

Music of the Classical Period

Code: 100641
ECTS Credits: 6

2025/2026

Degree	Type	Year
Musicology	OB	2

Contact

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Teaching groups languages

You can view this information at the [end](#) of this document.

Prerequisites

1. To possess general knowledge of the History of Music, Art and Philosophy.
2. To have consolidated foundational knowledge of Music Harmony, Counterpoint and Musical Form.

Objectives and Contextualisation

The course seeks to describe and explain the development of music and the musical phenomenon from the end of the late Baroque until the first decades of the 19th century. Thus, a contextualized tour will be made of the main composers, forms, genres, musical practices and most significant theories that configure musical activity during this period. Tools will be used to understand music in its historical context, taking into account the main centers of musical activity, the new social role of music and new forms of listening, and we will seek to highlight the musical activity carried out by women and musicians related to the colonies.

Competences

- Critically analyse musical works from any of the points of view of the discipline of musicology.
- Identify and compare the different channels of reception and consumption of music in society and in culture in each period.
- Know and understand the historical evolution of music, its technical, stylistic, aesthetic and interpretative characteristics from a diachronic perspective.
- Make changes to methods and processes in the area of knowledge in order to provide innovative responses to society's needs and demands.
- Relate concepts and information from different humanistic, scientific and social disciplines, especially the interactions which are established between music and philosophy, history, art, literature and anthropology.
- Relate knowledge acquired to musical praxis, working with musicians through the analysis and contextualisation of different repertoires, both related to historical music and to the different manifestations of contemporary music.
- Students must be capable of applying their knowledge to their work or vocation in a professional way and they should have building arguments and problem resolution skills within their area of study.

- Students must be capable of communicating information, ideas, problems and solutions to both specialised and non-specialised audiences.
- Students must have and understand knowledge of an area of study built on the basis of general secondary education, and while it relies on some advanced textbooks it also includes some aspects coming from the forefront of its field of study.
- Take sex- or gender-based inequalities into consideration when operating within one's own area of knowledge.
- Use digital tools and interpret specific documentary sources critically.

Learning Outcomes

1. Analysing ideas about an artistic phenomenon in a given cultural context.
2. Analysing the creators of an artistic phenomenon in a specific cultural context.
3. Analysing the recipients of an artistic phenomenon in a specific cultural context.
4. Apply the conceptualisation of philosophy, history, literature and anthropology to musical research.
5. Assess the reliability of sources, select relevant data and contrast information.
6. Communicate using language that is not sexist or discriminatory.
7. Consider the subject as a whole and identify the context in which the processes studied are inscribed and their interrelationship with the elements and factors that are involved in their sociohistorical development.
8. Contextualise new tendencies in musical creation in general historical evolution and observe its incorporation in the sociopolitical panorama in which they are framed.
9. Contextualise musical works in their historical and cultural setting from a critical perspective.
10. Correctly identify the essential repertoire and the main composers of each historical period.
11. Critically identify the different orientations of musical praxis that musicians apply to the music of each historical period.
12. Define the processes of periodisation and stylistic classification and usual typology in the historical conceptualisation of the musical fact.
13. Identify and critically assemble the basic bibliography that has shaped the field of study.
14. Identify and critically place different musical typologies in their historical periods.
15. Identify phenomena of the circulation of ideas in music proficiency.
16. Identify situations in which a change or improvement is needed.
17. Identify the complexity of music reception processes.
18. Identify the stylistic properties of each historical period.
19. Identifying the context of the historical processes.
20. Identifying the specific methods of history and their relationship with the analysis of particular facts.
21. Integrate knowledge acquired in the production of clear and concise appropriate to the academic and specialist communication.
22. Interpret the most important theoretical texts of each period.
23. Interrelate technological and scientific changes in each period with the creation and reception of music.
24. Link the periods of the history of music to periods of the history of art, in their similarities and differences.
25. Present knowledge about the history, art or other cultural movements.
26. Produce correct, precise and clear argumental and terminological writing of knowledge acquired, both in the area of musical specialisation and dissemination.
27. Propose new experience-based methods or alternative solutions.
28. Recognise in musical praxis element of different cultures and different historical periods.
29. Solve problems of a methodological nature in the area of musicology.
30. Use specific vocabulary of history correctly.
31. Use the vocabulary of musicology related to each period of history.

Content

1. Preliminary concepts

- Classicism? Terminological clarifications and proposed chronology
- Historical context of the 18th century. The Enlightenment
- The social role of the musician and music. New musical environments and practices. Emergence of criticism and musical historiography. The interest for the other, the populace and the music of the past. The role of women.
- Organological evolution: from the harpsichord to the piano, wind instruments.

2. Elements for analysis: *schemata*, sonata forms and musical topics (or *topoi*).

3. The first galant style

- The binomial galant style/strict style
- The first galant style: the impact of Italy
- The galant symphonism: Milan and Mannheim.

4. Evolution of the galant style in the mid-18th century:

- Music in the mid-18th century: Aesthetic changes and reforms. From the passions to sensibility. The sublime.
- Bach's sons as representatives of the galant style and the *empfindsamer Stil* (sensitive style).

5. Viennese Classicism:

- Franz Joseph Haydn:
 - General trajectory
 - Contributions to the symphony and the string quartet
 - The great oratories
- Wolfgang A. Mozart:
 - General trajectory
 - Contributions to the piano concerto, symphony and chamber music
 - Vocal, religious and secular music
- Classicism in Ludwig van Beethoven
 - Meaning of Beethoven and debates around his figure
 - The first Beethoven
 - The "heroic" Beethoven
 - Innovations and particularities of the late Beethoven

6. Other classicisms:

- Other important musical centers: Italy, France, England, Russia
- The Spanish case
- Approaching the music from the Spanish colonies

Activities and Methodology

Title	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Type: Directed			
Analysis of musical works	37	1.48	2, 1, 26, 15, 19, 20, 21
Lesson on the theoretical content	50	2	2, 1, 26, 15, 10, 11, 19, 20, 14, 21
Type: Supervised			
Analysis of works	30	1.2	2, 3, 1, 26, 9, 12, 10, 11, 19, 13, 14, 18, 16, 21, 22, 28, 29, 30, 31

Type: Autonomous

autonomous tasks on Moodle	30	1.2	3, 4, 7, 12, 17, 15, 25, 19, 20, 22, 23, 29, 30, 31, 24
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The content of the course will be developed through master classes with students participation, analytical commentary of musical works, guided listening and texts.

If it cannot be done face to face, it will be done online.

Annotation: Within the schedule set by the centre or degree programme, 15 minutes of one class will be reserved for students to evaluate their lecturers and their courses or modules through questionnaires.

Assessment

Continous Assessment Activities

Title	Weighting	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
First partial exam	30%	1.5	0.06	2, 3, 1, 6, 26, 7, 9, 12, 15, 25, 10, 11, 19, 20, 13, 14, 18, 16, 21, 8, 22, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 5, 24
Moodle tasks and participation in class	15%	0	0	4, 26, 7, 9, 12, 17, 15, 10, 11, 19, 20, 14, 18, 16, 21, 8, 22, 28, 23, 29, 30, 31, 24
Musical analysis in group	25%	0	0	2, 3, 1, 26, 9, 10, 11, 14, 21, 28, 29, 30, 31
Second partial exam	30%	1.5	0.06	2, 3, 4, 26, 7, 9, 12, 17, 15, 25, 10, 19, 20, 14, 18, 21, 22, 28, 23, 29, 30, 31, 24

The evaluation will be carried out through the following activities:

- First partial exam (30%)
- Second partial exam (30%)
- Group analysis essay taking into account the parameters presented in class (25%)
- Moodle activities and class participation (via wooclap) (15%)

To pass the course, the exams and the essay must have been passed separately. Exams can be averaged starting from a grade of 4, provided that the average with the other exam results in a passing grade.

In the reevaluation, set by the Faculty, the student must take the exam of the suspended part or parts. Activities related to class participation will not be recoverable.

A student will be considered non-evaluable when he or she has not taken any exam.

In the event that the student makes any irregularity that could lead to a significant variation in the grade of an evaluation act, this evaluation act will be graded 0, regardless of the disciplinary process that may be instituted. In the event that various irregularities occur in the evaluation acts of the same subject, the final grade for this subject will be 0.

If the tests cannot be carried out in person, their format will be adapted (maintaining their weighting) to the possibilities offered by the UAB's virtual tools. Homework, activities and class participation will be carried out through forums, wikis and/or exercise discussions through Teams, etc. The teacher will ensure that the student can access or will offer alternative means that are within his or her reach.

SINGLE ASSESSMENT

- Exam with the content of the first partial (35%)
- Exam with the content of the second partial (35%)
- Submission of a musical analysis according to the parameters seen in class (30%)

To pass the course, all three parts must have been passed separately.

The date for the assessment will be made public on the Virtual Campus.

Bibliography

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Software

It is not required, but it is recommended to bring a laptop to class to follow the projected materials more easily and to participate in the Wooclaps.

In this course, the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) technologies is not allowed at any stage. Any work that includes AI-generated content will be considered an act of academic dishonesty and may result in a partial or full penalty on the activity's grade, or more severe sanctions in serious cases

Groups and Languages

Please note that this information is provisional until 30 November 2025. You can check it through this [link](#). To consult the language you will need to enter the CODE of the subject.

Name	Group	Language	Semester	Turn
(PAUL) Classroom practices	1	Catalan	second semester	morning-mixed
(TE) Theory	1	Catalan	second semester	morning-mixed