

MUSIC 101: Introduction to Western Art Music

Fall 2023 – Tuesday and Thursday, 1:30–2:50 PM

Dr. Patrick Nickleson

In Introduction to Western Art Music we will explore the questions, repertoires, and concepts that define this tradition of music making and listening today. Students do not need any prior fluency with this repertoire, and they do not need to be able to read musical notation. Through lectures, in-class listening, and discussions of what we hear, participants in the course will gain familiarity with the written tradition of Euro-American music.

Prerequisite: None. Not available for degree credit to BMus students.

Objectives: Students who actively participate in the class will learn about a wide range of written music from the last seven centuries. You will learn technical language and concepts to identify what you are hearing, and to discuss its social, historical, and culture meanings. We will critically address the genre's problematic delimitations around both writing and the West. And we will practice applying this language, these critiques, and these histories to contemporary musical life through regular discussions of contemporary music and news.