

Sample Academic Program for a Music Major with a Focus on Historical Studies

Historical studies in music encompass an understanding of musical works as they relate to their historical and artistic surroundings, asking questions about how musical culture is shaped by social and economic conditions at different moments in history, how developments in musical style relate to those in visual art and literature, and how music reflects and shapes the experience of living in the world at a particular time or place. Such a specialization is important for anyone considering graduate study in musicology, but it could also lead to careers in arts journalism or publishing.

YEAR 1

Required courses for the major: 49A, 49B, 49C, 50, 60, and one course from the series Music 74-77, Music 405A and B

Required university-wide: English 1A and 1B and one course in American History and Institutions (if not taken elsewhere or exempted by exam).

Note that besides the English department, English 1A and 1B courses are offered by departments such as Art History, Comparative Literature, History, German, History, etc. Look for something that reflects one of your interests. One that looks especially good is Introduction to the Practice and Theory of History (History R20) or The Practice of History (History R1).

Courses to fulfill the seven-course breadth requirement: choose from the list below

If there is any space in the schedule, it would also be desirable to participate in one performing ensemble (from the series Music 140-45, 148, 149) (**required** eventually) and/or take private lessons on your instrument (Music 41/150) and/or take one further course from the Music 74-77 series (**required** eventually).

We strongly recommend that students seek out a Freshman Seminar or a Sophomore Seminar in any topic/department. These are one-unit courses that provide the opportunity to work closely with a faculty member and a small group of students on a focused topic for one hour a week.

YEAR 2

Required courses for the major: 51, 61, a further two courses from the series Music 74-77, a large performing ensemble (Music 140-45, 148, 149) for both fall and spring semesters, Music 405C and D

The requirement to participate in a large ensemble for two consecutive semesters can be fulfilled at any time in the program. This is merely a suggestion that the second year might be a convenient time to do it, whether to leave room to explore other courses and ensembles later or because students often wish to continue for several years as members of the same performing ensemble. We recommend auditioning for ensembles immediately upon entering the music major.

Breadth courses: choose from the list below

if room in the schedule: additional upper-level seminars in European music history (Music 170-179, 189), an additional course in some area of non-European music (from the series Music 130-139), Music 108 (Music Perception and Cognition)

YEAR 3

Required courses for the major: an upper-level seminar in music history (= any course from the series Music 170-79 or Music 189)

Recommended music electives: additional upper-level seminars in European music history (Music 170-179, 189), an additional course in some area of non-European music (from the series Music 130-139), Music 108 (Music Perception and Cognition)

This is the time to begin thinking about taking courses and cementing relationships with professors that reflect your interests most closely, and to take some steps that will smooth the way towards doing a thesis, special project, or lecture-demonstration during the senior year.

from other departments, but relevant to historical studies in music:

two semesters of a foreign language (German is probably the most useful and one of the most difficult languages for musical study; or focus on the language of the musical tradition that you are most interested in);

and

a specific course or range of a few courses that might include some of: in Introduction to Western Art (Art History 11), Introduction to Modern Art (Art History 81), an upper-division course in European art history, Introduction to the Philosophy of Art (Philosophy 8), Aesthetics (Philosophy 10) history, Italian 40 (Italian Culture), Introduction to Reading Culture (German 100), French Literature in English translation (French 140A-D), french Films (French 170), The History of Film (Film 25), National Cinema (Rhetoric 134), Poetics and Poetry (Rhetoric 125), Issues in World Theater (Theater 26), Performance and Culture (Theater 121)

This list is potentially endless: almost any course or series of courses from departments in the humanities would work here. But we do suggest that students pursue a sequence of more than one course in a single department, perhaps beginning with a lower division introduction and following that with one or more specialized courses, perhaps with the same professor.

YEAR 4

Recommended music electives: anything from the courses listed under **year 3**, plus: Music H195 or 199 (independent study to develop a senior or honors thesis; strongly recommended to take this during the fall semester), Counterpoint (Music 154A, 154B), Studies in Musical Analysis (Mus 156)

from other departments: anything from the courses listed under **year 3**

SUGGESTED BREADTH COURSES

American Cultures

The Drama of American Cultures: An Introduction to Our Theater (Theater 25AC)
Film Seminar in American Cultures (Film 40AC)
Film of American Cultures (Film 135AC)
Autobiography and American Individualism (Rhetoric 139AC)

Philosophy and Values

The Classic Myths (Classics 28)
Greek Philosophy (Classics 36)
Literature and Philosophy (English 177)
or any course in Philosophy

Social and Behavioral Sciences

almost any course in the History department, numerous courses in Anthropology, American Studies, Women's Studies, Religious Studies, Italian Studies 40--many interesting and relevant choices here!

International Studies

Multicultural Europe (Interdisciplinary Studies C145)
International Media (Mass Com 160)
almost any course in Political Science

One course each also required in the areas of Biological Science and Physical Science.