice a week two such absences are permitted, and for courses meeting once a week a single absence is allowed. Additional unexcused absences will attract a grade penalty of a third-letter grade (e.g. A- to B+)

### Policy Governing Excused Absences.

- Excused absences are not given to facilitate student travel independent of College-sponsored travel.
- Students may be permitted to miss class because of participation in academic field trips.
- Instructors must co-ordinate and confirm academic fieldtrips with the Dean, prior to the commencement of the Semester to ensure their inclusion in the Semester timetable.
- Where authorization for an academic fieldtrip is requested after the commencement of the semester, the request must be submitted to the Dean.

The following information is required:

- Purpose and brief description of the official Harlaxton event or academic fieldtrip.
- Dates, location, and times (as applicable).
- Alphabetical list of students involved [Last Name/First Name] along with their student identification number.

If approval is granted:

- Instructors affected will be notified at least one week prior to the class period during which absence is anticipated, or as soon as possible.
- Missed class time due to student participation is to be considered an excused absence.
- The grade of a student may not be lowered in any class due to excused absences.
- It is the student's responsibility - to take the initiative by consulting with their instructors before the absence occurs, and - to do what is required by the instructor to make up all missed assignments and/or examinations.
- Instructors are required to assist students in these occasional situations of excused absences.

### Honor Code:

All students at the University of Evansville agree to the University honor code: *I will neither give nor receive unauthorized aid, nor will I tolerate an environment that condones the use of unauthorized aid.*



**AI may be used only with prior permission or direction by the instructor.**

- All work submitted in this course must be your own.
- The use of generative AI composition tools, such as those offered by ChatGPT, Google Bard etc. is prohibited in this course except for specific assignments and subject to the instructor's guidelines.
- Work generated by such tools without proper attribution is plagiarism and, thereby, a breach of the University's Plagiarism and Academic Honesty policy.

### **Disability Policy:**

It is the policy and practice of the University of Evansville to make reasonable accommodations for students with properly documented disabilities. Students should contact Disability Services within the Office of Counseling Services by calling 812-488-2663 to seek services or accommodations for disabilities. Written notification to faculty from Disability Services is required for academic accommodations.

The University of Evansville Disability Services office will share the request for academic accommodations with the Academic Support team at Harlaxton College. Staff members at Harlaxton will meet individually with students to discuss needs and provide additional information related to examinations or other assessments.

Students from partner institutions should provide the appropriate letter of accommodation from their institution to the Academic Support team at Harlaxton College.



## Non-Discrimination Statement

The University of Evansville expects all members of its community to treat each other with respect and civility. Harassing behaviors directed towards any member of our community will not be tolerated. As part of its commitment to non-discrimination, the University specifically prohibits harassment based on any other characteristics set forth in its nondiscrimination statement as follows: including race, color, gender, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, creed or religion, national origin, age, disability, veteran status and all federally protected groups/classes. Any form of harassment undermines the mission of the University and negatively impacts the University community as a whole.

## Prohibited Conduct and Confidentiality

The University of Evansville is committed to fostering an atmosphere free from harassment and discrimination. This commitment includes identifying problems that may lead to sexual harassment and misconduct, as well as other forms of harassment and discrimination, by creating an atmosphere in which the entire University community is sensitive to preventing prohibited conduct. Additionally, the University is committed to providing support and resources to individuals who have experienced prohibited conduct. This commitment includes effectively responding when a student, visitor, guest or program participant is the victim of prohibited conduct.

All campus employees, students, and guests are required to abide by the Title IX and Other Sexual Harassment and Misconduct Policy, the Harassment and Discrimination Policy, and the Consensual Sexual or Romantic Relationships Between Employees and Students Policy. Violation of these policies could result in disciplinary action, up to and including expulsion for students and termination for employees.

Faculty members at the University of Evansville are considered “Responsible Employees” under the applicable federal guidelines and the University’s policies. This means that I am unable to offer you confidentiality if you report any incidence of prohibited conduct to me as defined by Title IX statute. If I am made aware of a violation, I am required to report any known information to the Office of Institutional Equity.

You may choose to report the violation yourself the following ways:

Email: · Annie Sills, Assistant Director of Institutional Equity and Title IX Coordinator:

[cs175@evansville.edu](mailto:cs175@evansville.edu) ·

Keith Gehlhausen, Executive Director of HR and Institutional Equity: [kg77@evansville.edu](mailto:kg77@evansville.edu) ·

Title IX: [titleix@evansville.edu](mailto:titleix@evansville.edu)

Phone: 812-288-5261



Online: <https://www.evansville.edu/safety/report.cfm>

You may also choose to speak with a Confidential Resource. Confidential Resources are required to maintain confidentiality and cannot report violations to the Office of Institutional Equity:

#### University of Evansville

- Counseling Services: [counselingservices@evansville.edu](mailto:counselingservices@evansville.edu), 812-488-2633
- Health Center Professionals: [healthcenter@evansville.edu](mailto:healthcenter@evansville.edu), 812-488-2033
- University Chaplain: [chaplain@evansville.edu](mailto:chaplain@evansville.edu), 812-488-5262

#### Harlaxton College

- College Nurse: Lesley Selby, RGN, +44 01476 403027, [lseyby@harlaxton.ac.uk](mailto:lseyby@harlaxton.ac.uk)
- Counselling Services: [counselling@harlaxton.ac.uk](mailto:counselling@harlaxton.ac.uk)