

# Film Music: An Historical Survey

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**Course Description:** Music in film, both specially composed and/or appropriated, often determines the character and emotional gravity of the greatest films. Some films, such as *Taxi Driver*, *Vertigo*, and *2001: A Space Odyssey* are literally unthinkable without their scores. This seminar presents a roughly chronological survey of the greatest film scores, from masterpieces by Korngold and Hermann up to the present day. Relevant clips are presented with commentary and analysis. Also included is a discussion of the film composer's craft, with the necessity of split second timing and utter versatility.

The purpose of the course is to examine how music works within a film, not to evaluate the intrinsic quality of the film or its composer or music supervisor.

## Schedule

Exact timings for each film: TBD

**10:00-12:30 – Morning Session**

**12:30-1:30 – Lunch (on your own)**

**1:30- 4:00 – Afternoon Session**

**Content Advisory:** we will be viewing film excerpts as they appear on commercial DVD and BluRay releases. There may be instances of violence, profanity, or brief nudity.



## Films Discussed

In some cases we will focus on music composed specifically for the screen by a single composer (traditional film scoring) or preexisting music used in the film. In the latter case there may be many composers represented, so this list includes only the film title and year of release.

1. *The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari* (1920)
2. *The Nibelungen* (1924)
3. *The Man Who Knew Too Much* (1934)
4. *The Adventures of Robin Hood* (1938)
5. *Casablanca* (1942)
6. *High Noon* (1952)
7. *The Robe* (1953)
8. *Prince Valiant* (1954)
9. *The Magnificent Seven* (1960)
10. *Fantastic Voyage* (1966)

### Selected films of Stanley Kubrick

11. *2001: A Space Odyssey* (1968)
12. *A Clockwork Orange* (1971)
13. *The Shining* (1980)

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14. *The Golden Voyage of Sinbad* (1973)
15. *Taxi Driver* (1976)
16. *Alien* (1979)
17. *Excalibur* (1981)
18. *Ran* (1985)
19. *Schindler's List* (1993)
20. *Pulp Fiction* (1994)
21. *Dancer in the Dark* (2000)
22. *Fellowship of the Ring* (2001)
23. *Children of Men* (2006)
24. *Shutter Island* (2010)
25. *The Hateful Eight* (2015)

