Course Announcement Fall 2013
MUS-T561 Music Theory: Variable Topics (3 cr., Course 8826)

20th/21st-Century Dramatic Musical Works
(in music multimedia opera cinema)

Instructor: Marianne Kielian-Gilbert
Time/place: 9:05-10:20 a.m., Tuesday, Thursday in M356

Questions of music, drama and theatrical/dramatic performance (acting, staging, character, desire and dramatic convention) motivate this repertoire-based interdisciplinary course in music analysis. We will focus on 20th/21st century dramatic musical works (in music multimedia opera cinema) linking music experience, interpretation (critical theory, dramatic theory), and analysis. Drawing on critical approaches of writers on drama, narrative, and textuality in music, we will examine how listener-perceivers respond to the effects of dramatic performance and how theatrical, operatic, or cinematic characters become performative of and in their material, social-cultural and media settings.

Organized around particular topics, musical works, or analyses (rather than by chronology or survey), the course will also highlight case studies of music of the 20th/21st century that figure female iconic and/or mythic characters by such composers such as Ran, Britten, Stravinsky, Monk, Golijov, Daugherty, and Ortiz.

Course materials & readings: Selections from such authors as: Abbate, Cone, Cook, Goehr, Kielian-Gilbert, Kramer, Lewin, Maus, McClary, Parker, Treitler, Wood. Readings and music will also be geared to the interests of those participating and in relation to recent studies and essay collections such as:

Prerequisites: MUS-T508, MUS-M542 or equivalent, or permission of the instructor.
Coursework: readings; reaction papers or music analyses on issues arising in the readings; midterm, course research paper, and presentation.