

M602: Operatic Typologies
Musicology Doctoral Seminar
Fall 2011
Dr. Smith

This seminar will examine opera from the point of view of its audiences, situating individual works in their respective aesthetic, intellectual, visual and musical cultures. Students will use pertinent primary sources, from librettos and manuscript scores (where possible), to treatises on musical aesthetics, literary criticism, art criticism and philosophy, and other representations of similar characters and subjects drawn from contemporary literature, visual materials and other operatic or theatrical representations, to gain a sense of the underlying meanings that would have been relevant to a contemporary audience. Students will use these materials to create audience-centered analytical methodologies using today's interdisciplinary tools. Repertoire will encompass the early modern period.

Students will work on individual research projects throughout the semester, presenting their results on a weekly basis. Although each week will be focused on a common topic, students will be responsible for developing their own reading lists appropriate to their own project. Some common readings will also be assigned each week.

