

**Syllabus
Music 600
Introduction to Musical Scholarship
Fall, 2005**

Dr. Janice Dickensheets

Office hours: Monday & Wednesday 10:00-11:00, Tuesday & Thursday 10:30 – 11:30

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TEXT: Jonathan Bellman, *A Short Guide to Writing About Music*. This is available at the Book Stop. The pages pertaining to each class are listed on the syllabus. You must bring the book to every class. Readings will be available on reserve in the library. You will be responsible for copying them and bringing them to class on the appropriate days.

Course Objectives:

The principal purpose of the course is for the student to become acquainted with—and to practice using—the methods and resources necessary to do successful research in the field of music. In addition, the student is expected to show improvement in writing skills and demonstrate the organization necessary to write a successful research paper. The goal of the course is for the student to be able to produce independently successful research papers in graduate courses and seminars.

Written Assignments:

Instead of writing a research paper, you will be asked to do three final projects, relating to a research topic of your choice: an **annotated bibliography**, a **research topic outline**, and an **abstract**. These projects are meant to lead you through the steps of preparing a research paper. Your research topic must be chosen and communicated to me by **Tuesday, September 6**. Any change to your research topic **MUST** be cleared with me. At the end of the semester, you will give a short presentation of your topic and bibliography. Details for each final project will be provided. You are encouraged to show me a rough draft of each project before you hand in the final product.

Program notes: In order to put into practice your research skills and to work on your writing, you will write program notes for two different musical works of your choice. A first draft for each program note assignment **must** be submitted to me by its due date. Specific instructions will be provided.

Other Assignments: Several smaller projects will be assigned to cover specific research tools. Since you will have chosen your final project topic early, you will be able to incorporate the results of some of the smaller assignments into your final annotated bibliography.

Note: All work must be turned in at the beginning of class on the due date. Late work will be graded down; anything more than a full week late will not be accepted except in extraordinary circumstances about which you must keep me informed.

All assignment instructions are available on the web. You must download them. Be aware that there is no guarantee that the web server will be available 24:7. Be advised that assignments are due on the date stated in the schedule whether the web server cooperates or not. It is advisable to download materials well in advance. Not everything is available at this time, however, it will be available in plenty of time for you to access it.

Reading assignments: Do the reading assignment **BEFORE** the date it is listed on the schedule.

Class discussion: It is required that you keep up on reading and research assignments in order that you can contribute to class discussions. You may be helping your fellow classmates with information or insights you have found, or you may get some helpful information from others. **CLASS PARTICIPATION IS AN IMPORTANT PART OF YOUR GRADE**—remember, you cannot participate if you are not there.

Mid-term: A take-home midterm will be given that will cover your skills in using library resources. The exam is designed to demonstrate your knowledge of available sources and how to find them.

Grading: All work will be graded on a percentage. 90% and up = A; 80-89% = B; 70-79% = C; 60-69% = D; 59% and below = F. The grading is based on a point system. The grade breakdown is as follows:

Class Participation		100
Assignments:		100
Reference Assignment	20	
Article Search	20	
Web Site Evaluation	20	
Book Search	20	
Score Search	20	
Midterm:		100
Program Notes I		40
Program Notes II		40
Final Project		140
Annotated Bibliography	40	
Topic Outline	40	
Abstract	20	
Presentation	40	

Total points possible - 520

This syllabus is my contract with you. If you have any questions on my method of grading, I will be glad to discuss them with you. Please feel free to ask me why I made certain decisions. I would rather you took the time to ask me about them, than to just wonder why points were taken off. There should be no surprises regarding your grade.

Disability Statement: Students with disabilities who believe they may need accommodations in this class are encouraged to contact the Disability Access Center (351-2289) as soon as possible to ensure that accommodations are implemented in a timely fashion.