

## Music 373: Bach Across the Centuries Spring 2014

Dr. Hilde Binford

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1:10 – 2:20 p.m.

Office Hours (Brethren's House 302): Tuesdays:10-11:45;

Wednesdays: 11:45-12:30, 1:30-4:30; Thursdays: 10-12:30

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- I. **Course Description:** The primary focus of this seminar is an understanding of the intellectual world of J. S. Bach. We will investigate the aesthetic, spiritual, and scientific certainties of the 18th century as mirrored in Bach's music. The secondary focus will be an examination of our world and its impact on the interpretation of Bach's music, as well as its ideas and impact on our world. Students will gain a deeper understanding of Bach's music and a more profound understanding of the time in which we live.
- II. **Instructional Materials:** Boyd, Malcom. *Bach*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2008. Scores, recordings and additional readings on reserve in the music library.
- III. **Goals of Course:** Students gain familiarity with Bach's music, as well as the society in which he lived. In addition, they will learn how Bach's music has been interpreted in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Most importantly, each student will participate in a mini-conference on Bach, where they each choose a topic and prepare both a written paper and an oral presentation. They will learn the research methodology necessary to write a conference paper and will have the opportunity to present their work in a public forum.
- IV. **Teaching Strategies:** The course will be conducted with a series of lectures and class discussions based on the reading assignments, audio-visual materials, and other supplemental materials presented by the instructor. The class will also participate in a reading of *Bach in Leipzig*.
- V. **Course Requirements:** Attendance is mandatory. For each unexcused absence, your overall grade for the class will be lowered by .25 (using a 4.0 scale). Excused absences include illness (doctor's note required) and family funeral (note from home or Student Services required). All other absences will be evaluated at the discretion of the instructor. Chronic lateness will not be tolerated, and will be reflected in the overall grade.
- VI. **Exams, Research Paper, Reviews, Class Presentations, and Journal:**

**Research Paper:** An essay (30%, minimum of 3500 words) on a topic related to the class will be turned in by **April 24<sup>th</sup>**. Students will need to submit the paper topic for approval by **February 25<sup>th</sup>**. No subject may be selected by more than one student (first come, first serve on topics). All work submitted, including drafts, must be printed on computer. Standard fonts and margins are required. Papers must be free from errors of grammar and spelling.

**Exam:** There will be a midterm exam, worth 25% of the final grade.

**Reviews:** Students will write reviews for the two *Bach at Noon* performances. (5%)

**Reading:** Each student will participate in a reading of *Bach in Leipzig*. (5%)

**Journal/Class Participation:** (25%) As this is a seminar class, class participation is essential. Each student will be expected to maintain a journal (notebook). The journal will be reviewed at the midterm and the final exam for completeness. It should include notes from the required readings, outside sources, and other materials pertinent to the course.

**Class Presentations:** (10%) Each student will be expected to make an oral presentation as part of a "mini-conference" on Bach.
- VII. Students can expect to work eight or more hours per week outside of class preparing for this class, which includes keeping a journal, required reading and listening, library research, writing, and concert attendance. Students are required to attend at least 10 concerts, in addition to the three Bach @ Noon concerts, with the expectation that they will be able to discuss relationships between the concert repertoire and Bach (part of class participation).

- VIII. Students with disabilities who believe that they may need accommodations in this class are encouraged to contact the Learning Services Office as soon as possible to enhance the likelihood that such accommodations are implemented in a timely fashion.
- IX. **Academic Honesty:** Students are expected to uphold the standards of academic honesty, as they are spelled out in the Student Handbook.
- X. **Preliminary Schedule:**
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| Jan 14       | Introduction to Bach and Seminar, Biography on Film                      |
| Jan 16       | Early Childhood (Boyd 1-34)  |
| Jan 21       | Weimar (Boyd 35-69)  |
| Jan 23       | <i>Tocatta and Fugue in D Minor, BWV 538</i> (readings on reserve)       |
| Jan 28       | Cöthen (Boyd 70-109)   |
| Jan 30       | <i>Brandenburg Concertos</i> (Marissen – on reserve)                     |
| Feb 4        | <i>Well-Tempered Clavier</i> (see article on reserve)                    |
| Feb 6        | Leipzig (Boyd 110-200)   |
| Feb 11       | Bach @ Noon (Central Moravian Church)                                    |
| Feb 13       | <i>Christmas Oratorio, Dresden Cantatas: BWV 213, 214</i>                |
| Feb 18       | Guest: David Boothroyd (“Bach and the Dresden Court: Hasse’s Operas”)    |
| Feb 20       | Late Years and Legacy (Boyd 200-246)                                     |
| Feb 25       | Review and Discussion  |
| Feb 27       | Mid-term Exam  |
| <b>Mar 4</b> | <b>Spring Break</b>  |
| <b>Mar 6</b> | <b>Spring Break</b>  |
| Mar 11       | Bach @ Noon (Central Moravian Church)                                    |
| Mar 13       | Research Methodology (Reeves Library)                                    |
| Mar 18       | <i>A Musical Offering</i> (Gaines) and <i>Mass in B Minor</i> (Stauffer) |
| Mar 20       | Guest: Dr. Larry Lipkis  |
| Mar 25       | Student-led discussion   |
| Mar 27       | Individual meetings to review bibliography                               |
| Apr 1        | <i>Bach in Leipzig, Act I</i>  |
| Apr 3        | <i>Bach in Leipzig, Act II</i>   |
| Apr 8        | Bach @ Noon (Central Moravian Church), drafts of papers due              |
| Apr 10       | Individual meetings to review drafts                                     |
| Apr 15       | Dress rehearsal  |
| Apr 17       | 11:45 – 12:30 Mini-conference  |
| Apr 22       | Dress rehearsal, class evaluations                                       |
| Apr 24       | 11:45 – 12:30 Mini-conference  |
- XI. **Please note that the syllabus and calendar of class assignments are subject to change.**