

SPRING 2018
MUSIC MUS-M 410 (13546)

BEETHOVEN STRING QUARTETS

J. Peter Burkholder
Tuesday and Thursday 1:00–2:15 PM
M 350



Beethoven's string quartets are at the center of the chamber music repertoire and a constant source of inspiration and new interpretations. Our goal is to hear and understand Beethoven's string quartets better, to become familiar with each one, and to explore how Beethoven's contemporaries heard and understood them.

The class will be conducted as a seminar, with an emphasis on discussion more than lecture. Coursework will include repeated listening to each of the quartets; reading assignments on the quartets and on Beethoven's life, contexts, and working environment; keeping a journal; participating in class discussions; two exams; and a research project related to Beethoven's quartets, culminating in a class presentation and paper.