In this class we will survey 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. In addition to studying the textbook, we will have an in-depth look at ten masterpieces and focus on a number of details 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-M542/M501 and T 508, or equivalents by examination.