

FALL 2013 COURSE ANNOUNCEMENT

MUS–T561 (33662): Music Theory—Variable Topics  
Wagner Operas: *Tristan* and *The Ring*

Instructor: Christopher Brody

Tuesday and Thursday, 11:15–12:30, room M 263

Among the most written-about musical works of the nineteenth century, Wagner’s “music dramas” left no aspect of operatic composition unchanged. This course will offer in-depth explorations of several of his operas, dealing with such topics as dramatic and narrative structure, the role of the Wagnerian *Leitmotiv*, and Wagner’s unique approaches to harmony and form. Our main repertoire will be *Tristan und Isolde* and *Der Ring des Nibelungen*—in which we will pursue the goals of both large-scale familiarity and close analysis of excerpts—along with briefer forays into other works. While most of our time will be spent on analysis, we will also read a few selections from recent and classic analytical writings on Wagner.

*Scores and readings:* Students will need to purchase the Schirmer piano–vocal score of *Tristan* and a course pack containing additional scores for analysis. Readings will be available in the Music Library or electronically.

*Requirements:* In preparation for each class meeting there will be brief assignments involving analysis, reading, or listening/viewing. Two listening quizzes will test repertoire familiarity. The major projects will be two short papers (6–10 pages).

*Prerequisites:* T561 is open only to graduate students who have passed T508 (Written Music Theory Review for Graduate Students) and M542 (Music History Review for Graduate Students II), or the equivalent Graduate Entrance Examinations.

**Langsam und schmachtend**

