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### MUSI 520.50: Music Research - Online

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**University of Montana School of Music**  
**Music 520: Music Research, 2 Credits**  
**Online Course**  
**Fall 2014**

**Instructor:** James Randall

**Office Hours:** 10-11:30, RM 214 Music Bldg., or by appointment

**E-mail:** james.randall@umontana.edu

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**Required Textbook:**

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

Available for purchase at Amazon.com

**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 disciplines, including 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**

The skills mentioned above will be acquired 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 discipline.

**Participation and Assessment**

Your active participation is required for this class. You'll have weekly tasks to complete, which will typically 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	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 Schedule**

<b>Week</b>	<b>Learning Units and Project Timelines</b>
8/25 – 8/31	Getting Started: Syllabus, Navigating Moodle, Introductions Research in Music: What are the possibilities? <i>Guidelines and Models for Project 1: Program notes</i>
9/1 – 07	Library Search strategies 1: Navigating our Library Catalog/Dictionaries and Encyclopedias in digital and print form <i>Gather print sources for Project 1</i>
9/8 - 14	Library Search strategies 2: Periodicals and Indexes <i>Gather articles for Project 1</i>
9/15 - 21	Who can you trust? Evaluating Source Materials <i>Circulate drafts of Project 1 for peer review</i>
9/22 – 28	Print and Digital Resources for Locating Printed Music <b><i>Due Date for Project 1: Program Notes: Midnight, Sunday, 9/30</i></b>
9/29 – 10/5	Critical Editions and Collected Works <i>Issue Guidelines for Project 2: Annotated Bib</i>
10/6 - 12	Music Education/Pedagogy Resources <i>Submit Proposal for Annotated Bib</i>
10/13 – 19	Sound Recordings: traditional media and online resources <i>Circulate drafts of Annotated Bib for peer Review</i>
10/20 – 26	Academic and Professional Societies <b><i>Due Date for Project 2: Annotated Bib: Midnight, Sunday, 10/31</i></b>
10/27 – 11/2	Planning a Research Paper I: anatomy of a scholarly article <i>Issue guidelines for Project 3: Research Prospectus</i>
11/3 – 9	Planning a Research Paper II: developing a research question and thesis/assembling source materials <b><i>Turn in research question and preliminary bibliography of sources</i></b>
11/10 – 16	Writing the Paper 1: Should I outline? Strategies for avoiding procrastination
11/17 – 23	Writing the Paper 2: Ethics: plagiarism, proper citation
11/24 – 11/30	Writing the Paper 3: Questions of Format and Style specific to Music <b><i>Submit rough draft abstract for Project 3 for Instructor and Peer Review</i></b> <b>HAPPY THANKSGIVING!!!!</b>
12/1 – 7	<i>Incorporate Instructor and Peer Review comments for Project III</i>
12/8 - 14	<b>Finals Week</b> <b>Due Date for Project 3: <u>Wednesday, Dec. 10 by 11:59 p.m.</u></b>