In this class we will survey special aspects the history of opera, one of the most peculiar genres of Western music. Although opera has adapted and evolved, it has always remained a powerful combination of literature, theater, and astonishingly beautiful music.

Given the limited 6-week calendar, we will forgo a complete historical narrative in favor of an in-depth look at a few masterpieces and a special focus on aspects linked to the material culture of opera and to how the genre represented a central feature of Western culture for centuries.

The class time will involve a moderate amount of lecturing, in addition to group work, class discussion, and musical listening. Class attendance is mandatory.

**Pre-Requisites:** MUS-M501 and T 508, or equivalent by examination.