

MUH 6935 MODERNISM AND POSTMODERNISM IN MUSIC, CA. 1900 TO THE PRESENT

University of Florida, Spring 2016

Wednesday 4:05-7:05 pm (Period 9-11), MUB 146

Dr. Silvio dos Santos

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FOCUS

The terms “modernism” and “postmodernism,” though widely used to describe a variety of musical trends in the twentieth and twentieth-first centuries, are elusive and resistant to simple definition. This problem is further complicated when these terms are linked to musical practices within different regional and cultural contexts. In order to understand issues such as the legitimization of the terms, communication of meaning, cultural hybridity, and notions of musical time and space, this course explores the concepts of modernism and postmodernism as applied to music from Europe, Latin America, and the United States from the early twentieth century to the present. It engages philosophical and musicological writings and explores music from composers such as Arnold Schoenberg, Igor Stravinsky, Henry Cowell, Heitor Villa-Lobos, Carlos Chávez, Philip Glass, John Zorn, Jocy de Oliveira, among others. The goal is for students to understand key ideas associated with the notions of modernism and postmodernism in music, develop scholarly and analytical tools in order to participate in the seminar, and write a research paper.

TEXTBOOK

Reading materials will consist of chapters of books and articles placed on reserve on reserve at the AFA Library (Fine Arts Building A, 2nd floor). Articles are also available through the various e-storages for download. Please bring a printed copy to class for reference during discussions.

Listening materials and scores are available in the AFA Library. Recordings are also available electronically through the Naxos Music Library, available through the AFA Library webpage (<http://guides.uflib.ufl.edu/music>).

REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

- Attendance and participation in seminar discussion is expected. Unexcused absences will lower the final grade by 5 points per absence. Tardiness will also affect the final grade. Missing an assigned presentation will result in a letter grade deduction.
- Seminar participants will present a report in class and lead discussion on one or more assigned readings. All participants are required to complete all assigned readings and participate in discussion.
- A **Research Paper** will expand on topics presented in class. In addition, students will present the results of their papers in class and will be asked to prepare a handout for the entire seminar. I will distribute handouts with detailed instructions and specific due dates in the second week of classes.

Grades will be based on the following

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|-----------------------------------|-----|
| • Class Participation and Reports | 40% |
| • Research Paper | 50% |
| • Paper Presentation | 10% |

Grading scale

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|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|---------|
| A: 94-100 | B+: 88-90 | C+: 78-80 | D+: 68-70 | E: 0-60 |
| A-: 91-93 | B: 84-87 | C: 74-77 | D: 64-67 | |
| | B-: 81-83 | C-: 71-73 | D-: 61-63 | |

* Please keep in mind that C- is not a passing grade. Information on the conversion of grades to the University of Florida’s grade point averages can be found at <<http://www.isis.ufl.edu/minusgrades.html>>.

IMPORTANT DATES

- Essays will be due a week after the class presentation. I will assign specific dates to each seminar participant on our second class.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

1. Classes will begin promptly. Any student missing a class for any reason is responsible for getting notes and handouts from a fellow student, not the instructor. Turn off computers and cell phones. A pop quiz will be given every time a phone rings in class. Please do not eat in class or engage in other distracting activities.

2. **E-Learning:** students will be required to log on to CANVAS through the E-Learning system in order to submit the writing assignments online.

3. I will distribute handouts for the writing assignments as classes progress. Assignments are due at the beginning of class on the day they are due. A penalty of 10% per day (maximum of two days) shall apply to essays turned in late. Thereafter, no credit will be given. All written work must also be submitted electronically through the E-Learning system to be graded. I will provide instructions on the handouts.

4. Opportunity for making up a presentation will be given only in cases of excused absences. An excused absence is defined as 1) a medical issue accompanied by a signed statement from your doctor, 2) a serious family emergency with a signed statement from parent or guardian, 3) an official University of Florida activity accompanied by a signed statement from an appropriate faculty representative with a two-week prior notification to instructor, 4) a religious holiday observance with a two-week prior notification to instructor, 5) military service or court-imposed legal obligations accompanied by written proof two weeks prior to absence. Failure to appear for an exam without prior arrangement will result in an E for that assignment.

Classroom Policies

Classes will begin promptly. Students need to arrive on time, turn in assignments before sitting down, and stay for the entire class. In the rare case that you are unavoidably late, please enter quietly and take the first available seat. The period ends when the instructor dismisses the class. Preparations to leave (such as closing notebooks, rustling papers, and putting on your coat) before you are dismissed are disruptive; please avoid them. Do not exit before you are dismissed unless you have already advised the instructor that you must leave early (please do this before the period begins).

Cell Phones and Electronics

Turn off computers and cell phones. A pop quiz will be given every time a phone rings in class. Internet connectivity must be disabled if you plan on taking notes directly on your laptop. Please do not eat in class or engage in other distracting activities.

Students with Disabilities

To request classroom accommodations, contact the Assistant Dean of Students/Director of the Disability Resources Program at P202 Peabody Hall or call 392-1261 (V), 392-3008 (TDD). The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the instructor when requesting accommodation.

ACADEMIC HONESTY

The theft of intellectual property is taken very seriously in this class. All student work must be original. Plagiarism or cheating will be dealt with according to the policies outlined in the university bulletin and student handbook (see www.dso.ufl.edu/judicial/procedures/studenthonorcode.php for more information). See the *Chicago Manual of Style* if you have any questions regarding proper citations in the humanities.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

1. If you have a documented disability and require accommodations to obtain equal access in this course, please contact me privately to discuss your specific needs. Please visit the Disability Resources Program office for more information. It is located at P202 Peabody Hall, E-mail accessuf@dso.ufl.edu; Phone 392-1261; TDD 392-3008.
2. Students are encouraged to use the Campus Writing Center for extra help with the writing assignments. Students who use the Writing Center must submit all drafts of the paper, including the suggestions and revisions from the center. If you are asked to use the writing center, you will be expected to do so and to submit all drafts of your paper. Information about the center is available at www.at.ufl.edu/r&w/.
3. Resources are available on campus for students having personal problems that affect academic performance or difficulty defining career and academic goals:
 - Student Mental Health for personal counseling; Student Mental Health Care Center, 392-1171.
 - Center for Sexual Assault/Abuse Recovery Services, Student Health Care Center, 392-1161.
 - Career Resource Center, career development assistance and counseling; Reitz Union, 392-1601.
 - **Counseling Center**, 3190 Radio Rd.; Phone: 352-392-1575; Web: www.counsel.ufl.edu
4. Please do not hesitate to come by during office hours or contact me to schedule appointments. I am interested in your success and hope you will feel free to express any questions, ideas, or concerns you might have.

Schedule of Topics

(subject to change)

Week 1. Course Introduction

Reading: Silverman, Hugh J. "Modernism and Postmodernism." *Encyclopedia of Philosophy*. Ed. Donald M. Borchert. 2nd ed. Vol. 6. Detroit: Macmillan Reference USA, 2006. 316-319. *Gale Virtual Reference Library*. Web. 31 Dec. 2015. (To read this article online, you must use the "remote logon" feature on the AFA library website or use a VPN connection.)

Weeks 2-4. Schoenberg Modernist

Weeks 5-6. Modernism in Latin America: Carlos Chávez and Heitor Villa-Lobos

Weeks 7-8 Ultramodernism in America: Henry Cowell, George Antheil, and Ruth Crawford Seeger

Weeks 9-11 Minimalism and Postmodernism

Weeks 12-13: Neo-modernism in music

Weeks 14-16. Student Presentations