Course Announcement Spring 2013
MUS-T 658 Seminar in Music Theory (3 cr., Course 28597)
Meets jointly with Cultural Studies CULS-C 701

Music Experience Affect Culture

Instructor: Marianne Kielian-Gilbert
Time/place: 2:30-5:15 p.m., Thursdays M263

Music Experience Affect Culture: This seminar in music theory draws on practices of performance, listening, analysis and interpretation (critical theory, feminist theory) to study connections between music experience, affect, and culture.

The challenge is to think about music’s phenomenal character and experience—about what music does as much as what it is. Music constructs a potential “laboratory” for music-sound in multidimensional orientations phenomenal, enacted, embodied, empirical, philosophical, psychological, material, discursive, and relational. In shifting to “saying” instead of “the said,” these material and discursive (performative and cultural) practices become aural and intertwine in formative and productive ways.

Drawing from the orientations of such writers such as Gilles Deleuze (with Félix Guattari) and Theodor Adorno, and feminist writers such as Luce Irigaray, Adriana Cavarero, Elizabeth Grosz, and Eve Kosofsky Sedgwick, we will consider connections between music-sound, constructions of subjectivity, historical and contemporary theoretical-material orientations, and music analyses that seek to characterize those practices.

Readings, topics, music: The course will develop topics of music analysis and listening in connection with particular works and the cross-disciplinary interests of those participating. We will consider a range of music from classical and contemporary, to popular, operatic, theatrical, multimedia, and 21st-century.

Prerequisite: MUS-T551 or graduate standing and consent of instructor. Coursework: readings and discussion; reaction papers or music analyses on issues arising in the readings; major seminar paper and presentation. Selected texts: Adriana Cavarero, For More Than One Voice: Toward a Philosophy of Vocal Expression, trans. Paul A. Kottman (Stanford UP 2005); Lydia Goehr, Elective Affinities: Musical Essays on the History of Aesthetic Theory (Columbia UP 2008); Lawrence Kramer, Interpreting Music (California UP 2011).