

MUS 504, Analysis of Music of the 21st Century: 20th Century String Quartet
Instructor: Daniel Weymouth | Wednesday, 10am – 12:50pm

The course will involve an in-depth study of several pieces, all string quartets from the past century: Bartok, Berg, Crawford Seeger, Jolas, Ligeti, Reich and Xenakis. We will also consider the nature of analysis and different analytical techniques and what they can (and cannot) tell us about the music. However, the emphasis will be on nuts-and-bolts, dig-into-the-music analysis.

Students should plan to spend 9 to 12 hours per week on this course outside of class. You will have to do a significant amount of analysis, and share the results, in charts or some similar forms. There will also be weekly assignments involving short written responses to assigned readings. Grading will be based on these weekly assignments—on the readings, and on the analyses—along with short oral report and a term paper. The course is very suitable for performance students as well as historians, theorists, and composers. Plus, it is just great music!

This course is suitable for all graduate students. For MM and DMA students, it fulfills the Elective Group 2 requirement. Students in the MA in Composition and the MA in Critical Music Studies must take either MUS 502 or MUS 504 in the first year, unless exempted via the relevant examination (Composition) or advisory assessment (Critical Music Studies).

3 credits