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MUSI 520.50: Research in Music

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University of Montana School of Music
Music 520: Music Research, 2 Credits
Online Course
Fall 2022

Instructor: James Randall

Office Hours: Available by appointment via phone or zoom

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Required Textbook:

Laurie J. Sampsel, *Music Research: A Handbook* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2012). If you find an earlier or later edition that's cheaper, feel free to purchase it, as the latest edition doesn't seem significantly revised. Available for purchase at Amazon.com (link on Moodle)

Course Description

Music 520 is an introduction to music research for graduate students. The course will familiarize you with the various print and online resources important to the study of music and help you to develop research and writing skills that will prove helpful to you in a variety of professional disciplines in music: music education, performance, composition, and musicology. You will learn how to evaluate and interpret source materials for your research, develop research questions, implement research strategies, and to structure several kinds of music-specific written projects.

Learning Outcomes and Goals

You'll acquire the skills described above by completing a series of projects that you are likely to encounter at some point in your professional or academic life as a musician and educator. You'll learn how to write effective concert notes for a recital or ensemble performance, to create annotated bibliographies and discographies for use in a private studio, and to map out research strategies for exploring areas of interest in your particular music profession.

Participation and Assessment

Your active participation is required for this class. You'll have weekly tasks to complete, which will require responses to readings, your active participation in discussion board, and the timely completion of steps toward your semester projects.

It's my responsibility to provide you with clear learning outcomes each week so that course expectations are transparent and that you can assess your own progress in the course. These will be provided within the weekly units on Moodle. For each graded assignment, response, and project, I'll provide a clear rubric showing you how you will be graded and what kind of feedback you should expect.

Grading Criteria

Responses to Weekly Readings	20%
Discussion Board Participation	20%
Project 1: Program Notes	15%
Project 2: Annotated Bibliography	15%
Project 3: Research Project Prospectus/Grant Proposal	15%

*Late work will not be accepted without a valid excuse: medical emergency, major illness, death in the family, etc.

Grading Scale

A: 93-100; A- : 90-92; B+ 88-89; B: 83-87; B-: 80-82; C+: 78-79; C : 73-77; C- 70-72; D+: 68-69; D: 63-67; D- 60-62; F: 0-59

Course Outline: See Moodle for more specific Tasks and Deadlines

Week	Learning Units and Project Timelines
Week 1	Getting Started: Syllabus, Navigating Moodle, Introductions Research in Music: What are the possibilities? <i>Guidelines and Models for Project 1: Program notes</i>
Week 2	Library Search strategies 1: Navigating our Library Catalog/Dictionaries and Encyclopedias in digital and print form <i>Gather sources for Project 1</i>
Week 3	Library Search strategies 2: Periodicals and Indexes <i>Gather articles for Project 1</i>
Week 4	Who can you trust? Evaluating Source Materials <i>Post drafts of Project 1 for peer review</i>
Week 5	Critical Editions and Collected Works <i>Project 1 Due: Program Notes</i>
Week 6	Print and Digital Resources for Locating Printed Music <i>Receive Guidelines for Project 2: Annotated Bib</i>
Week 7	Music Education/Pedagogy Resources <i>Submit Proposal for Annotated Bib</i>
Week 8	Sound: traditional recorded media and online resources <i>Circulate drafts of Annotated Bib for peer Review</i>
Week 9	Academic and Professional Societies <i>Project 2 Due: Annotated Bibliography</i>
Week 10	Planning a Research Paper I: anatomy of a scholarly article <i>Issue guidelines for Project 3: Research Prospectus</i>
Week 11	Planning a Research Paper II: developing a research question and thesis/assembling source materials <i>Turn in research question and preliminary bibliography of sources</i>
Week 12	Writing the Paper: Pre-writing and outlines. Strategies for avoiding procrastination/Ethics: plagiarism, proper citation
Week 13	Writing the Paper II
Week 14	<i>Project 3 Due: Research Prospectus/Grant Proposal</i>