

GENERAL EDUCATION CURRICULUM (GEC)

THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

REQUEST FOR COURSE APPROVAL

SUMMARY SHEET

Department submitting request: Philosophy

Course name and number: Philosophy 294: (Philosophy of Music)

GEC area(s) for which course is to be considered: Visual and Performing Arts Subsection of the Arts & Humanities GEC

How does the course being proposed meet the general principles of the model curriculum and the specific goals of the category for which it is being proposed? This course teaches students to examine systematically their own beliefs and the assumptions of our culture about music, individual musical works, and the relationship between music and the institutions in which it is embedded. The course examines classical, contemporary, and non-Western genres of music, thus allowing students to “develop abilities to be informed observers or active participants in a discipline within the visual, spatial, and performing arts.” (Visual and Performing Arts Expected Learning Outcome #2) This examination is focused on providing material for closely reasoned consideration of a range of fundamental questions about music and the arts. These questions concern 1) the function of music in human society, 2) the role of emotions in music, 3) the ways in which music has meaning and significance, and 4) the ethical impact of music on society. These questions, in turn, raise others about musical ontology and the basis on which we value music. These are fundamental questions about our interactions with the world and each other. Thinking, talking, and writing about these questions will help students “develop an understanding of the foundations of human belief, the nature of reality, and the norms that guide human behavior” as well as “examine and interpret how the human condition and human values are explored through works of art and humanistic writings.” (Arts and Humanities Expected Learning Outcomes #2 and #3) Because the course studies fundamental questions about music using particular pieces as carefully considered examples, it will allow students to “develop abilities to analyze, appreciate, and interpret significant works of art.” (Visual and Performing Arts Expected Learning Outcome #1) The course specifically examines what is involved in and presupposed by appreciating and interpreting works of art, including literary and philosophical writings, and teaches students to critically examine their responses to and interpretations of such works. It will thus also help students to “develop abilities to be informed observers of, or active participants in, the visual, spatial, performing, spoken, or literary arts.” (Arts and Humanities Expected Learning Outcomes #1)