

Philosophy of Music (7,5 ECTS credits)

Level: 1st cycle

Discipline: PHILOSOPHY

Course ID: 0379

Admission requirements

General admission requirements for university studies. Students taking part in the course as a part of their Bachelor's degree program must have completed Course A, Introduction in Philosophy and Theology (30 ECTS credits). Students taking part in the course as a free-standing course are expected to have corresponding prior knowledge.

Educational goals

After completing the course students are expected to be able to:

- Give an account of the most important views on the nature of music within philosophy.
- Recount and critically discuss the main arguments in favour of some of the main views on the nature of music, such as musical formalism and the view that music is capable of expressing extra-musical content (events, ideas, emotions).
- Reason about and critically reflect on music as an art compared to literature and painting.

Course content

In this course we will discuss some of the fundamental questions concerning the nature and function of music. What is the significance and meaning of music, in particular of instrumental music, and how does music relate to other art forms? Following an overview of historically influential philosophical answers, the focus will be placed on contemporary philosophies of music. Musical examples from various genres will be used in highlighting the arguments.

Teaching and examination

The course will be given in the form of two six hours lectures and seminar discussions. The examination consists in the writing of two essays about 10 pages in total. The essays may be written in English or Swedish.

Bibliography

- Goehr, Lydia, F.E. Sparshott, Andrew Bowie & Stephen Davies "Philosophy of Music", *Grove Music Online*, 2001. [<https://doi-org.ezproxy.its.uu.se/10.1093/gmo/9781561592630.article.52965>.] 56 pages.
- Hanslick, Eduard, *Eduard Hanslick's "On the Musically Beautiful": A New Translation*, transl. Lee Rothfarb & Christoph Landerer (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2018). 135 pages.
- Martinelli, Riccardo, *Philosophy of Music: A History* (Berlin: De Gruyter, 2021), 169 pages.
- Sharpe, R. A., *Philosophy of Music: An Introduction* (Chesham, Bucks: Acumen, 2004) 185 pages.

See also "Kursplaner: allmänna bestämmelser" (Course plans: General rules)

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Valid as 2023-07-15