

Online participation overview

Online reference: <https://drjonesmusic.me/online-projects-spring-2019/>

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

1. Online discussions
2. Peer critiques
3. Extra credit

Class website: www.drjonesmusic.me

Section websites: C3 (Wednesdays 9:10-12): www.spring2019c3.wordpress.com

C5 (Fridays 9:10-12): www.spring2019c5.wordpress.com

F5 (Fridays 12:10-3): www.spring201f5.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, which can be found by scrolling downwards on the homepage for Mu 101 (www.drjonesmusic.me). You'll be participating in these class discussions with not only students from your section of Mu 101, but also students from two other sections of Mu 101. In the weeks where there is no instructor-led online discussion, you'll be creating blog posts and having discussions with your fellow classmates on the website for your section of Mu 101. These section websites are also where you have the option of posting weekly extra credit assignments. 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.

Jan 28-Feb 3: Our best practices
Feb 4-10: Defining the ethos of now: What makes 2019 “2019”?
Feb 11-17: Music and the brain
Feb 18-24: Music educations
Feb 25-Mar 3: Instruments and voice types
Mar 4-10: Peer critique #1
Mar 11-17: Music and gender
Mar 18-24: Music and disability
Mar 25-31: Musicking
Apr 1-7: Peer critique #2
Apr 8-14: Sound migration
Apr 15-28: Voyager Spacecraft 2019 – N.B. This discussion lasts for two weeks
Apr 29-May 5: Music and violence

There is no online assignment during the final week of class (May 6-12), and beginning on May 13, the blog post on the Mu 101 website homepage will prepare you for the final class discussion and writing assignment, to be held during the scheduled final exam.

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) 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)—*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 instructor-led online discussions

Instructor-led online discussions are located at 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)—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 on the page for your section of Mu 101, 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 W February 27 / F March 1, but instructions are available here: <https://drjonesmusic.me/online-projects-spring-2019/>. 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.

At the end of each discussion, I will send a piece of general feedback to everyone in Mu 101 as suggestion to improve your writing. Use this weekly writing tip to guide your next round of discussion participation.

Your grade will come from the amount and quality of your contributions to the conversation. You are expected to add at least two (2) different kinds of contributions to every discussion, and to do so using the weekly writing feedback you receive:

- Add
 - Add your own ideas to the conversation
 - Take issue with a claim made by the post’s author
 - Share a link to another another article/book/blog that the discussion reminds you of (with contextual commentary from you) that adds new depth to the conversation
- Respond
 - Respond to questions posed by the blog post/author/another participant
 - Take issue with a claim made by another participant
- Ask
 - Ask an open-ended question

For example:

- If you only make one post in a discussion = No Credit
- If you post your own additions to the conversation without asking a question or interacting with another participant in the conversation = No Credit
- If you only summarize or restate the content of the blog post = No Credit
- If you post a comment that ignores the weekly writing tip = No Credit
- If you post a link to a book you've read that the post reminds of you of and share why that link is relevant, AND you ask a question of another discussion participant = Credit
- If you have an extended, interesting, and meaningful exchange or back-and-forth with another discussion participant = Credit

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

Peer critiques: 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.

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 Spring 2019 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.