

Music History of the Twentieth Century (A005287)

Course size *(nominal values; actual values may depend on programme)*

Credits 5.0 **Study time 150 h**

Course offerings in academic year 2026-2027

A (semester 2) Dutch Gent

Lecturers in academic year 2026-2027

Driesen, Pauline	LW17	staff member
Maes, Francis	LW17	lecturer-in-charge

Offered in the following programmes in 2026-2027

	crdts	offering
Bachelor of Arts in Art History, Musicology and Theatre Studies	5	A
Preparatory Course Master of Arts in Art History, Musicology and Theatre Studies	5	A
Elective Set Art Studies	5	A

Teaching languages

Dutch

Keywords

Music, history, twentieth century

Position of the course

This advanced course aims at helping students with the acquirement of insight in the musical developments during the twentieth century in the context of broad socio-political and cultural developments.

Contents

Music history from 1900 to the beginning of the 21st century in Europe and America. The course gives an overview of the relevant stylistic and technical developments and their relationship to broad cultural trends. Attention is given in particular to the connections between music and the political and ideological history of the twentieth century. The material is mainly presented chronologically, with a focus on specific topics, such as music and modernism, music and politics, opera and music theatre, technological innovations, and music and ecology.

Initial competences

No special competences are required to start the course.

Final competences

- 1 The development of auditory memory through a test in which musical fragments should be recognized upon listening.
- 2 Knowledge of music historical developments and their relation to general and cultural history.
- 3 The development of an aesthetic frame of reference concerning the music of the twentieth century.
- 4 Knowledge of music historical terminology.
- 5 Insight in historical processes and the methodology of research in cultural history.

Conditions for credit contract

Access to this course unit via a credit contract is unrestricted: the student takes into consideration the conditions mentioned in 'Starting Competences'

Conditions for exam contract

Access to this course unit via an exam contract is unrestricted

Teaching methods

Seminar, Excursion, Lecture, Independent work

Extra information on the teaching methods

1. Lectures
2. Independent study: a) listening, documenting and stylistic/formal analysis of musical fragments in order to develop an auditory memory; b) assignment
3. Feedback sessions (limited in number) regarding the assignment
4. Excursions: concerts & visits of musical institutions

Study material

Type: Handbook

Name: Music in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries

Indicative price: € 40

Optional: no

Language : English

Author : Joseph Auner

ISBN : 978-0-39392-920-1

Number of Pages : 384

Oldest Usable Edition : 2013

Online Available : Yes

Available in the Library : Yes

Available through Student Association : No

Usability and Lifetime within the Course Unit : regularly

Usability and Lifetime within the Study Programme : one-time

Usability and Lifetime after the Study Programme : occasionally

Type: Handbook

Name: Een kleine muziekgeschiedenis van hier en nu

Indicative price: € 42

Optional: no

Language : Dutch

Author : Mark Delaere (ed.)

ISBN : 978-9-46337-268-8

Number of Pages : 272

Oldest Usable Edition : 2020

Online Available : Yes

Available in the Library : Yes

Available through Student Association : No

Usability and Lifetime within the Course Unit : regularly

Usability and Lifetime within the Study Programme : one-time

Usability and Lifetime after the Study Programme : occasionally

Type: Slides

Name: Slides presentations

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: no

Language : Dutch

Available on Ufora : Yes

Online Available : No

Available in the Library : No

Available through Student Association : No

References

Auner, Joseph. 2013. *Music in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries*. New York: W.W. Norton and Company.

Delaere, Mark (ed.). 2021. *Een kleine muziekgeschiedenis van hier en nu. Nieuwe esthetische tendensen in de westerse klassieke muziek sinds 1950*. Kalmthout: Pelckmans.

Course content-related study coaching

The lecturer is available for specific questions during office hours or after an appointment: Pauline.Driesen@UGent.be

Assessment moments

end-of-term and continuous assessment

Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the first examination period

Written assessment

Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the second examination period

Written assessment

Examination methods in case of permanent assessment

Assignment

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

examination during the second examination period is possible

Extra information on the examination methods

The written exam consists of a listening test and theoretical and historical questions.

The assignment involves creating a podcast (for which the necessary guidelines and tools will be provided in class).

Calculation of the examination mark

Exam: 80%

Assignment: 20%

Facilities for Working Students

1. Online facilities: lecture recordings are provided. However, it is not possible to take this course solely through recordings, as this would not allow for the development of essential listening skills.
2. It is possible to take the exam at a different time within/outside the regular exam period.
3. Possibility to receive feedback at another time: by appointment.