MUSIC 690. Research Procedures in Music  
Fall 2014, W 7:00–9:40 p.m., M-228  

Instructor: Eric Smigel (esmigel@mail.sdsu.edu)  
M-235, office hours: TTh 11:00–11:50 a.m.  

In this course, which serves as an introduction to graduate studies in music, students will engage in the community of composers, performers, scholars, and educators who have contributed to the global network of information concerning aesthetic, theoretical, philosophical, historical, cultural, and pedagogical aspects of music. After discussing principles of research, analysis, and critical thinking, students will examine proper channels to accessing authoritative information, evaluate the potential relevance of selected resources to an original research topic, and conduct an analysis that offers a unique interpretation of the subject. They will then review standards of writing style and format as they pertain to music scholarship, and contribute to the existing literature by communicating their discoveries with clarity and directness.  

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to use the printed and electronic information resources available at the University library, locate important bibliographic sources for research in music and music literature, construct a comprehensive bibliography on any musical topic, write program notes for works of any genre or style, and prepare a clearly organized prospectus for a thesis or dissertation.  

This seminar is designated as a writing intensive course and each student must demonstrate advanced literacy in English. Students who require additional assistance are expected to make arrangements independently with either a tutor or a writing center. Contact the SDSU American Language Institute (http://www.americanlanguage.org, 619-594-5907) to learn of available resources.  

Required Textbooks:  


Optional Textbook:  


Evaluation:  

Research exercises (10 @ 30 pts.): 300 pts.  
Quizzes (4 @ 25 pts.): 100 pts.  
Program notes assignment: 100 pts.
Research project: 500 pts.
   Expository essays (4 @ 25 pts.): 100 pts.
   Abstract (first draft: 25 pts.; final draft: 50 pts.): 75 pts.
   Annotated bibliography (first draft, 25 pts.; final draft, 50 pts.): 75 pts.
   Prospectus (first draft: 50 pts.; final draft: 150 pts.): 200 pts.
   Presentation: 50 pts.

Assignments submitted late will be penalized ten points per day. There will be no opportunity to make up a missed quiz. Students will not receive points for any submitted assignment that has evidence of plagiarism.

As this seminar is part of the core curriculum for all graduate music majors, it is necessary for students to earn a grade of C (730 points) or better to receive credit for this course.

Grading Scale
A    930-1000   B    830-869   C    730-769   D    630-669
A-   900-929    B-   800-829   C-   700-729   D-   600-629
B+   870-899    C+   770-799   D+   670-699   F    0-599

Other Notes:

Student Disability Services
Students requesting academic accommodations based on a disability must first register with Student Disability Services (http://www.sa.sdsu.edu/sds/index.html) who will issue a verification letter. SDS is located in Calpulli Center, Suite 3101, and is open from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Mon-Fri; 594-6473.

Course Outline and Assignments:

August 27: Introduction to music research
   Reading: Turabian, chs. 1 and 2
   Wingell, chs. 1 and 2
   Assignment: Research Exercise #1
   Essay #1

September 3: SDSU InfoDome and the PAC online catalog; ESSAY #1 DUE
   Reading: Turabian, ch. 3
   Wingell, ch. 3
   Assignment: Research Exercise #2
   Continue formulating project topic
   Essay #2
September 10: Online library catalogs, interlibrary loan; discuss project topics; ESSAY #2 DUE; QUIZ #1

Reading: Turabian, chs. 15 and 16
Assignment: Research Exercise #3
Finalize project topic

September 17: PROJECT TOPIC DUE; Bibliographies and thematic catalogs; Preparing an annotated bibliography, citation formats

Reading: Turabian, ch. 17
Assignment: Research Exercise #4
Begin compiling annotated bibliography
Essay #3

September 24: General music encyclopedias and dictionaries; Music histories; Writing an abstract; ESSAY #3 DUE

Assignment: Research Exercise #5
First draft of abstract

October 1: FIRST DRAFT OF ABSTRACT DUE; Journals and periodical indexes; Indexes to theses and dissertations; QUIZ #2

Assignment: Research Exercise #6
Complete first draft of annotated bibliography

October 8: FIRST DRAFT OF ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY DUE; Complete works editions, facsimiles, historical sets; discuss abstracts

Assignment: Research Exercise #7
Essay #4

October 15: Source readings, newspapers, archives; discuss annotated bibliographies; ESSAY #4 DUE; QUIZ #3

Reading: Wingell, ch. 6
Assignment: Research Exercise #8
Complete abstract and annotated bibliography

October 22: ABSTRACT AND ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY DUE; Scores, recordings, discographies, published analyses; Writing program notes

Reading: Turabian, chs. 20–25 (style reference)
Wingell, chs. 7 and 8
Assignment: Research Exercise #9, Program notes
October 29: PROGRAM NOTES DUE; Writing a research prospectus; Workshop on expository writing; QUIZ #4

Assignment: Research Exercise #10
First draft of prospectus

November 5: NO CLASS (AMS conference)

November 12: FIRST DRAFT OF PROSPECTUS DUE; Workshop on expository writing and presentation skills

Assignment: Continue working on prospectus

November 19: Individual prospectus appointments

Assignment: Complete prospectus

November 26: NO CLASS (Thanksgiving)

December 3: PROSPECTUS DUE; Presentations

December 10: Presentations

**December 17: Final Examination**