Mus 97/Fr 42
Music, Literature, and Culture in Paris
from the Second Empire
Through the Belle Époque (1850-1918)
Joseph Auner, Gerard Gasarian
Summer 2017

Paris as the epicenter of new developments in music, literature, dance, and the visual arts. Exploration of works by Wagner, Fauré, Duparc, Debussy, Ravel, Satie, Stravinsky, and others with attention to cultural and artistic contexts of Exoticism, Impressionism, Symbolism, Primitivism, and popular culture. Study of ways in which artists and critics have attempted to formulate the connections between music, literature, and the arts and issues of nation, race, religion, and politics. No prerequisite. Mus 97 fulfills one Arts Distribution credit; Fr 42 fulfills a Humanities Distribution credit and a French Culture credit.

1. (50%) There will be frequent guided reading assignments and short writing projects to be handed in during class. These will be graded pass/fail. These may not be made up if you miss class, except in the case of illness or other excused absence.

2. (40%) Two exams will cover listening, concepts, and information presented in the readings and lectures. Exams will include definitions of terms and concepts, brief essays, and recognition and discussion of excerpts from required listening and reading.

3. (10%) Participation and attendance.

Students will have the opportunity to attend performances and other cultural events and to take part in creative activities.

Learning objectives
This course will help students develop:

An appreciation for the aesthetic, intellectual, and ideological complexity of musical works, musical performance and composition, and the role and function of music in culture and society;

A capacity for historical, analytical, theoretical, and critical thinking and writing concerning a broad range of musical styles and traditions;

A capacity for critical thinking through literary and cultural analysis;

An understanding of the aesthetic and intellectual complexities of literary and cultural texts from one or more countries where a Romance language is spoken;
Week 1
W 05/17  Orientation, Introduction to the course

Th 05/18  Baudelaire, Wagner and Delacroix: “Correspondences” between the arts and between the senses (synesthesia)

Read: Charles Baudelaire: Articles on Wagner and Delacroix, “Correspondances” and selected poetry
Listen: Richard Wagner: Tannhäuser’s Overture (1845) and Prelude to Tristan und Isolde (1865)
Look: Eugène Delacroix: Selected paintings

Week 2: Post-Romantic Paris
M 05/22  Continuation of 5/18

T 05/23  “Correspondences” between cultural and social life: artistic circles, salons and patrons, café, street life. The new Paris of Baron Haussmann
Read: Baudelaire: The Painter of modern life and selected poetry and art criticism
Walter Benjamin: Charles Baudelaire: A lyric poet in the Era of High Capitalism
Christopher Prendergast: Paris and the 19th century, (chap. 6-8) Blackwell, 1992

Th 05/25  Baudelaire and his musicians: Fauré, Duparc, Debussy and Berg
Baudelaire and his painters: Ingres, Delacroix, Manet
Read: Baudelaire: Selected poems set to music by Fauré, Duparc, Debussy
Auner, notes on Alban Berg’s Der Wein, Baudelaire, trans. S. George.
Listen: Gabriel Fauré (1845-1924): Selected melodies
Henri Duparc (1848-1933): Selected melodies
Claude Debussy (1862-1918): Selected melodies

Week 3: Symbolist Paris
M 05/29  Verlaine and his painters: Fauré and Debussy
Verlaine and his painters: Monet, Pissarro, Renoir, Fantin-Latour
Read: Verlaine: La bonne chanson, Romance sans paroles and other poems
Listen: Fauré: Selected melodies
Listen: Debussy: Selected melodies, comparing settings of the same poem.
Look: Selected Impressionist paintings

T 05/30  Continuation of 5/29

Th 06/01  Rimbaud, selected poetry
Listen: Benjamin Britten’s Illuminations
Read: Kristin Ross, The emergence of social space (Rimbaud and the Paris Commune), U. of Minnesota Press, 1988
**Week 4: Cultural Politics at the Paris Conservatoire, Faure, D’Indy; Orientalism**

**M 06/05**

Listen: Faure *Requiem* (1890), “Pie Jesu,” and Nocturne #6 (1894)
Vincent D’Indy *Istar* (1897)
Ravel, *Sheherazade* (1898)


**T 06/06**

**Universal Exposition, Technology, Colonialism, Exoticism**

Listen: Debussy, *Estampes* (1903)
Ravel: Mother Goose Suite, excerpts
Ravel Rhapsodie espagnole


**Th 06/08**

**Decadence and Degeneracy**

Read: Selected poems by Verlaine and Rimbaud
Huysmans, Joris-Karl. *A Rebours [Against Nature]* (1884), Chapter 6 on Salome
http://www.gutenberg.org/files/12341/12341-h/12341-h.htm#chapter5
You may also enjoy looking through *The Yellow Book*, Vol. 1 1894: https://archive.org/stream/yellowapril189401uoft#page/n0/mode/2up

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**Week 5: Debussy’s Poets and Painters**

**M 06/12**

**Impressionism**

Listen: Debussy, *Prelude to an Afternoon of the Faun* (1894)
*Three Nocturnes* (1899): Nuages, *Estampes*


Look: paintings by Monet and Whistler

**T 06/13**

**Symbolism**

Read: Stéphane Mallarmé, “l’après-midi d’un faune”
Pierre Louÿs: *Chansons de Bilitis* (1894)

“Expanding Musical Worlds at the Turn of the Twentieth-Century”

Listen: *Prelude to an Afternoon of the Faun* (1894)

Debussy: *Trois Chansons de Bilitis* (1898)

**Th 06/15**  **Popular Influences, Cabaret, Music Hall**

Listen: Debussy, Golliwogg’s Cakewalk, in Children’s Corner

Ravel, Violin Sonata No. 2, Blues

Yvette Guilbert “Quand on vous aime comme ça”

Satie, “La Diva de l’Empire”


**Week 6: Primitivism in Modernist Paris I**

**M 06/19**  **Apollinaire, Picasso, Poulenc, Gertrude Stein, Satie and Stravinsky**

Listen: Poulenc’s songs on poems by Apollinaire

Read: Roger Shattuck’s *The Banquet years* and Eugen Weber’s *France, fin de siècle*, chap. 3

**T 06/20**  **Stravinsky, Dancers, Poets, and Painters**

Watch: Stravinsky: *The Rite of Spring*

Read Apollinaire: *Zone*

Look: Picasso: Demoiselles d’Avignon and selected paintings

Douanier Rousseau


**Th 06/22**  **Ravel, Poets and Painters**

Listen: Ravel: *Chansons Madécasse*, on poems by Évariste Parny (1787)

Look: Gauguin: selected paintings


**Week 7: Art and the Everyday after the War**

**M 06/26**  **Cocteau and Satie in Parade**


*Gymnopedies* (1888)


Apollinaire, Preface to Parade, on Surrealism
Look:  Picasso, costumes and stage design
Nancy Perloff, *Art and the Everyday: Popular Entertainment and the Circle of Erik Satie*

**T 06/27  Les Six and Beyond**
Listen:  *Milhaud, Creation of the World*
Look:  works by F. Leger
Read:  Blaise Cendrars, *Selections*
      Nancy Perloff, *Art and the Everyday: Popular Entertainment and the Circle of Erik Satie*

**W 6/28  Final Exam**