



Music in America / Spring 2023

MID-SIZE MIDSEMESTER PROJECT: THINKING THROUGH IT

This is designed as a mid-size
midterm project in 2 parts:
questions & project pitch.

A couple of logistical details:

- As a reminder from the syllabus, this is worth 15% of your grade in this course
- Due Thursday, March 23—and to be informally presented in class that day to your classmates.

Part I: Reviewing Ideas/Answering Questions

This has the goal of getting you to reflect over your work in here so far & to think about what you find useful, what you would like to do more of, what you need to unpack further, etc.

1) **From what we have discussed so far in class, what stuck with you the most or was the most interesting?** Please write a single-spaced 1/2 page paragraph on this, including details about class dates/authors/discussions, and please explain **why** you think this is a fruitful or rich topic, not just that you like it :)

2) **From what we have discussed so far in class, what do you think you could use in your own scholarship, professional development, or teaching?**

Note that this does not have to be a DIRECT connection (I'm going to play this specific piece on my next recital...). It can be an idea, a larger theme, a specific source you'd like to read in its entirety, etc. Please write a single-spaced 1/2 page paragraph on

this, including details about class dates/authors/discussions, and please explain **why** you think this might be useful for you, not just that you like it :)

3) **From what we have discussed so far in class, what was the thing you found the hardest to understand?**

This doesn't necessarily mean the thing you literally found the hardest to read (although you can comment on that as well!), but more the concept you found the hardest to wrap your head around. Please write a single-spaced 1/2 page paragraph on this, including details about class dates/authors/discussions, and please explain **why** you think this is a complicated idea, not just that you were confused by it :)

So, if you're counting, that's about 1.5 pages, singled spaced, for these 3 questions! Hopefully a cause for reflection and thought, but not too painful

If you are struggling, come see me—happy to talk this out with you!
Let's have coffee and talk music history, it's my favorite thing :)

Part II: Pitch a Project on Music in America

We've spent about six weeks, already, talking about American music things in this class. So we're slight experts at this point :)

Now I'd like for YOU to pitch an additional research project on Music & America.

- 1) **Write us a post suggesting an interesting avenue for research on Music in America.** Obviously you'll need to do a LITTLE research to write this, but the idea is not that you go ahead and do a full-fledged research project here. Just open the door on something for us.
- 2) It should be well-written (and proof-read!) and informative, but does not need to be written in a scholarly tone or include other research or footnotes. If you'd like, you can include images or other multimedia.

This post should be about 2 pages in length (double-spaced, Times New Roman). You may write more if you'd like—and that length should be text alone (so the images or links, if you include them, don't really count towards to length).

What kinds of things should you include in your post?

- What does this topic potentially tell us that's interesting or new or important about music in this place?
- How does this connect to our preexistent weeks of discussion on American music? Are there themes that interconnect here?

3) **At the end of your post, suggest 3-5 additional sources for us to check out on your topic.** Two of these need to be scholarly, but the rest can be web sites, links, recordings, etc. Please feel free to ask me if you have trouble finding resources.

Rules:

- **Your topic cannot be something we have already covered in detail, though it can be an offshoot idea**
- **Your topic should focus on something before the year 1950, or connect in some other way to one of our units**
- **Other than that, ANYTHING, any genre, any person, any piece, any idea is fair game :)**