The many and varied compositions of Igor Stravinsky are hallmarks of the twentieth century. This seminar will consider the origins of Stravinsky’s modernist practices, various analytical approaches to the music, how it was written, how it relies on dance and ritual, and how its innovations continue to shape contemporary music. We will approach the music through score study, through a large body of analytical commentary, videos of the ballets, and through the writings and sketches of the composer himself. The class will rely on a variety of texts, including Prof. Horlacher’s recent book Building Blocks: Repetition and Continuity in Stravinsky’s Music. Students will be expected to complete the readings, to participate in a lively class discussion, to write short papers based upon the readings, to present readings to the class, and to write one final seminar paper.

This course meets in conjunction with N399, the honors seminar for undergraduates in the Jacobs School of Music.