

Leonard Bernstein's Musical Worlds

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April 29–May 27, 2002; Fridays, 10 a.m.–12 p.m.,

Overview: Leonard Bernstein (1918–1990) embraced a remarkable range of roles in his career, including those of composer, conductor, pianist, educator, multimedia pioneer, and engaged citizen. With an emphasis on primary source materials found at the New York Philharmonic Archives and the Library of Congress, this course explores the life, music, and impact of Bernstein, placing him as one of the towering cultural figures of the 20th century. In this course, we will examine the intersections among Bernstein's musical activities, his personal and intellectual life, and the shifting political and social contexts of the 20th century.

Reading, Listening, and Viewing: All materials to which I'll be referring can be accessed online through links or uploads in the course Box folder, or through publicly accessible websites such as the [Library of Congress Leonard Bernstein Collection](#), the [New York Philharmonic Archives](#), the [FBI records](#), and [YouTube](#). We will be drawing heavily on primary sources found in digital collections. No preparatory reading or listening is required for each session, but suggestions for further exploration will be provided.

Class Meeting Topics:

- 1) April 29: Introduction and overview of Leonard Bernstein in the broader context of 20th century American music and society
- 2) May 6: Bernstein and politics, including his relationship with the Civil Rights movement
- 3) May 13: Bernstein's career-long advocacy of the symphonies of Austrian composer Gustav Mahler, as a window both into Bernstein's identity and musical priorities
- 4) May 20: Bernstein and the Theatre, from *On the Town* to *A Quiet Place*, with a special focus on *West Side Story*
- 5) May 27: Bernstein's multifaceted legacy and influence, into the 21st century

Instructor Bio: Matthew Mugmon is Associate Professor of Musicology at the University of Arizona. He has served as the New York Philharmonic's Leonard Bernstein Scholar-in-Residence, and his research appears in the *Journal of Musicology*, *Music & Letters*, the *Journal of Musicological Research*, and the essay collection *Rethinking Mahler*. His monograph *Aaron Copland and the American Legacy of Gustav Mahler* was published in 2019 by the University of Rochester Press. Dr. Mugmon is a Distinguished Fellow with the Center for University Education Scholarship for a project whose goal is to explore the role of archives in the teaching of undergraduate students. He is also a partner on a University of Arizona Libraries grant through the Library of Congress to incorporate primary sources into coursework. In 2018 he earned the Charles and Irene Putnam Award for Excellence in Teaching.