

MUS 541, Topics in the Cross-Cultural Study of Music: Oral Histories of Music, Religion, and the Great Migration

Instructor: Margarethe Adams | Monday, 1pm – 3:50pm

This course examines stories of the Great Migration, particularly those emanating from oral histories and embodied experiences. We will study stories of black travel in the 20th century, about following and upending gender roles, about the conflicts between the church and the blues, and about the destruction wrought by environmental racism as told in songs, interviews, and family histories. We will look at Chicago in particular as a recipient of waves of southern migrants, and we'll follow Thomas A. Dorsey's attempt to reconcile the sacred and the secular of black life in his gospel blues. Finally we will look at crossover artists like Sister Rosetta Tharpe, Sam Cooke, and Etta James and consider the tilted economies of the music business in the 20th century.

Requirements include weekly readings, weekly written assignments, article presentations, and a final paper.

This seminar is primarily intended for MA and PhD students. Any MM or DMA students may enroll with permission from Prof. Adams; MM and DMA students must also check with their large ensemble instructor to see if this course would conflict with the ensemble's rehearsal schedule. If it will conflict, the student must check with the course instructor if absences for this reason would be permitted. For students in the MA/PhD in Critical Music Studies track, it satisfies the Elective Group 1 requirement. For DMA students, it fulfills the Elective Group 1 requirement.

3 credits