



Attendance/Reading Quiz!

Mu 101: Introduction to Music

Queensborough Community College

Instructor: Dr. Alice Jones

Spring 2019

Sections C3 (W 9:10-12), C5 (F 9:10-12), F5 (F 12:10-3)



Recap

- Music involves a wide variety of skills and accommodates a wide variety of ideas
- Analysis Essay

In-class writing, part 1

What is a piece of music?

As an audience member, what do you expect from a performance of a piece of music?

John Cage (1912-92), 4'33 (1952)

John Cage (1912-92)



Cage in Japan, 1962

“To what end does one write music?... [Music conditions one’s mind, leading to] moments in life that are complete and fulfilled.” (1948)

“Until I die there will be sounds. And they will continue following my death. One need not fear about the future of music.”

—Cage, after visiting an anechoic chamber at Harvard University, 1951

Musical sounds are not fixed



Ludwig van Beethoven,
Symphony No. 3 in E-flat Major
“Eroica”, I. Allegro con brio (1804)



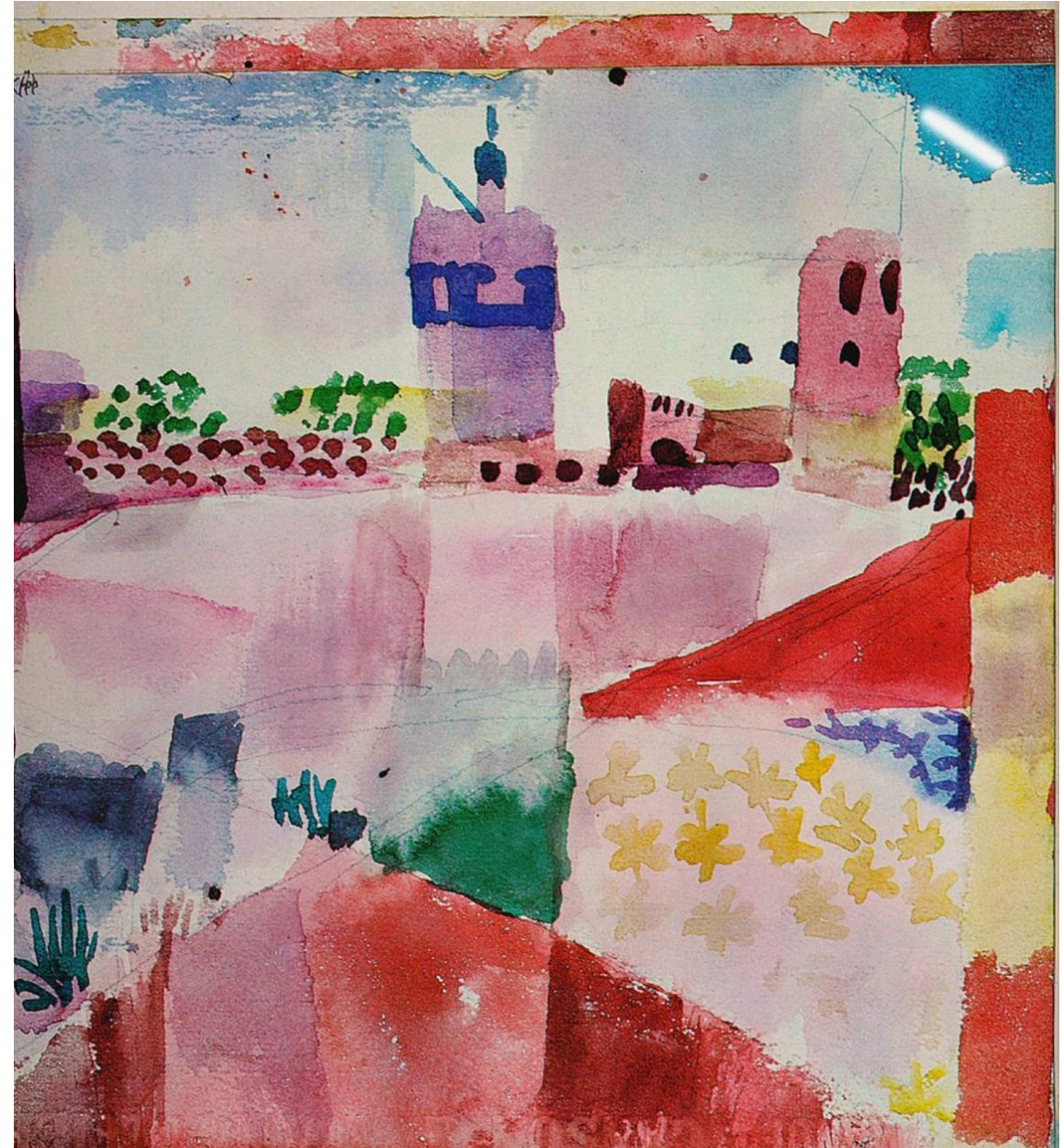
A chronological survey of the opening
chords of Beethoven's Eroica Symphony

Minimalism in visual art



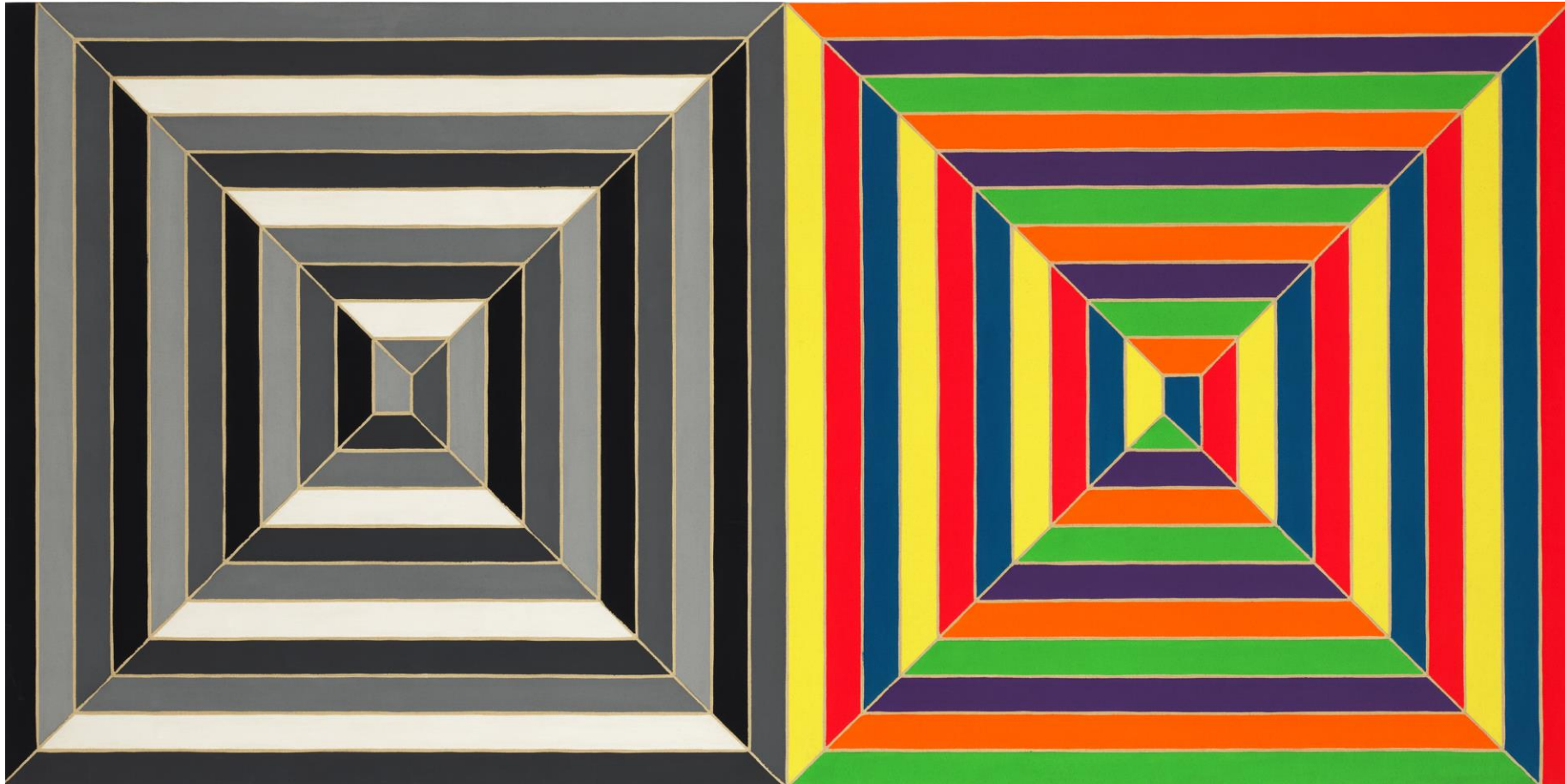
Hammamet,
Tunisia

Paul Klee (1879-1940),
*Hammamet with its
Mosque* (1914)



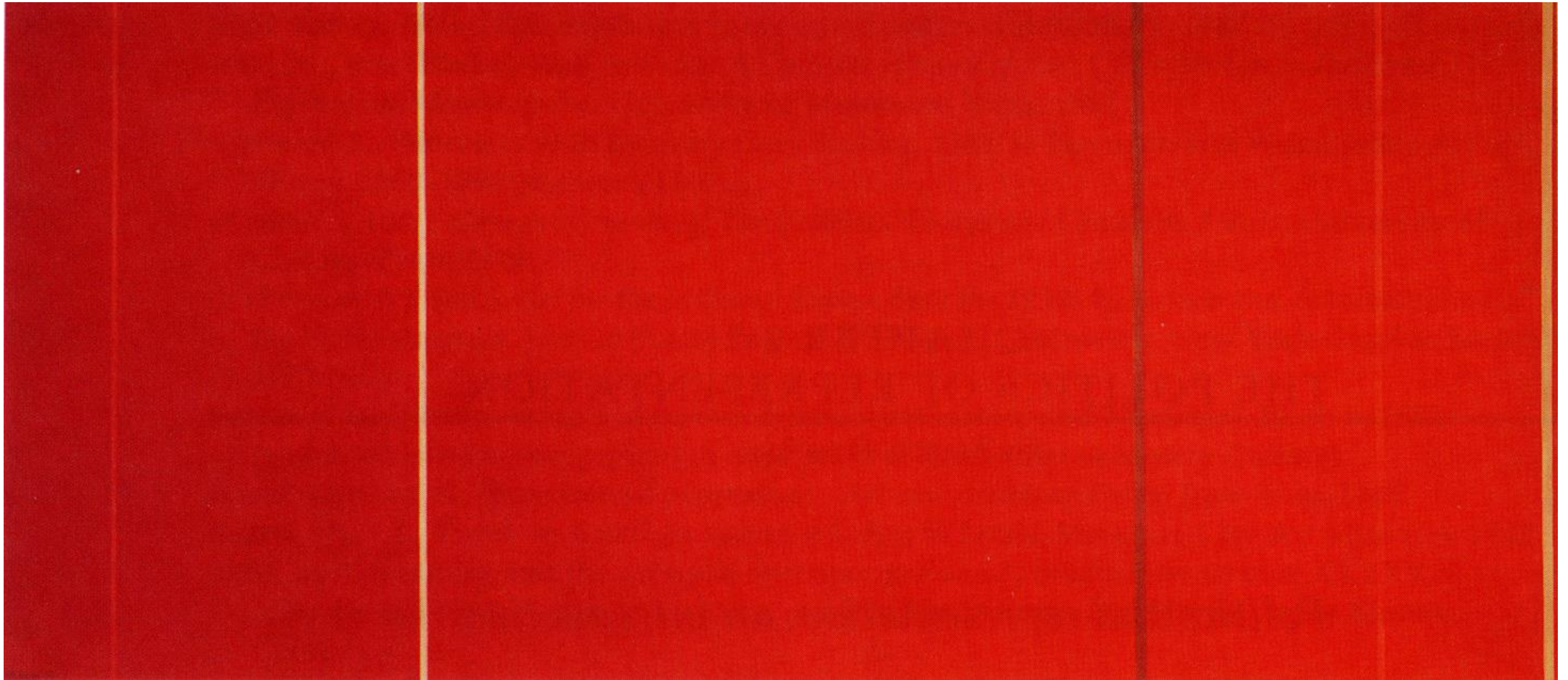
Minimalism in visual art

Philip Glass, String Quartet
No. 2 "Company", I. (1983)



Frank Stella (b. 1936), *Untitled* (1966)

Minimalism in visual art



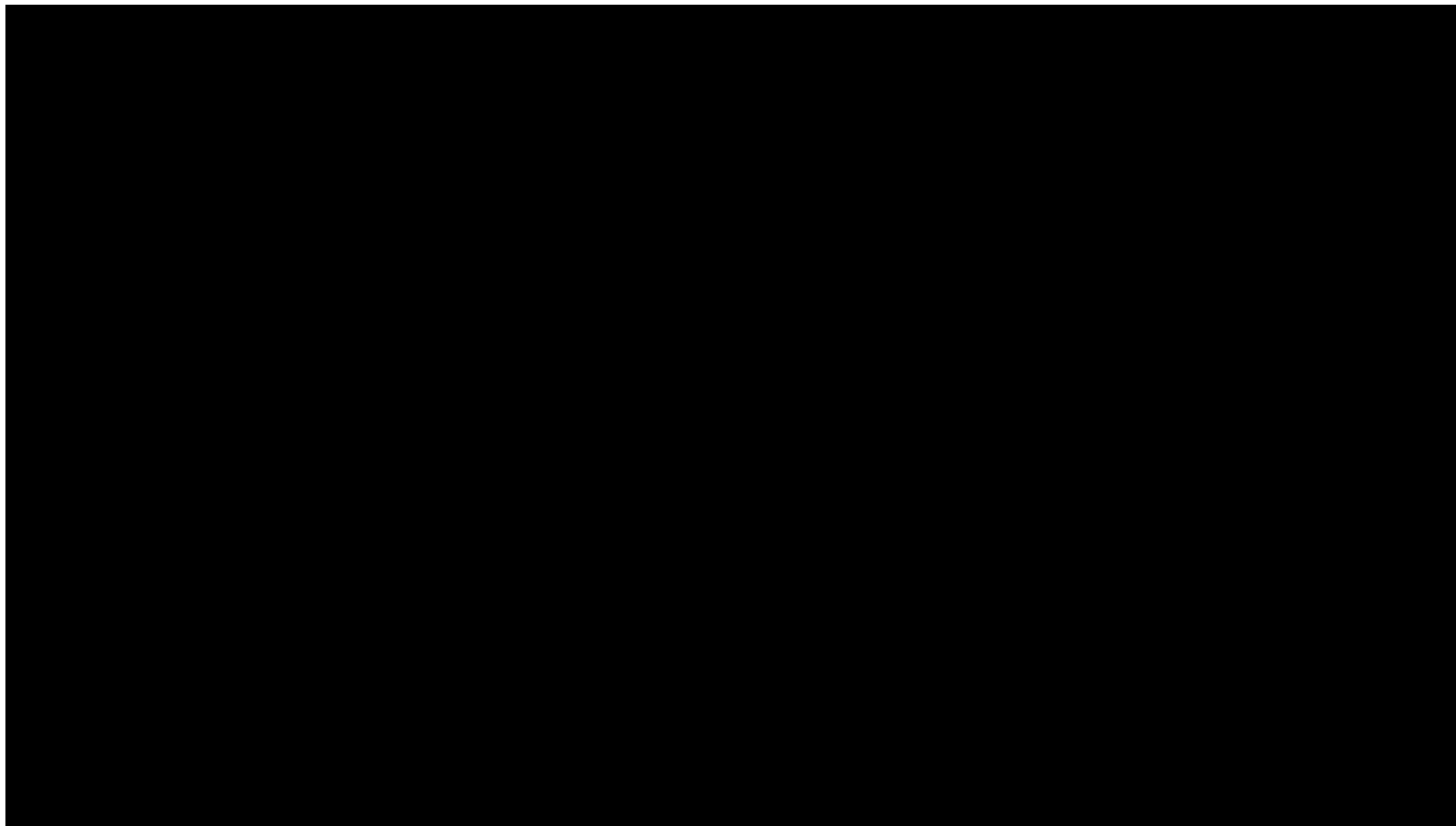
Barnett Newman (1905-70), *Vir Heroicus Sublimis* (1951)

Minimalism in visual art



Kerry James Marshall (b. 1955), *Red (If They Come in the Morning)* (2011)

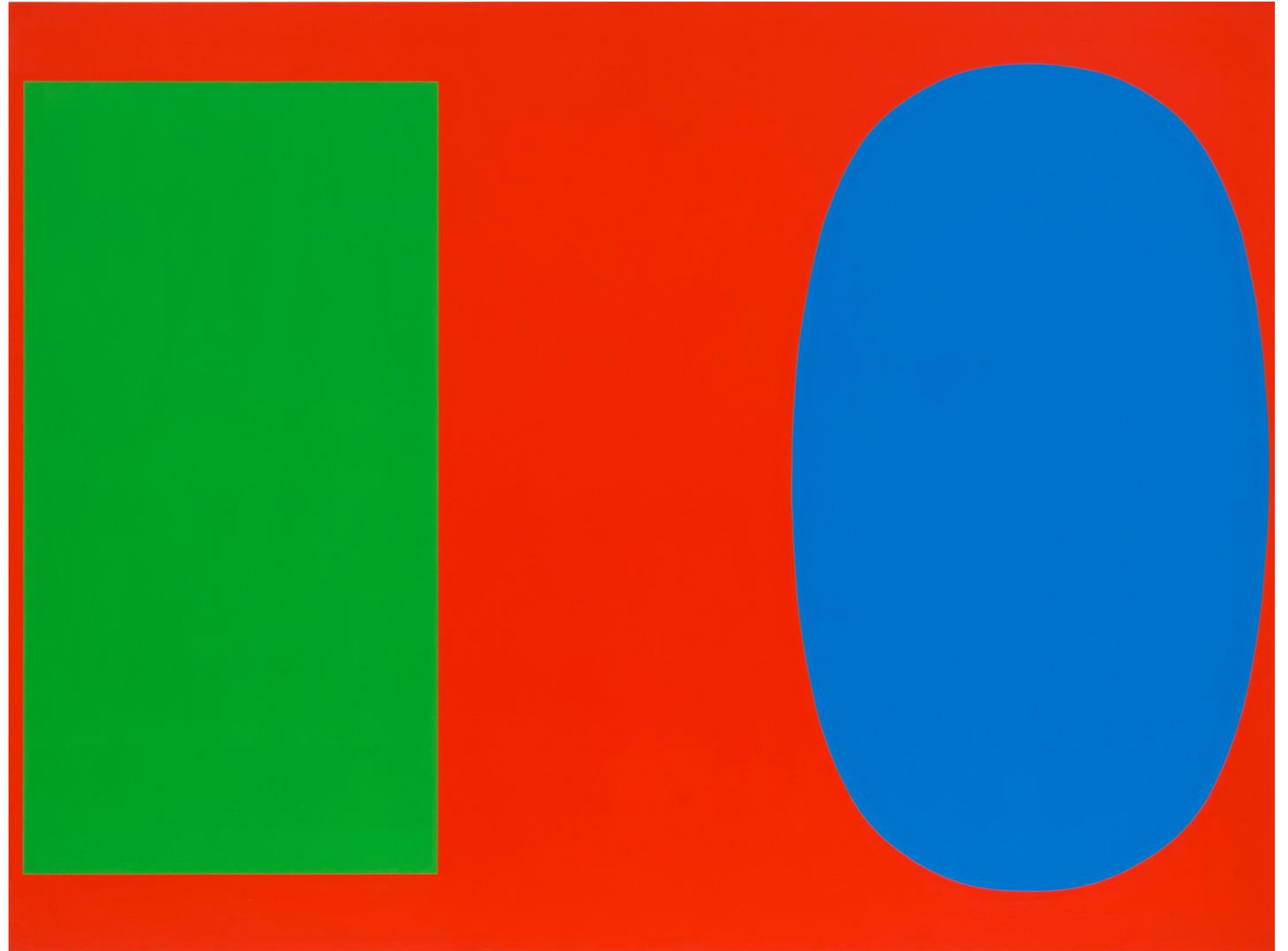
John Cage (1912-92), Sonata No. 5 (1946)



Alvin Lucier, *I Am Sitting in a Room* (1969)

Break!

Ellsworth Kelly
(1923-2015),
Green Blue Red
(1963)



Listening comparison: Romantic vs. 12 tone vs. Minimalism

Johannes Brahms



- Johannes Brahms (1833-97), String Quartet in A minor, Op. 51 No. 2 (1873)
- Anton Webern (1883-1945), String Quartet, Op. 28 (1937-38)
- Philip Glass (b. 1937), String Quartet No. 5, III. (1991)



Anton Webern

The term “minimalism” was intended as an insult Pierre Boulez (1925-2016): it is music “of minimal interest”



Philip Glass

Steve Reich (b. 1936), *Clapping Music* (1972)

- Phasing – playing the same rhythmic figure slightly out of time (out of phase) with another musician



Steve Reich (b. 1936), *Drumming*, part I (1970-1)

- 4 sets of tuned bongos (8 drums, 4 players)
- Phasing
- The composer provides a template for how the piece should unfold, not specific commands for the execution of every single note
 - Improvisation – each player takes a turn at a solo



Frederic Rzewski (b.1938), *Coming Together*, Part I (1971)

Thursday February 17, 2011 powerFUL

Meredith Monk (b. 1942)



In-class writing, part 2

What is a piece of music?

As an audience member, what do you expect from a performance of a piece of music?

How are your definitions now different from your definitions at the beginning of the class?

Final thoughts?

Not all music is worth listening to multiple times, but all music is worth listening to once

To commit to education is to commit to growing

“Just listen with the vastness of the world in mind. You can’t fail to get the message.” —Pierre Boulez



Homework and reminders

- Final exam dates
 - C3 (W morning): May 22, 10am-12pm
 - C5 (F morning): May 17, 10am-12pm
 - F5 (F afternoon): May 17, 12:15pm-2:15pm
- Final exam = Final discussion + in-class writing project
 - Preparatory blog post available
- Concert Response Essay – due at the final exam (hard copy)
- Any other work you need to hand in is due by your final exam
 - If you need to take an Incomplete for the semester, make an appointment to talk to me