Heinrich Isaac (ca. 1450-1517) was one of the most versatile and accomplished Flemish composers of the late fifteenth century. His output includes outstanding examples of virtually every genre practiced in his times – Masses, motets, songs in several languages and different traditions, pieces with a possible instrumental destination, as well as a rarest complete set of Mass Propers for the whole liturgical year. Through Isaac we will develop a high familiarity with late-fifteenth-century musical styles across genres and geographical areas and discover some of the contrapuntal masterpieces of the era. The class time will include a combination of lecturing, discussion, and team work.

Pre-Requisites: MUS-T 508, MUS-M 501, or equivalents by examination or permission by instructor. This is a low-enrollment class, especially designed for MA and DM students.

Course goals: this class will enable students to:
• identify and describe in detail compositional techniques and musical styles current in 1480-1510
• discuss issues related to the biography and social history of Renaissance singers and composers
• develop a basic knowledge of contemporaneous notation
• improve their research and communication skills

Grading will be based on classroom participation (20%), three short analytical essays (30%), and a research project (40%).

Textbooks:
No textbook is needed for this class. Readings and scores will be available through Canvas.