

Essay Question

- You will have to write an essay at the time you take the final—you think about it/ prepare it mentally beforehand, but you should write it during the final.
- I will provide paper for you to write your essay.
- This essay will be graded for accuracy, amount of detail, organization, and clarity of writing (20%).
- This should be a thoughtful response written in complete sentences with proper grammar. Points will be deducted for spelling, grammar, or punctuation errors—please proofread.
- Please write a short response to the question prompt below. You should split this up into multiple paragraphs and you should have a nicely worded **introduction and a conclusion**.
- **All told, you should probably have about SIX paragraphs for this essay (or more).**

Prompt:

Music since 1900—so much has happened in the last one hundred and twenty or so years. As we discussed on the first day, teaching a course like this is a daunting (but exciting) task! I'd like you to think a little about what **you'd** like to stress if you teach a class like this, so here's the prompt:

It's a few years down the road: you've finished finals....you've finished **this** degree... you've even just finished your masters degree (I said it was down the road!).

Your first job after grad school is working as a music instructor at a small college. In addition to teaching composition, teaching an applied instrument or voice, helping students with their theory and aural skills acquisition and conducting the choir, you're also in charge of writing a curriculum for incoming music history students! (Yes, you **DO** have to do it all...)

As the first task in your new official capacity, explain how you would teach the Music History III course. What are some major stylistic developments, genres, composers, ideas that you'd like to stress? What happens during this century that you think will be interesting/thought-provoking/worthwhile to teach to your students?

Specific essay instructions:

1) **First**, please write a brief introductory paragraph where you mention (in general) some of the ways this century and its music have been interesting, important, controversial, and/or exciting. It is up to you what you'd like to discuss in this section, but make sure to reflect back on some of the issues we've discussed during this semester (and in your textbook).

2) **Second**, this section should have at least three paragraphs (each paragraph should discuss one piece from our class which corresponds to the dates mentioned).

For **EACH** of these three periods:

A) 1900-1930: pick one piece

B) 1930-1960: pick one piece

C) 1960-today: pick one piece

In a paragraph for each of the three periods, describe one piece from that period that you might teach in your music history class. Tell me some things about the piece (**musical details**) and why this piece demonstrates something interesting about music in the 20th century. Provide specifics. Remember, you need to make sure your students receive a good education, so be thorough and analytical in what you think is important about each of these periods. Don't tell me a piece or composer is "the best" from a specific period—that's unprovable and subjective. What **is** likely to earn you points is a thoughtful examination of important/intriguing/useful pieces and ideas from each era.

3) Third, in a new paragraph, please pick one piece from **AFTER** the year 2000, and write a brief explanation of what's interesting about it. You might include a little bit about how it sounds/the musical qualities, or also ways in which it demonstrates directions in music after 2000.

Rules: this can be **any** piece of music from after 2000, but it cannot be in our anthology.

What should you pick? A piece of music you've played in solo work or as one of the ensembles, a piece one of your friends has played, a pop song you like....almost anything is possible. If you can't think of anything to say about your piece, you can do a little Internet digging, but this doesn't need to be formally researched. And keep in mind, you're not writing a paper on this piece, just a brief paragraph.

4) Fourth, please write a brief conclusion summarizing your views on what you'd like to teach in a class on "Music since 1900"