

MUS 507, Studies in Music History: Mozart Operas
Instructor: Ryan Minor

This course focuses on the five most performed operas by Mozart: *Le Nozze di Figaro*, *Don Giovanni*, *Così fan Tutte*, *Die Zauberflöte*, and *Die Entführung aus dem Serail*. We will engage with these works' musical construction; their relationship to the genre more generally; their effectiveness on stage, as drama; and their role within Mozart's broader compositional output. But we will also focus on these operas' interactions with the wider cultural and historical context in which they were written. Finally, we will consider their dramaturgical history on the opera stage, especially several important recent productions.

In addition to our weekly meetings, students will be expected to watch two (video) productions of each opera--in other words, ten full performances. Students unwilling to commit to these viewings should not enroll in the course!

Grades will be based on participation in discussion, weekly written responses to readings and repertory, class presentations, a final exam, and a research paper.

This counts as a history course for MM and DMA students, and is primarily intended for performers.

3 credits