Course Title: Beethoven's Nine Symphonies
Course Code: MUS 131
Instructor: Ilias Chrissochoidis

Course Summary:
Beethoven’s nine symphonies comprise the most influential body of music in modern times. They brought a distinguished tradition of orchestral music to its peak, and became the paradigm of the symphonic genre ever after. Behind their craftsmanship and affective power lies Beethoven’s ability to turn abstract sound and harmonic processes into ecumenical dramas. For the first time in history, music as pure sound could claim the same universality as the monuments of Sophocles, Michelangelo, and Shakespeare. This course will combine a survey of Beethoven’s symphonies with a critical probing of their intellectual power and spiritual depth. We will explore how a four-note motif can generate a movement several minutes long (as in the Fifth Symphony); how Beethoven manipulates the sonata form to create dramatic effects; and the way he incorporates voices in the finale of his Ninth Symphony. This is a listening-based course and a basic knowledge of this repertory is expected.

*Please see course page for full description and additional details.*

Grade Options and Requirements:
- No Grade Requested (NGR)
  - This is the default option. No work will be required; no credit shall be received; no proof of attendance can be provided.
- Credit/No Credit (CR/NC)
  - Students must attend at least 80% of class sessions.
- Letter Grade (A, B, C, D, No Pass)
  - Students must attend at least 80% of class sessions and complete a piece of written work (to be discussed further in class).

*Please Note: If you require proof that you completed a Continuing Studies course for any reason (for example, employer reimbursement), you must choose either the Letter Grade or Credit/No Credit option. Courses taken for NGR will not appear on official transcripts or grade reports.*
Tentative Weekly Outline:

Week 1 (2/6):
Introduction; Beethoven biography; historical background; terminology; sonata form; Haydn and Mozart

Week 2 (2/13):
Symphony no.1; Symphony no. 2

Week 3 (2/20):
Symphony no. 3; Symphony no. 4

Week 4 (2/27):
Symphony no. 5; Symphony no. 6

Week 5 (3/6):
Symphony no. 7; Symphony no. 8

Week 6 (3/13):
Symphony no. 9

Week 7 (3/20):
Conclusion; further resources; test