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### MUS 520.01: Research Techniques in Music

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**The University of Montana Department of Music**  
**Mus 520 - Research Techniques in Music (2 Credits)**  
Fall Semester, 2001  
Dr. Mary Jane Belz,  
Instructor Office: Room 209 - Telephone: 243-2865  
Office Hours by Appointment

### **Course Outline**

#### **Week 1: September 4 - 6 Topic: The Role of Research**

Tuesday: Introduction of the course work Reading for Thursday: "The Role of and Importance of Research", pages 1-7. Salkind, Neil J. Reading for next week: continuation of above chapter: pages 7 - 17. Salkind text. Assignment 1: Identifying Scholarly Journals (due Tuesday, September 11)

#### **Week 2: September 11 - 13 Topic: Identifying Scholarly Sources**

Tuesday: no class Thursday: discuss reading; student reports on Assignment 1; locate JRME and CRME Reading for next week: "Selecting a Problem", pages 28-46: Tuckman, Bruce Assignment 2: Research Topics in the Student's Major Field (due Thursday, September 20)

#### **Week 3: September 18 - 20 Topic: Selecting a Problem**

Tuesday: Discuss reading; In-class activity with Griznet Thursday: Student reports of Assignment 2 Reading for next week: "Selecting a Problem" pages 47 - 53: Salkind text. Assignment 3: Determining 4 Research Areas of Interest (due Tuesday, September 25)

#### **Week 4: September 25 - 27 Topic: Selecting a Problem**

Tuesday: Discuss reading; student reports of Assignment 3; in-class assignment (historical) Thursday: In-class activity with Groves Reading for next week: "Reviewing the Literature", pages 54-84: Salkind text Assignment 4: Making use of Groves (due Tuesday, October 2)

#### **Week 5: October 2 - 4 (Homecoming Week) Topic: Selecting a Problem and Reviewing the Literature**

Tuesday: discussion of the reading; in-class activity with Scholarly Writing Style Manuals Thursday: Guest speaker: Christopher Mullen, of the Mansfield Special Collections Department Reading: Tuckman, Chapter 3 (Reviewing the Literature) Assignment 5: Scholarly Writing Styles (due Tuesday, October 9)

#### **Week 6: October 9 - 11 Topic: Selecting a Problem and Reviewing the Research**

Tuesday: Using the Dissertation Abstracts International volumes Thursday: Continuation of above; student presentations relating to the search progress Reading: As in Week 5 Assignment 6: Exploring the hard-cover Dissertation Abstracts International (due Tuesday, October 16)

**Week 7: October 16 - 18 (Montana Music Educators Association Convention in Bozeman: No Class Thursday, October 18) Tuesday: discussion of the reading; student reports of Assignment 6. Topic: Qualitative Research Techniques Reading for next class: Qualitative Research, Chapter 14, Tuckman No assignment because of MMEA**

**Week 8: October 23 - 25 Topic: Data Collection Techniques**

Tuesday: discuss reading; in-class assignment relating to questionnaires and interviews Thursday: discuss reading; in-class assignment relating to time allocation Reading: Interviews (Tuckman) Assignment 7: Preparing for an Interview or Creating a Questionnaire (due Tuesday, Oct. 23)

**Week 9: October 30 - Nov. 1 Topic: Research techniques and electronic data collection sources**

Tuesday: Dr. Nancy Cooper speaks in Room 204 about her research Thursday: Presentation on Groves and DAI by Professor Sue Samson, Mansfield Humanities Librarian (Mansfield Student Learning Center, Level 2) Thursday Reading: One article relating to the student's chosen question (for related literature) Assignment 8: Conducting an Interview Relating to the Student's Chosen Question (due Tuesday, November 6)

**Week 10: November 6 - 8 Topic: Qualitative (non experimental) Research Techniques**

Reading: Time Allocation Studies (Sproull and Goolsby articles) Tuesday: Student reports on Assignment 8; in-class project with Time Allocation Thursday: Guest Speaker, Dr. Robert Ledbetter (room 204) Assignment 9: Time Allocation Study (due Tuesday, November 13)

**Week 11: November 13 - 15 Topic: Data Bases**

Tuesday: Student presentations of Assignment 9 Thursday: Presentation of additional on-line resources by Professor Sue Samson (Mansfield Student Learning Center, Level 2) Reading: One article relating to the student's chosen question (for related literature) Assignment 10: Locating at least 15 Sources from the Data Bases (due Tuesday, November 20)

**Week 12: November 20 (Thanksgiving Break: Wednesday, Thursday & Friday) Topic: Writing a Research Proposal**

Tuesday: In-depth discussion of the aspects of a research proposal Reading: Writing a Research Proposal (Chapter 12, p. 237-248, Salkind) Assignment 11: The Research Proposal (due Tuesday, December 11)

**Week 13: November 27 - 29 Topic: Analyzing and Critiquing Research Studies**

Tuesday: In class examination of various historical research reports Thursday: In class examination of various qualitative research reports Reading: Critiquing Research (Tuckman, p. 430-467) Assignment: work on Assignment 11

**Week 14: December 4 - 6 Topic: Analyzing and Critiquing Research Studies**

Tuesday: In class examination of research reports Thursday: ethics and research Assignment: continue Assignment 11

**Week 15: December 11 - 13 (FINAL WEEK OF CLASSES) Topic: Research Proposals**

Tuesday and Thursday: student presentations of the Research Proposals (15-20 minutes each)

**Week 16: December 17 - 21 (FINAL EXAM WEEK)**

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**Course Organization**

Upon arrangement with the individual students, the course meets twice weekly for 50 minutes. The location of the classes will vary. They may be held in Room 204 or in Mansfield Library. Specific instructions will be given in the preceding class. A primary purpose of the course is for the student to seek out and read research reports in his/her major field of study and interest.

In addition, the course includes the following concentrations: a. exploring research questions and their statements of purpose b. formulating research proposals c. becoming familiar with qualitative and quantitative research methodologies as well as different types of research such as historical and ethnographic research d. reading and interpreting research e. becoming familiar with the different scholarly writing styles f. creating a bibliography and stating it in APA style g. becoming acquainted with the resources available through the various data bases Readings: a. The student must identify and gain access to at least three professional journals in his/her major field of study and interest. b. The instructor will be distributing readings on different aspects of research methodology. Other readings may be placed on Reserve at Mansfield Library.

**Texts:**

- a. Tuckman, Bruce. (1998). Conducting educational research (5th ed), Orlando: Harcourt Brace College Publishers. (ISBN: 0 15 505477 5)
- b. Salkind, Neil J. (2001) Exploring Research, 4th Edition. New York: Prentice Hall, Publishers.

**Assignments and Grading:**

Weekly assignments with detailed instructions given during class Regular class presentations of the assignments One Research Proposal and Extended Bibliography Participation and attendance

**Participation and attendance:**

It is expected that absences shall occur only in emergency situations. Absences will greatly affect the flow of the class. If an emergency arises, the student is required to telephone the instructor and explain the reason for the absence. The graduate student in this class should take every opportunity to display Creativity Scholarship Initiative Excellence Accuracy Intellectual curiosity.