

Proposal Instructions and Application

Special Projects MUSC400 replacing *Topics in Music, Art, and Society* MUSC480

INTRODUCTION

MUSC480: *Topics in Music, Art, and Society* is a senior-level course intended to draw together the various threads of a student's inquiry into the discipline of Music at UMBC. It is an intensive study and discussion of the history, theory, and social function of the various musical traditions of a particular culture and their relationship to other forms of art. Topics vary from year to year depending on the faculty person teaching the course. On occasion—and with the approval of the Music Curriculum Committee—a student may choose to design a MUSC400: *Special Projects* course to replace *Topics in Music* with the help of a research mentor selected from the full-time UMBC Music faculty. Students might elect to design their own research project because they desire to sum up their Music degree studying a topic that especially interests them. That topic might advance acquired knowledge from a previously completed course of study or launch in a new direction entirely in preparation for graduate school.

INSTRUCTIONS / PARAMETERS

Getting Started

The process you follow to obtain approval for a *Special Projects* course is described below:

1. In the semester *before* you intend to register for MUSC400 *Special Projects*, speak with a full-time UMBC Music Department faculty member, review the student and faculty requirements of the project, ask if he/she would be available to help you shape your research and paper, and secure his/her mentorship of the project.
2. Five weeks before your intended MUSC400 semester, write a well-crafted proposal that narrows your interest into something that can be tackled successfully in a semester at 3 credits and submit the proposal as part of your *Special Projects* application. Gather a short bibliography and begin reading several weeks/months in advance so you know how to shape your research and your submitted proposal.
3. Submit your application and preliminary bibliography to the Curriculum Committee Chair for consideration by August 5 for the Fall semester, and by January 5 for the Spring Semester. Wait for the Committee's response.
4. After you receive approval for your project, work with your research mentor two weeks before the beginning of the semester to schedule your *Student Presentation** date (* see no. 4 below).

Your MUSC400 *Special Projects* Course: 3 credits

Having gained the support from your research mentor and the approval of the Music Curriculum Committee, your submitted MUSC400 replacement course must meet the following requirements:

1. A minimum of 7 discussion times with your research mentor on the topic at hand throughout the semester. (10%)
2. An *Outline*¹ for the paper that includes a *Revised Thesis* and a *Bibliography* with no fewer than 3 peer-reviewed sources.² DUE WEEK 6. (10%)
3. The *Rough Draft* of the paper responding to mentor input: DUE WEEK 9. (10%)
4. A twenty-minute *Student Presentation* of your initial research in “conversational style” followed by ten minutes of questions. Your mentor will determine the context in which you will present your work. Options include MUSC191, Studio Classes, and URCAD: DUE APPROX. WEEK 9 – 13. (20%)
5. The *First Edit* of the paper responding to mentor input: DUE WEEK 11. (10%)
6. The *Second Edit* of the paper responding to mentor input: DUE WEEK 13. (10%)
7. The *Final Submission* of the paper responding to mentor input that includes 10-15 pages of footnoted³ text and an updated bibliography. DUE FINALS WEEK. (30%)

¹ The paper is to include some reference / correlation to history, theory, social function, OR another art form.

² Example: books, journal articles, edited volumes [a scanned PDF of the print source is the same thing]

³ [*Chicago Style*](#) is strongly urged for those students intending to continue on to graduate school in Music.

APPLICATION

Special Projects MUSC400 replacing Topics in Music, Art, and Society MUSC480

Your Name _____ Your GPA _____ Your CAMPUS ID# _____

UMBC Email _____

Attach to this application form:

(1) Your *Special Projects* MUSC400 Proposal

- Supply a proposed name for the paper.
- Write why the topic interests you, what you seek to gain from the research, what questions you seek to answer, and how you are linking your research [even if tangentially] to history, theory, social function, or another art form. Write in the first person.
- Submit a short [thesis statement](#) on as narrow a topic of research for the paper as you can. Consult your mentor for help with the thesis. Write in the third person.
- Include the specific mentor discussion dates and project due dates as they coincide with your *Special Projects* Semester. Consult your mentor before deciding on these dates.

(2) Your Initial Bibliography

Along with any web sources you locate, include a minimum of 3 peer-reviewed sources from the library, the University of Maryland system, an article database such as JSTOR, or beyond. It is best to have these resources in-hand so you know what the chapters are and what information is actually in them that will help you answer your questions.

[Documenting a Bibliography in Chicago Style.](#)

Mentor Signature _____ Date _____

Curriculum Committee Response

Date _____