

Class blog participation

Due date: various, throughout the semester

Participating in an online discussion forum (a blog) is a significant portion of this class (15% of your overall grade). It is an opportunity to apply the ideas we cover in class to an expanded range of music and topics.

There are eight (8) online class discussions led by the professor. You'll be participating in these class discussions with not only students from your class at Purchase College but also students from two sections of a similar course at Queensborough Community College.

You are required to participate in at least six of these online discussions (I will drop your two lowest grades), but you will earn extra credit if you participate fully in all eight of them.

Creating a WordPress account. You'll receive an invitation to a WordPress site (www.drjonesmusic.me) at the email address you provide in class. Accept the invitation and create a WordPress account (if you don't have one already). Remember your email/username and password!

In the past, some students have found it helpful to download the WordPress app to their smartphones or tablets so they can participate in the blog without being at a computer.

Commenting on blog posts. Sign into WordPress. Online class discussions are located at www.drjonesmusic.me. Read the blog post and any comments that have been made on it so far. You can "reply" to other students' comments by clicking "reply" next to their comment and also leave your own comment in the comment box at the bottom of the page marked "Leave a Reply." If you choose, you can also use @ + username to specifically respond to another student, just as you would on other social media platforms.

Blog post participation requirements: You must comment on each blog post at least three times while the blog post is up—the goal is to keep the conversation going, to keep it lively, and to enjoy the (surprising) contributions your colleagues make to the discussion:

1. Respond to the blog post. Comment on it, respond to its questions, take issue with a claim that it makes, or add your thoughts to the conversation. If you're reminded of another article/book/blog you've read or another piece of music you've heard, you can also include a link to it, but the link by itself won't count as a comment without, well, any contextual *commentary* from you.
2. Ask a question. This may be a question in response to the blog post itself or a colleague's comment.
3. Respond directly to a classmate's comment or question.

It is possible to earn extra credit for your blog post participation grade (i.e., a grade higher than 100 for a given blog post) by contributing significantly to the conversation in terms of insightfulness, by adding additional links or information, or by being particularly engaging conversationalist. Quantity is not the same as quality.

Blog post discussion rubric (participation grade; partial credit) – minimum of three kinds of comments (33% each):

	Extra credit	Yes	No
<p>Comment You contribute to the online discussion by commenting on the blog post, responding to its questions, taking issue with a claim that it makes, or adding your thoughts to the conversation. A strong comment includes a link to another article/book/blog (with contextual commentary from you) that adds new depth to the conversation.</p>			
<p>Question You ask a question of the person who posted the blog or of another student</p>			
<p>Respond You respond directly to another student’s comment or question and add to the conversation by commenting on their comment, responding to their question, taking issue with a claim they make, or adding your new ideas. A strong response includes a link to another article/book/blog (with contextual commentary from you) that adds new depth to the conversation.</p>			