

MUS 1302 Essay Topics and Guidelines

Due: April 9th at the beginning of class, worth 20% of final grade

Topics:

You will notice that these topics are broad enough to allow you to focus on music that you are interested in as well as formulate a critical argument of your own. These are broad/general topics and you will need to narrow in to focus on particular composers and/or pieces and/or issues. The paper can be historical, critical, theoretical, or analytical. You will be graded in part on your ability to use sources to form a critical argument/explore a critical research question.

Please select one of the following topics:

- 1) Development of the Mass (Middle Ages-Renaissance)
- 2) Baroque Italian Opera
- 3) The Castrato
- 4) The Baroque Cantata
- 5) Comic opera in the Classical period
- 6) The Art Song
- 7) 19th Century Italian Opera
- 8) 19th Century German Opera
- 9) 19th Century Realistic Opera
- 10) The Orchestral Song
- 11) Exoticism in opera
- 12) Vocal Works of the Second Viennese School
- 13) Vocal practice of the early Blues
- 14) The Broadway Musical

Sources:

- You must reference a minimum of three scholarly sources. You will be graded in part on how well you engage with your sources, (meaning that three citations in the entire paper will not be sufficient).
- Be cautious when using online sources as they are often unreliable (in other words, make sure that it is a scholarly source—online journals and databases connected to the library network are generally safe—do not use Wikipedia!).
- I encourage you to consult books, anthologies, and recordings that can be found in both the music and the main libraries.
- Plagiarism is a serious offence and will be treated as such. You are expected to work independently on all written assignments. All ideas and citations from both published and unpublished sources must be cited. Any evidence of shared work on assignments will result in failure (at a minimum penalty). No warnings will be given.

Length and Format:

- The paper is to be six pages in length, (double spaced, 12-point font). Your paper will be evaluated by myself or one of the teaching assistants.
- If using long quotes extensively or citing song texts, please do not count this in your length.
- Citation Style: Chicago or APA.
- Please number your pages.
- A title page is not required, however, please make sure that your name, student number, course code, and essay title are on the front.