Beloved by performers and audiences, Baroque music poses unique difficulties for analysis, often lacking the structural and harmonic clarity we expect from later music. In this course we will engage deeply with three different genres of Baroque composition: suite, concerto, and aria. We’ll trace the development of each of these styles from early (and often simple) examples, ultimately moving on to their complex treatment by late Baroque masters like Bach and Handel. Along the way, we’ll consider issues such as the nature of musical form in the Baroque, the role of counterpoint and sequence, and the ways in which historical context shaped the development of our three genres.

Scores and readings: Scores for analysis will be available in a course pack for purchase. Readings will be available in the Music Library or electronically.

Requirements: In preparation for each class meeting there will be brief assignments involving analysis, reading, or listening. Each of the three repertoire units will be concluded by an exam (including listening and analysis) and/or a short essay.

Prerequisites: T252 and junior standing, or consent of instructor.