Course Response Essay

Online information: www.drjonesmusic.me/course-response-essay-fall-2017

This essay is an opportunity for you to reflect on your experience in this course—through in-class materials, writing assignments, and online projects—and your journey as a budding musicologist. Think of it as an extension of or response to the Course Intro Essay.

By this point in the semester, you’re familiar with the processes and expectations of Mu 101. Therefore, turning in a first draft of this assignment will be optional. You’re mature and organized enough to know what you need to do, know how to prioritize this assignment amongst the rest of your school and personal obligations, and have received enough feedback on other assignments to know how to improve your own writing.

This assignment is weighted more heavily than the Course Intro Essay but less heavily than the Student Blog Post—it’s not as substantive of an assignment as the SBP, but you’re expected to show growth and development compared with your Course Intro Essay. The Course Response Essay is worth 9% of your FINAL overall grade.

Timeline and Due Dates

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<th>Section J2 (Tuesdays)</th>
<th>Section C3A (Wednesdays)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Distribute and discuss CRE prompt</td>
<td>11/14</td>
<td>11/15</td>
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<td>Optional first draft submitted in class</td>
<td>11/28</td>
<td>11/22</td>
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<td>First drafts returned in class</td>
<td>12/5</td>
<td>11/29</td>
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<td>Final draft due in class</td>
<td>12/12</td>
<td>12/6</td>
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<td>Final drafts returned at the final exam</td>
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Late assignments
First drafts are optional, and late assignments will not be accepted.

Late final essays will lose 1 point per day, up to the final exam. After that, late essays will not be accepted.

Formatting
When you hand in your essay, staple together in order:

1) Grading rubric – include your name and section #
2) Your course response essay

The basics of all Mu 101 essays still apply:
Prompt
Write a 3-page reflection essay in which you address the following five topics in any order you choose. Use at least one concrete, specific example to support each of your five responses.

1) Instructor-led blog posts: What role did these ten (10) posts play in expanding your knowledge and understanding of music? What was the most surprising or interesting part of this portion of the course?
2) Your SBP: Based on the way your curated SBP discussion went, what would you do differently about your blog post? What did it feel like to be the teacher instead of the student? What was the most interesting or surprising thing about the SBP experience?
3) What did you learn about yourself from this course?
4) If you were to add or change one thing to this course that would allow you to improve your skills as a musicologist, what would it be?
5) Return to your Course Intro Essay and your thoughts about musicology—how have your ideas evolved over the course of this semester? Discuss at least one of the questions you responded to in that essay:
   a. What do you think the most important thing is when it comes to determining what a piece of music means?
   b. Why do you think you’ll be a good musicologist? What aspects of learning about music do you think will be difficult for you?
   c. What aspect of the course/calendar are you most looking forward to? What aspect of the course/calendar are you least looking forward to/are worried about?
   d. What’s the point of musicology? Or, why bother learning to think deeply about music at all?

As always, use specific, concrete examples to support, clarify, and demonstrate your answers to these questions. Refer to the attached rubric to make sure your essay fulfills all expectations.