

Seminar: Felix Mendelssohn

MUST 3216

Syllabus

Instructor: Dr. Brian Jarvis (bejarvis@utep.edu)

The University of Texas at El Paso – Spring 2017

Course description

The middle of the twentieth century saw a resurgence of interest in Felix Mendelssohn's music within the musicological community after a decline following his death in 1847. The decline might be attributable to two factors: (1) a desire within the German artistic community—as represented, for instance, by Wagnerian principles—to look toward the future rather than the past, a trait many would see as oppositional to Mendelssohn's aesthetic; (2) the rise of Nazism, which led to the repression, denigration, and sometimes destruction of objects and works associated with Mendelssohn. Although the music-historical community has been at work re-discovering Mendelssohn's life and music since the mid-twentieth-century, the music-theoretical community has only recently begun to turn its attention toward his music. In this course, students will survey Mendelssohn's output, beginning with his early works, and concentrating on works composed between 1830-40, a period that led to the pinnacle of Mendelssohn's success.

Useful information

Course website	Blackboard – my.utep.edu
Office hours:	Fox Fine Arts Center 431 11:30 – 12:30 PM on Monday and either Wednesday or Friday 10:00 – 11:00 AM on Tuesday and by appointment (just email me to set up a meeting).

Readings

Each week, we will read one or more articles pertaining to the life, works, culture, and/or reception of Felix Mendelssohn. For each article, you are responsible for bringing in 5 discussion questions. These should be typed, printed, and ready to hand in at the start of class. The purpose of the questions is to generate discussion in class. These are not trivia or, yes/no questions but rather questions that will help us dive more deeply into the article. There is unlikely to be a concrete answer to the questions you bring in.

Analysis

Each week, we will discuss one of Mendelssohn's larger works. Our goal is to understand Mendelssohn's culture, life, and works from a variety of perspectives. The works will be too long to complete any sort of comprehensive analysis. Instead, you will need to select 4 locations in each work that you would like to share with the class. You need the following things for each of your selected locations:

- Provide an exact measure range
- Provide the exact time stamp range (so that we can find it during class)
- Type, print, and hand in a very brief summary of what, in particular you'd like to share with us
 - o NOTE: Use technical musical vocabulary to describe the location

Grading

- Your overall grade for the semester will be calculated as outlined below:
 - Weekly reading and reading assignments 33%
 - Weekly analyses 33%
 - Final Project 33%
- Letter grades will be assigned as follows:

A	90-100	B	80-89	C	70-79	D	60-69	F	Below 60
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- Grade updates will be provided almost every week throughout the semester. Please feel free to inquire about your current average at any time.
- ***In order to pass this course, you need a grade of C or higher**

No late homework

Late homework is **NOT** accepted. Unless you have made prior arrangements with the instructor, any missed homework will receive a grade of a zero. Exceptions can be made in the case of a genuine emergency or significant illness if written documentation (e.g., a note from a health care provider, an accident report, etc.) is shown to the instructor within one week of the due date. See the instructor if you are unsure about whether your absence will be counted as excused or unexcused.

Attendance policy

On-time attendance is expected each week. I'll allow you to have two unexcused absences (sickness, concerts, transportation issues, etc.) with no grade penalty but each absence after that will result in a 5% deduction from your final grade. Being prepared for class is critical for such a small group so coming to class unprepared means that you forfeit your attendance credit for that day. Examples of being unprepared are not having done the reading, or not completing the reading assignment, or not completing the weekly data-set assignment.

Being prepared for class

In order to be prepared for class, you need to do following:

- Bring your laptop to class
- Arrive before the scheduled start of class
- Stay for the duration of the class
- Only use technology items for class-related activities
- Don't distract others or the classroom environment in the opinion of the instructor
- Bring the required materials to each class (see Required Technology section above)

Cell phones or other electronic devices

Please be respectful with your phones/tablets during class. Technology items should only be used for purposes related to class. Phones should be on silent and stowed away.

Academic Integrity and Scholastic Dishonesty

Information about The University of Texas at El Paso's definitions and expectations regarding academic integrity and scholastic dishonesty can be found at <http://sa.utep.edu/osccr/academic-integrity/>. In this course, all homework, quizzes, exams, and projects are to be completed on your own. Actual or attempted cheating, plagiarism, and collusion will not be tolerated. Suspected violations will go directly to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution for consideration.

Accommodations and Support Services:

Students with disabilities needing academic accommodation should: (1) register with and provide documentation to the Center for Accommodations and Support Services and (2) bring a letter to the instructor indicating the need for accommodation and what type. This should be done during the first week of class. For more information about services available to UTEP students with disabilities, see the following website <http://sa.utep.edu/cass/studentsresources/>.

Syllabus Change Policy

The information on this syllabus is subject to change. Any changes will be announced in class and/or via email.