

MUSIC RESEARCH METHODS 2020

University of Florida

MUS 6716, section 7722

T 8:30–10:25; R 9:35–10:25; online

Office hours: T, R 10:45–11:45 online, or by appointment

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TEACHING ASSISTANT:

Jeana Melilli

Office hour: TBA, and by appointment

WELCOME

Hello 2020 Research Methods students of 2020! Jeana and I look forward to getting to know each of you and helping you define your interests and answer your own professional questions. You may not think of yourself as a researcher (yet), but you will quickly see that research is an important way to gain professional independence and confidence by using skills that all successful professionals need to advance their careers. As musicians — performers, teachers, entrepreneurs, composers, and scholars (and ?) — you also need to understand what specialized, reliable tools are available to musicians, how you can find and use them, and how to dig deeply into them to form your own well-reasoned opinions and knowledge base.

Just as months or years of practice and planning culminate in a musical performance, your preparation in this class will culminate in a significant project that meets professional standards; the form of that project will depend on your content and the online options available.

We will be learning together in a new situation. We will become a learning community very quickly. You will interact constantly with members of your class, learning about their work, teaching them about your work, and editing and coaching each other to refine your ideas and presentations.

Welcome! See you in class on September 1 at 8:30 a.m.!

LOGISTICS

Our class will be a blend of synchronous and asynchronous class meetings. We will open our Zoom meeting at 8:30/9:00 on Tuesdays and at 9:25 on Thursdays (optional). Most weeks, we will have a class meeting on Tuesdays, with content beginning at 9:00, while on Thursdays, Jeana and I will be available to answer questions, work on problems with you, help with resources, etc. On some Tuesdays, we will be having guest speakers and round-tables with discussion and Q&A. Other weeks, we will workshop particular problems and research techniques, and often, you will meet in break-out rooms for peer editing and coaching. CANVAS will be our repository for material, organized by modules, and for uploading assignments. I will post brief narrated PowerPoints that explain assignments, techniques, principles of research, and other relevant topics.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Students will

- define areas of research
- become proficient in using research libraries
- conduct research using specialized music resources
- gain skills in reading, writing, editing, and collaboration
- learn practices of scholarly citation and bibliography creation
- practice critical thinking.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS are available at UF Bookstore and at many booksellers online. Be prepared to use them on the first day. These books are on reserve in the Architecture and Fine Arts Library, but you will need your own copies. (*primary texts, used weekly)

*Sampsel, Laurie. *Music Research: A Handbook*, 3d ed. New York: Oxford University Press, 2019.
This book is a standard resource for research in music.

Strunk, William Jr. and E. B. White. *The Elements of Style*. New York: Macmillan. Third edition or later.

Be careful if you order it from Amazon—they still offer the original. The E-Book on the UF website is also the original edition—do not use this.

This book will improve almost everyone's writing, and you can read it quickly.

*Turabian, Kate L. *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, 9th ed. Chicago: U of Chicago, 2018.

This book will be your guide for rules of citation and the research process.

RECOMMENDED:

Quick citation guide: http://www.press.uchicago.edu/books/turabian/turabian_citationguide.html

USE: Notes and Bibliography Style

Wingell, Richard J. *Writing About Music: An Introductory Guide*, Prentice Hall: Englewood Cliffs, NJ. Any edition.

Unravels problems unique for music research, writings, and citation.

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS will be on reserve in the music library.

OFFICE HOURS: As above or by appointment. Please see me after class, or contact me by email telephone to schedule appointments outside regular office hours. I am interested in your success, and I enjoy getting to know you outside of class, so please visit via Zoom with questions, ideas, or just to get acquainted.

ASSIGNMENTS AND EVALUATION: Assignments are due at the beginning of class on the day they are due, and it is important to stay on track. Be sure to maintain your computer and internet and for scheduling your workload in order to meet assignment deadlines. Assignments must fulfill the requirements of the assignment in order to be considered for a grade. Please read the assignment sheet thoroughly and follow all instructions. You will submit your written work online. Please make sure you keep copies of all work, and retain graded assignments until the end of the term. See the Course Schedule of topics, readings, and assignments for further information, including a complete listing of assignments and their point values.

Distribution of points will be approximately:

50% Homework, including class presentations and discussion

50% Final paper and presentation: application and culmination of learning throughout the course

Grading Scale:

94-100% = A	91-93% = A-;	87-90% = B+	84-86% = B	81-83% = B-
77-80% = C+	74-76% = C	71-73% = C-	67-70% = D+	64-66% = D
61-63% = D-	60 and below = E			

CANVAS: Please make sure that you have found and are following your courses on Canvas.

To submit your papers: Go to the class on CANVAS and submit your e-file in the Assignments file. Call the Help Desk with problems or questions.

ATTENDANCE AND STAYING ON TRACK: See Logistics. Please attend synchronous meetings so that you can interact with classmates

SIGNIFICANT ASSIGNMENT DATES (subject to change; you will receive a detailed schedule in chunks):

Mid-October: Polished final proposal and annotated bibliography due

Early November: Complete draft of final paper due

December 3: Revised final papers due

December 8: Mini-conference,

TIPS FOR ACHIEVING SUCCESS:

- Attend every class with this question in mind: how can this information help me become a respected professional in my field? Apply what we are learning each week to your own interests and be open to exploring new interests. Regard the skills you will gain as empowering to you.
- Complete every assignment completely and on time. Learn from comments and corrections; employ this feedback in future assignments.
- Interact with your classmates; share ideas and questions with them. Become actively engaged in the process of performing research.

PROFESSIONALISM: Class begins promptly; come every time on time, and stay the whole time. Be ready with necessary materials. Be respectful of your professor and classmates.

***e-mail etiquette:** Feel free to email me or our TA for individual questions. Most standard information is covered in the syllabus or assignment sheet—please be sure you have searched there first. Please do not email me for information that you can get from a classmate or figure out on your own, but do feel free to email when you require personal attention from the professor or TA or need to make an appointment.

Please use your **ufl.edu** account in all of your transactions for the class; please check your ufl.edu account at least once a day. I will often post messages before or after class to follow up on something or to call attention to a change. I will attempt to answer your questions in a timely manner, but please do not expect an immediate reply. I may be occupied with other classes, away from my computer, or in need of time to find an answer to your question. I will make every attempt to answer your emails within 24 hours, M–F.

UF POLICIES:

University Policy on Accommodating Students with Disabilities: Students requesting accommodation for disabilities must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the instructor when requesting accommodation. You must submit this documentation prior to submitting assignments or taking the quizzes or exams. Accommodations are not retroactive, therefore, students should contact the office as soon as possible in the term for which they are seeking accommodations.

University Policy on Academic Misconduct: Academic honesty and integrity are fundamental values of the University community. Students should be sure that they understand the UF Student Honor Code at (<https://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>)

No academic dishonesty will be tolerated. Plagiarism is presenting the work of another as your own. Cheating on exams and using someone else's ideas in a written paper without providing proper recognition of the source (plagiarizing) are serious matters. As a result of completing the registration form at the University of Florida, every student has agreed to the following statement: *"I understand that the University of Florida expects its students to be honest in all their academic work. I agree to adhere to this commitment to academic honesty and understand that my failure to comply with this commitment may result in disciplinary action up to and including expulsion for the University."* The instructor of this course fully endorses this statement and will not tolerate academic dishonesty. All violations of academic honesty will be referred to the Dean of Students Office for disciplinary action without exception. **Strictly enforced!**

CAMPUS RESOURCES

Resources are available on campus to make your life easier:

- [Counseling and Wellness Center](#) for personal and group counseling: (352) 392-1575
- [Mind and Body Center](#) for reducing stress and improving well-being
- [BAM! Best Allyship Movement https://counseling.ufl.edu/resources/bam](https://counseling.ufl.edu/resources/bam)
- [Field and Fork Pantry](#) for food insecurity
- [Writing Studio](#) for help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers
- [UF Police Department](#): 392-1111 or 911 for emergencies

Keep going →

Research Methods overview

September – preparation

- I. Introduction to research and collaboration
 - a. Know thyself – bio; introspection; goals; interests
 - b. Knowing and interacting; creating a cohort
 - i. Collaboration
 - ii. Peer editing
 - iii. Peer coaching
 - c. Exploring your interests
 - i. Inherent to you for all time
 - ii. Relevant to this moment in time
 1. Your questions, expertise, and curiosity
 2. Pandemic, quarantine, and performance
 3. Racial justice and your music education
 4. Where can you go forward? What interests you? What affects you? What impact can you have?
 - iii. Shaping your own education
 - d. What is research? Read and apply to your interests
 - i. *Manual for Writers*: Overview of Part I, Chapters 1 and 14
 - ii. Capture your ideas
- II. Information
 - a. Finding
 - i. Physical libraries
 - ii. Online
 - b. Techniques: search engines; catalogs; bibliographies; etc.
 - c. Evaluating
 - i. Criteria
 - ii. Reviews
 - iii. Citations
 - d. Using
 - i. Learning
 - ii. Argument; evidence

October – the research process

- III. Processing your learning
 - a. Reading, comprehending, and gaining deep understanding
 - b. Creating an argument
 - c. Critical thinking; evidence and conclusions
- IV. Organization and Production
 - a. From idea to final result
 - b. Building on previous work and knowledge
- V. Documentation
 - a. Complete publication information
 - b. Citation style

- c. Footnotes
- d. Bibliography

Late October – November -- writing

VI. Writing

- a. Communication
- b. Clarity and register/style
- c. Editing – self and peer; revisions
- d. Polishing – close reading and perfecting

Late November – early December – polishing, finishing

VII. Scholarship and activity

- a. Presentation
- b. Seminar papers
- c. Publication