

MU 630 – Methods of Music Research

Instructor: Adam A Torres

Email: adam.torres@colostate.edu

Phone: 970-541-0068 (Google Voice)

Office Hours: By appointment, in person or via Skype

Course Objectives

- To develop a working knowledge of the resources available for music research, both online and in print.
- To hone bibliographic writing skills

Required Texts

Sampsel, Laurie. *Music Research: A Handbook*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2008.

Supplemental Readings, as assigned.

Optional Texts

The Chicago Manual of Style. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Required Hardware

Mac or PC with internet access (broadband connection highly recommended). Printer, scanner, or fax machine not likely to be necessary if you can submit Word documents or pdfs.

Required Software

Microsoft Word or equivalent word processor. www.openoffice.org provides a free MS Word compatible word processor. I cannot open WordPerfect documents, though any document saved as a .pdf is openable.

Adobe Acrobat reader (free download at www.adobe.com)

Grading

Weekly assignments - 20% of final grade

Class participation via Canvas Discussion Board – 15%

2 Short Projects – 20 % each

Bibliography Project – 25%

Grading scale (final percentage, weighted, plusses and minuses utilized)

A = 93-100 A- = 90-92 B+ = 87-89 B = 83-86 B- = 80-82

C+ = 77-79 C = 70-76 D = 61-69 F = 0-60

Assignments, Readings, and Discussion Policy

Due to the nature of this online course, in lieu of lectures, class materials will instead be presented as a combination of lecture outlines and assigned readings. Because of this, the total amount of readings often will be more substantial than in a resident instruction situation. Assignments and discussions will correspond each week to the topics presented. The goal of assignments and discussions is to reinforce and evaluate class readings and materials and therefore, these are expected to be complete and submitted on time. However, in the event of a legitimate emergency, late work will be accepted provided that contact is made regarding the nature of the situation in a timely manner.

Grades for late coursework will be reduced 10% for each day it is late, up to a maximum 50% deduction for two weeks past the due date. Assignments may always be turned in early. Homework assignments will be given a numerical grade. At the end of the semester, these grades will be totaled and the percentage of points received on homework assignments will be factored in to represent 20% of your final grade. All written assignments are to be completed at a graduate level, with logical structure and impeccable spelling and grammar. Assignments that fall outside this parameter will receive a lower grade. If you have questions as to what this means, contact the instructor.

Discussions: Discussion via Canvas is integral to this course. Your discussion grade is basically your in-class participation grade. Each week, one or more discussion topics will be posted by Tuesday at 9 am. Your participation in these discussions is a large portion of your grade, so participate actively! Discussions should be largely class and student driven. There are three types of discussions that will be available through Canvas.

1. A general help/comment discussion board. This is where you go if you have questions that need to be answered or comments on the assigned materials. This discussion thread will be monitored periodically by the instructor, but if you read a post before I do and you know the answer to someone else's question, please go ahead and reply. Your classmates will appreciate not having to wait for guidance. Do not be intimidated about asking questions publicly. In most

cases, one or more of your classmates may have have same question. I am always available via email to answer questions one on one.

2. Weekly discussion topics. Each student is expected to reply to the basic question(s)/topic(s) in a thoughtful, insightful way by the end of the day on Friday. This means that you need to have a significant portion of your weekly work done to be prepared. Then, before the following Sunday at midnight, each student should read all posts and respond in a constructive manner to at least one of your classmates' posts. Differing points of view are completely acceptable, but must be done in a respectful way. You may always post additional responses, if you are so inclined. Each week's primary discussion is worth 10 points. Partial points may be deducted for posts that lack significance. If you have questions as to what this means, contact the instructor. Points are then factored into your final grade in the same manner as homework points (as 15% of your final grade).
3. Homework discussions. Some weeks, homework will require that you post your completed assignment on the discussion board. In the same manner as the weekly discussion topic, you will then comment constructively on your classmates' work. Grades for these discussions count in your homework point accumulation, not your discussion points.

Projects

[Project #1](#) and [Project #2](#). These are two short-term projects, each expected to be done over the course of three to four weeks during the semester. You will be working on these while completing your regular weekly reading and homework assignments. Plan carefully. [Project 3](#) is a bibliography project that shows an entire semester's worth of work. Students should pick a topic within the first two weeks of class and begin compiling information for their project immediately after. Instructions and expectations for all three of these projects are provided in detail on Canvas. If you have questions, contact the instructor.

NOTE: Projects 1 and 3 require you to visit a research library¹. If you do not live close to one, you will need to make arrangements to travel to one prior to when the project is due. If this is the case, plan ahead so that you can accomplish everything you need to do while you are there. In addition to these projects, the homework for week 15 also must be done in a research library. While you are there, it will be to your advantage to look at all types of materials studied in class to develop hands-on experience.

Exams

There are no exams in this course.

¹A research library refers to one which houses basic music research materials such as complete works, thematic catalogs, and standard music reference works. Often this will be at a college or university with an established music program.

Web Content and Data Transmission Policy

Content for this course will be posted on Canvas, including syllabus, homework assignments, assigned readings (non-textbook), audio files, scores, etc. Most assignments will be submitted as documents via Canvas. However, due to the nature of musical analysis and presentation, you at times may need access to a scanner with the ability to save assignments in a legible .jpeg or .pdf format for email/Canvas transfer, or, as an absolute last resort, access to a fax machine to fax completed assignments to me. Neatness and legibility is imperative! While electronic transfer is the preferred method, if you need to fax in an assignment, please contact me for fax information. Local students may turn in work by hand by the due date/time, either to me or my mailbox in the music office.

Canvas

Canvas is the portal through which this class is administered. It is located at <http://canvas.colostate.edu>. It is your responsibility to check Canvas regularly for announcements, revisions, and updates.

Online Course Drop Procedures

Information on drop procedures for online classes can be found at <http://www.online.colostate.edu/answers/policies/drop-policy.dot>

Drop and University Withdrawal deadlines for online credit courses differ from University deadlines. It is your responsibility to check these dates. Any changes made to your class schedule may impact your financial obligation to the University and your eligibility for financial aid. It is your responsibility to verify that the drop or withdrawal has been processed properly.

Drops must be requested through one of the methods below; no drops can be completed via telephone.

Online: RamWeb and click on "Registration" to get started.

If you are dropping your last course, you cannot use RamWeb. You must email or fax your drop request.

Email: Send an email to onlineplus_registration@colostate.edu. Include your name, CSUID, and the course(s).

Fax: (970) 491-7885

You will receive confirmation of your course changes. It is your responsibility to retain registration documents as proof of courses changes

A note regarding online courses

If this is your first time taking an online course, you will find that the method of delivery offers advantages as well as drawbacks. The most obvious advantage is that it offers the student a certain amount of flexibility as to when and where to fulfill course requirements. Of course, it also requires a great deal of organizational and time management skills. If you are not the kind of person that can consistently self-motivate yourself, this may not be the course for you. This course is in many ways a guided independent study. You will get out of it what you put into it.

Warning: This course will take a lot of your time. It is no different than any other graduate course. You will be expected to put in the same amount of time reading, listening, analyzing, and discussing core concepts that you would have in a resident class, as well as the additional time you normally would spend doing homework assignments and readings. Graduate courses are a lot of work, with high expectations. When you feel overwhelmed, remember that it is ultimately one more step towards the advanced degree you will be earning.

Schedule (tentative – any changes will appear on Canvas)

- Week 1: Class introduction/Library Resources
- Week 2: Introduction to Research and Primary Sources
- Week 3: Dictionaries and Encyclopedias
- Week 4: Periodicals and Indexes
- Week 5: Complete Works, Monuments, Historical Editions
- Week 6: Elements of Style, Citations
- Week 7: Bibliographies of Music and Music Literature
- Week 8: Thematic Catalogs
- Week 9: No Content Posted (Spring Break)
- Week 10: Program Notes
- Week 11: Music Histories
- Week 12: Miscellaneous Writing Formats
- Week 13: Dissertations, Theses
- Week 14: Discographies, Iconographies, and Music Directories
- Week 15: Internet sources
- Week 16: Library Scavenger Hunt, Paper Completion