

## Online participation overview

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Online reference: <https://drjonesmusic.me/online-projects-fall-2018/>

This sheet is a reference for four kinds of online projects in Mu 101:

1. Online discussions
2. Peer critique
3. Student Blog Posts
4. Extra credit

Class website: [www.drjonesmusic.me](http://www.drjonesmusic.me)

Section websites: F2 (Tuesdays 12:10-3): [www.fall2018f2.wordpress.com](http://www.fall2018f2.wordpress.com)

J2 (Tuesdays 3:10-6): [www.fall2018j2.wordpress.com](http://www.fall2018j2.wordpress.com)

### **Overview**

Creating online content and participating in an online discussion forum (a blog) are easy ways for people on the Internet to share ideas, engage with communities of people with common interests, and do so from the comfort of their own home—it's the cliché interconnected global world in action!

Computer literacy and fluency in online forums (fora) are important skills to have, and participating in these online discussions is an easy way to ensure that you're thinking about music more often than just during our once-weekly class meetings. Therefore, online participation is a significant portion of this class. At the same time, it's also a task in which you can easily earn full points. Think of this portion of the course as an opportunity to engage in a lively conversation, learn from each other, extend or expand our in-class work, and practice your writing skills in an informal setting (with your peers and graded for participation). You'll also be asked to reflect on your experience with these online activities in the Concert/Course Response Essay (due at the final exam, likely date December 20).

### **Timeline and due dates**

There are ten (10) online discussions led by the professor. You'll be participating in these class discussions with not only students from your section of Mu 101, but also students from another section of Mu 101 and students from CUNY Borough of Manhattan Community College. In the weeks where there is no instructor-led online discussion, you'll be creating blog posts and leading discussions with your fellow classmates on the website for your section of Mu 101: peer feedback on a piece of formal writing (October 22-28), Student Blog Post (November 26-December 9), and optional extra credit (weekly). Your experience with the instructor-led discussions will familiarize you with the process, the forum, and general expectations.

Every online discussion begins on a Monday at 12:01am and is open for comments until the following Sunday at 11:59pm. You may participate at any point during the comment period, but students in past semesters who've had the most meaningful experience have participated at several points throughout the week.

Our best practices	Aug 27-Sep2
Music and the brain	Sep 3-9
Music education and the education of music	Sep 10-23 [two weeks long!]
Musicking	Sep 24-30
Instruments and voice types	Oct 1-7
Sound migration	Oct 8-14
Music and gender	Oct 15-21
Peer critique	Oct 22-28
Music and disability	Oct 29-Nov 4
Music and economics	Nov 5-11
Music and violence	Nov 12-18
Student blog posts	April 23-May 14

### **Creating a WordPress account**

Following the first class meeting, you'll receive an invitation to become a "follower" of the class website ([www.drjonesmusic.me](http://www.drjonesmusic.me)) from WordPress *and* a second invitation to become a "contributor" to the website for your section of Mu 101. Accept both of these invitations and create a WordPress account (if you don't have one already). Remember your email/username and password for logging in.

Send me your username so that I know who you are online ([music.drjones@gmail.com](mailto:music.drjones@gmail.com))—*do not hit "reply" to the invitation email* (it's a do-not-reply email and I won't receive it)!

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 sitting at a computer.

### **How to comment on online discussions**

Instructor-led online discussions are located at [www.drjonesmusic.me](http://www.drjonesmusic.me). Student-led discussions are located on the website for each section of Mu 101 (see above).

Make sure you're signed into WordPress using the username and password you created, and make sure you've emailed me your username ([music.drjones@gmail.com](mailto:music.drjones@gmail.com))—I cannot give you credit if you have not told me who you are online!

Read the blog post and any comments that have been made on it so far. You can leave a comment by typing in the comment box at the bottom of the page marked "Leave a Reply." You can "reply" to other students' comments by clicking "reply" next to their comment or using @ + username to specifically respond to another student, just as you would on other social media platforms.

### **How to post blog entries to the website for your section of Mu 101**

Each student will publish at least two pieces of writing online (a paragraph from the Analysis 1 Essay and a complete Student Blog Post), and each student has the option of adding blog posts each week for extra credit in response to a set of readings. We'll go over the process of creating your own blog posts in class on October 16, but instructions are available here:

<https://drjonesmusic.me/online-projects-fall-2018/>. Use these if you want to submit extra credit

blog posts in the first few weeks of the semester, and send me an email if you're confused about any step of the process.

### **Grading**

Grading for all online discussions is participation-based and is graded on a scale of Credit/No Credit (refer to pp 6-7 of your syllabus for an explanation of this grading style). In all cases, late comments (i.e., after the comment period has ended on Monday at 11:59pm) will not be accepted. If you post comments during the comment period but do not email me your username, your comments will not be graded.

For all online activities, acceptable participation can include adding your own ideas to the conversation, responding to questions posed by the blog post/author/another participant, taking issue with a claim made in either the post or the ongoing discussion, linking to another article/book/blog that the discussion reminds you of (with contextual commentary from you) that adds new depth to the conversation, asking a question, responding to a classmate's question or comment. The number and quality of comments required will be determined by the class in the process of completing Online Discussion #1 ("Our best practices").

Instructor-led discussion: I will drop the two (2) lowest grades for this portion of the course.

Peer critique: You will be expected to provide constructive criticism (compliment, piece of advice, tip, editing suggestion, etc.) on at least half of the paragraphs posted by your classmates in your section of Mu 101.

Student Blog Post discussion: You will be expected to participate in the ongoing discussion on at least half of the posts submitted by your classmates in your section of Mu 101.

### **Extra credit**

Every student has the option of completing an additional extra credit online response in the form of a blog post made to the website for his or her section of Mu 101. There are 16 Sundays in the Fall 2018 semester, meaning you may submit up to 16 different extra credit blog entries (+0.5 each on your final average), but you may only submit one blog response per week.

On the web page provided at the beginning of this reference, you will find several short, supplemental passages to read. These are all related to music, outlooks on life, and careers. Choose one and write a response to it in any format or length that you choose (personal narrative, compare/contrast, argument, reflection, creative writing, journal entry, poem—ANYTHING). Post your response writing to the website for your section of Mu 101, filing it under the category "Extra Credit." Email me by 11:59pm on Sunday telling me that you've posted your extra credit and include a link to your post. Do not repeat a writing prompt.