

MUSIC 614 - Proseminar in Musicology

Winter 2026 F 1:00-3:50 pm

Instructor: Dr Fabio Morabito

This is a proseminar studying current debates in musicology. It sets out to survey the history, issues, methodologies and latest directions of research in this field. One of the proseminar aims is to study methodology and epistemology, asking what the study of music *should do* and *be*. Another aim is to ensure familiarity with a wide range of approaches and tools used in research on music today.

Topics will include: the beginnings of the discipline in the nineteenth century; questions of historiography, such as what is a fact of music history; questions of materiality and ontology, such as what is a musical object; debates on the role of musical literacy in higher education today; methods to study the act of performance – or that of listening – rather than just that of composition; postcolonial perspectives and the project of a global music history; issues of gender, sexuality, race, ecocriticism and social justice; and the future of music studies.

The course is open to graduate students, and advanced undergraduates, across the University of Alberta. **No previous knowledge is required to attend the course.**

Objectives:

- to familiarize you with a variety of practices within musicology;
- to stimulate your reflection on those practices in relation to your own musical and intellectual goals and values;
- to allow you to situate yourself and your work in relation to some of the latest debates in music studies;
- to develop your ability to communicate orally and in writing through discussion, presentation, and written assignments.