

## Proposal for Online or Travel/Innovative Course – Summer 2017

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**Department:** Music

**Is this an Online Course?** Hybrid

**Course Number and Credits:** MU 400, 2 credits

**Course Title:** ST: Music as Socio-Political Commentary

**Instructor:** Dr. Kelly Huff

**Term/Days/Time:** Full Summer 2017 Term (May 30 – July 20); course will be structured as a seminar, largely delivered via online readings/discussions; will meet face-to-face once per week for 70-90 min. (day and time TBD). We are open to allowing a student to Skype in if they are unable to come to campus for face-to-face meetings (i.e., out-of-state students).

**Projected Salary Cost:** \$1310 (\$655 per credit, per instructor's current adjunct rate)

**Any Other Projected Costs:** n/a

**Target Audience:** This course is designed primarily as a graduate-style seminar for music majors interested in deeper musicological study. The course will be open to students from any department; for instance, the topic could be of interest to history, political science, and sociology majors. The department is also interested in cross-listing as an honors course. Individual research projects will be differentiated to meet student's personal interests, and course readings would not require specialized knowledge of music or facility with the technical language of the discipline.

**Enrollment Estimate:** 8-10

**When and in how many sections is this course offered during a typical academic year?** Course number MU 400 is reserved for special-topics courses; this particular topic has never been offered. Bachelor of Music in Performance majors are required to take MU 400: Senior Seminar, another variable-topic course, and the department chair intends to allow the proposed course to meet the Senior Seminar requirement. One section of MU 400: Senior Seminar is offered each fall semester.

**If offered, what was its enrollment the last two times?** Again, this topic has never been offered, but MU 400: Senior Seminar enrolled 11 in Fall 2016 and 8 in Fall 2015. Senior Seminar is only open to music majors, so opening this special-topics course to non-majors could potentially boost enrollment numbers.

**How will this course help meet the educational needs of students?** Over the course of compiling our program review (in progress) as well as in response to our 2011-12 program review and 10-year accreditation review by the National Association of Schools of Music (NASM), the faculty, NASM, and the program review committee have identified our lack of upper-division elective offerings as an area of curricular weakness. The department has been searching for ways to offer more electives for its students, particularly in light of the increasing numbers of graduates who are pursuing master's and doctoral degrees in music; advanced elective courses would help us better prepare them for graduate study. Our students have shown interest in special topics courses, and we simply have been unable to accommodate those requests during the regular school year due to staffing limitations and scheduling conflicts. The hybrid nature of the proposed course, with face-to-face meetings only once per week, should also appeal to students who need to work as much as possible over the summer. In light of current events, this topic provides an opportunity for students to engage in a socially relevant topic and connect it to their areas of study.

**What other factors suggest that this course should be offered in the summer?** The Music Department currently only offers online general education courses in the summer, and this would be an opportunity to better serve our majors. It has been ten years since a summer special-topics elective was offered for music majors. Since we intend to allow this course to substitute for Senior Seminar, it would give BM-Performance majors an additional opportunity to fulfill this degree requirement. Since it will not directly conflict with any other music courses, this would also enable other music majors to participate. Finally, the Senior Seminar may not be offered in the fall, and this would be an ideal way to accommodate those who need the course in order to graduate in Fall 2017 or Spring 2018.

**Projected Course Description/Outline:** An overview of music as an artistic vehicle for social and political commentary from the early modern era to the present. Discussion will be centered on selected case studies from various points in history, with an emphasis on 20<sup>th</sup>-century Western countries, and the bulk of the reading material will be drawn from primary sources. Musical genres covered in readings and discussion would be largely limited to art music and musical theater, but students are welcome to select research topics outside those boundaries. Potential weekly topics include:

- *The Beggar's Opera*: 18<sup>th</sup>-century sociopolitical satire
- Soviet Politics: Prokofiev, Shostakovich, and veiled protest
- Kurt Weill: Musical theatre and the First World War
- Allied Music: US/UK propaganda during World War II
- Music as Nazi propaganda
- The Art of Noise: Charles Ives, John Cage, and rejection of social norms, post-World Wars
- Lin-Manuel Miranda's *Hamilton* as a reflection of current social activism
- Final Week: Presentation of student research