T658—Seminar in Music Theory:
Advanced Atonal Theory

Instructor: Jay Hook   2:30–3:45 Tuesday and Thursday
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Students in this seminar will explore an assortment of topics in atonal theory. The topics may be shaped to some extent by student interests, but are likely to include many of the following: pitch space, pitch class space, and contour space; K- and Kh-relations and set complexes; twelve-tone operators and multiplication operators; invariance matrices and rotational arrays; twelve-tone combinatoriality and partitions of the aggregate; measures of pc-set similarity; transpositional combination; atonal voice leading; and Klumpenhouwer networks. This seminar is not primarily a course in transformation theory, but some fundamentals of transformation theory will be covered, along with some atonal applications. The subject matter of the seminar is generally more theoretical than analytical in nature, but the readings will include a variety of analytical applications, and individual projects will offer an opportunity for students to pursue further analytical work.

We will use Robert Morris's *Class Notes for Atonal Music Theory* and *Class Notes for Advanced Atonal Music Theory* as texts for some of the above topics. Besides Morris, other scholars whose work we will read may include Allen Forte, David Lewin, Andrew Mead, Richard Cohn, Elizabeth West Marvin, Joseph Straus, Jonathan Bernard, George Perle, Ian Quinn, and the instructor.

Requirements: assigned readings and discussion; additional individual readings and class presentations; one or two short papers or other written assignments; one major paper and final presentation.

Prerequisites: Students enrolling in T658 should be familiar with the fundamentals of pitch-class set theory and serial theory as covered in T556, Analysis of Music Since 1900. Although some of the material to be covered in T658 is mathematical in nature, there are no specific mathematical prerequisites other than a willingness to engage in precise analytical thinking; mathematical concepts will be introduced as needed during the semester.