

MUSIC 210 -- Writing About Music -- Fall 2009
Class Meets: Tues/Thur 2:00-3:15pm
Shepard Hall Room 181

Instructor: Jonathan Farrow
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Office: Shepard Hall, Room B63 (appt. only)

SYLLABUS

Course Description

Music 210 is a writing course for music majors, designed to address specific issues related to writing about music. We will briefly review writing basics, and move on quickly to survey a variety of genres of music writing. Exercises will focus on writing, critical reading and analysis, and developing good editing skills.

In this class, we will be addressing the following Music Departmental Learning Objective:

- 1) To develop listening skills through close examination of various types of music in order to identify what we hear and express this in words.
- 2) To develop a working vocabulary in order to describe the components/forms of the music and writing we examine.
- 3) Demonstrate proficiency in writing about key concepts in music history and criticism.

The prerequisites for this course are English 101 and Music 101. You must be able to read music notation and have a grasp of basic music theory, such as concepts in rhythm and harmony.

Required Text

Writing About Music: An Introductory Guide, 3rd ed., by Richard Wingell.

Recommended Materials

The Elements of Style, by William Strunk, Jr. *Available free online at <http://bartleby.net/141/>.

A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations (Chicago Guides to Writing, Editing, and Publishing), 7th ed., by Kate L. Turabian, et al.

A notebook for in-class writing and for note-taking

Assignments and Grading

There are no exams for this course. Your grade for this class will be based on in-class writing, in-class participation, and class assignments. **In-class work cannot be made up.** For each week an assignment is late, your grade will be dropped by one letter (A- becomes B-, B+ becomes C+, etc.). **I will not accept papers by email unless you have made arrangements with me prior to class based on your inability to attend a class when an assignment is due. Additionally, no papers will be accepted after our final class meeting.**

Attendance is crucial. According to CCNY's attendance policy, after two weeks' worth of unexcused absences (for a class that meets twice per week, that equals four absences) you can be dropped from the class at the instructor's discretion. I will treat twice as many late arrivals the same way.

Finally, **you are required to meet with me individually twice over the course of the semester** to discuss your work. Failure to meet this requirement will result in a reduction in your participation grade.

Grading Breakdown

In-class participation and writing	20%
Autobiography paper	5%
Analytical paper	15%
Research paper proposal with annotated bibliography	20%

All other assignments (x8) are worth 5% each: CD or DVD review, encyclopedia assignment, review, journalistic essay, interview, creative response paper, program notes, library exercise

A Word About Participation:

Students must bring their textbook, *Writing About Music: An Introductory Guide*, to every class as we will frequently refer to it. And, students are expected to be able to answer and discuss the key questions raised in class and to actively listen and respond to in-class discussion and to complete in-class writing exercises.

Additional Questions or Concerns Not Covered in Class:

I will normally be available to meet briefly with students immediately after class either in the classroom or in my office. The best way to reach me during the week is via email. During the week I will normally respond within 24 hours. On the weekends you may expect a response on Monday.

Classroom Protocol:

Absolutely no food and drink are allowed in the class.

Please make sure that your phone is turned off when you enter the classroom!!! There will be absolutely no texting or talking on the phone during class!

Talking during class – Please be considerate of your fellow students. If you have a question or a comment, please raise your hand. I will address your concern.

Group work—You will occasionally divide into small groups or pairs to work together in forming ideas about the topics at hand and to read each other's work. You are encouraged to get to know your fellow students and to listen to one another.

Pluralism—A learning environment is one that has space for all points of view. We will make that space in our class which means that we will sometimes agree to disagree.

Policy on Academic Integrity:

“Academic dishonesty is prohibited in the City University of New York and is punishable by penalties, including failing grades, suspension, and expulsion...”—From the CUNY policy on academic integrity. Please see this link for the full policy concerning the matters of cheating and plagiarism: <http://www1.cuny.cuny.edu/upload/academicintegrity.pdf> Please know that there are many resources at the disposal of your professors to detect plagiarism. Doing your own work is at the heart of learning, so do not cheat yourself and risk suffering the very serious consequences!

Some Important CCNY Informational Links:

<http://www1.cuny.cuny.edu/> -- CCNY's homepage and portal to all things CCNY (all links below accessible through this link.)

<http://www.cuny.cuny.edu/library/> -- Links to CUNY-wide library resources including library catalogs.

<https://pelican.admin.cuny.cuny.edu/wm/eml/login.html>-- CCNY's email interface.

<http://www.cuny.cuny.edu/humanities/> -- Department of Arts and Humanities homepage.

<http://www.cuny.cuny.edu/music/> -- Department of Music homepage.

<http://www1.cuny.cuny.edu/current/registrar/> -- Registrar's homepage; includes links to academic calendars, transcripts, bills and other important student business.

<http://www1.cuny.cuny.edu/current/registrar/calendar/Academic-Calendar-Fall-2009.cfm>-- a direct link to the 2009 Fall semester academic calendar

CLASS AND ASSIGNMENT SCHEDULE
(subject to change)

WEEK 1	
Tuesday, September 1 Intro/Common Issues READ: Wingell – Chapter 1 -- pp. 1-8 Wingell – Chapter 8 – pp. 122-149 WRITE: Autobiography Paper	Thursday, September 3 Critical Reading READ: Chapter 7 -- Wingell – p. 102-121
WEEK 2	
Tuesday, September 8 DUE: Autobiography Paper In-class peer critique	Thursday, September 10 Critical listening
WEEK 3	
Tuesday, September 15 Intro to research/resources (Prof. Koblick) READ: Wingell -- Chapter 3 -- p. 21-39	Thursday, September 17 Intro to research continued READ: Wingell – Chapter 6 – pp. 83-101
WEEK 4	
Tuesday, September 22 Encyclopedia/Paraphrase WRITE: Encyclopedia/Paraphrase	Thursday, September 24 Bibliography Literary/Creative Writing DUE: Encyclopedia/Paraphrase WRITE: Creative Response Paper
WEEK 5	
Tuesday, September 29 NO CLASS – CCNY MONDAY SCHEDULE	Thursday, October 1 DUE: Creative Response Paper
WEEK 6	
Tuesday, October 6 Interviews WRITE: Interview Paper	Thursday, October 8 No Formal Class Meeting Student Conferences
WEEK 7	
Tuesday, October 13 The Concert Review WRITE: Concert Review	Thursday, October 15 Thesis Statement and Outline/Paragraph Structure DUE: Interview Paper
WEEK 8	
Tuesday, October 20 The Journalistic Essay WRITE: Journalistic essay	Thursday, October 22 Writing Program Notes WRITE: Program Notes
WEEK 9	
Tuesday, October 27 No Formal Class Meeting Student Conferences	Thursday, October 29 DUE: Journalistic Essay
WEEK 10	
Tuesday, November 3 DUE: Program Notes	Thursday, November 5 WRITE: CD/DVD Review READ: Wingell – Chapter 2 – pp. 9-20
WEEK 11	
Tuesday, November 10 DUE: Concert Review WRITE: Draft of Analytical Paper	Thursday, November 12 DUE: CD/DVD Review

WEEK 12	
Tuesday, November 17 DUE: Draft of Analytical Paper	Thursday, November 19 READ: Wingell – Chapter 4 – pp. 40-58
WEEK 13	
Tuesday, November 24 DUE: Analytical Paper WRITE: Research Proposal Thesis Statement and Preliminary Annotated Bibliography READ: Wingell – Chapter 5 – pp. 59-82	Thursday, November 26 NO CLASS -- THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY
WEEK 14	
Tuesday, December 1 No Formal Class Meeting Student Conferences DUE: Research Proposal Thesis Statement and Preliminary Annotated Bibliography	Thursday, December 3 No Formal Class Meeting Student Conferences DUE: Research Proposal Thesis Statement and Preliminary Annotated Bibliography
WEEK 15	
Tuesday, December 8 Semester Review and Q&A	Thursday, December 10 Semester Review and Q&A
FINAL CLASS MEETING TBD Week of 12/14 DUE: Research Proposal and Annotated Bibliography	

Other Important Dates:

Thursday, September 17 – Last day to drop a class before “W” grade begins

Monday, October 26 – Last day to withdraw to receive “W” grade

Sunday, December 13 – Last day of classes

Monday, December 14 – Monday December 21 – Finals Week (We are required to meet during this week even though you will not be taking a final, you must attend class!!!)