WESTMINSTER CHOIR COLLEGE OF
RIDER UNIVERSITY
Introduction to Musicology MH731, Spring 2009
Syllabus

Professor Kendra Leonard
kleonard@rider.edu
Class meeting: T, TH 9:45-11:15 a.m.

Office hours: 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. and by appointment

Course Objectives
1. To provide students with skills for graduate-level music research and writing, including:
   • familiarity with the library’s resources;
   • an understanding of standard reference and research tools, both in print and online;
   • appropriate research techniques;
2. To familiarize students with the nature and scope of musicology, including various sub-disciplines and areas.
3. To provide students with an understanding of the relationship between musicological research and performance practice.
4. To give students the skills necessary for the scholarly presentation of music research in written and oral forms.
5. To introduce students to the typical documents they will be called on to write over the course of their careers.

Email
Your Rider email account is your email address for all official email communications from the University. You are expected to check your Rider email account on a frequent and consistent basis in order to stay current with University-related communications. Any email from me about this course will only be sent to your official Rider email address. Any communication from you to me must come from your Rider email address, must contain the course name in the “Subject” line, and must use proper spelling and capitalization.

Academic Code of Conduct
Academic dishonesty includes any unauthorized collaboration or misrepresentation in the submission of academic work. In all written work, whether in class or out of class, the student’s name on the work is considered to be a statement that the work is his or hers alone, except as otherwise indicated. Students are expected to provide proper citations for the statements and ideas of others whether submitted word for word or paraphrased. Failure to provide proper citations will be considered plagiarism and offenders will be subject to the charge of plagiarism specified in the statement of regulations.

Similarly, students are expected to adhere to all regulations pertaining to examination conduct. These regulations are designed to insure that the work submitted by the student on examinations is an honest representation of that student’s effort and that it does not involve unauthorized collaboration, unauthorized use of notes during the exam, or unauthorized access to prior information about the examination.
In this course, the first instance of plagiarism will result in a grade of F for the assignment, and a report will be sent to the dean; a second instance of plagiarism will result in an F for the course, and charges of academic dishonesty will be brought to the Academic Integrity Committee. See *The Source*, pages 10-16, for full information on the academic code of conduct.

**Required Text/Materials**


**Style Manual**


**Recommended Texts**


**Recommended Web Sites**

Rider University Libraries Homepage, [http://www.rider.edu/15478_6148.htm](http://www.rider.edu/15478_6148.htm)


How to Prepare an Annotated Bibliography, [http://www.library.cornell.edu/olinuris/ref/research/skill28.htm](http://www.library.cornell.edu/olinuris/ref/research/skill28.htm)

Annotated Bibliographies, [http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/614/01/](http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/614/01/)

Page, Melvin E. “A Brief Citation Guide for Internet Resources in History and the Humanities,” [http://www.h-net.org/about/citation/](http://www.h-net.org/about/citation/)

Citing Electronic Information in History Papers, [http://history.memphis.edu/mcrouse/elcite.html](http://history.memphis.edu/mcrouse/elcite.html)


**Technology Requirements**

This course is on-line on Blackboard. The web address is Blackboard.rider.edu. You will need to have regular access to the internet and a word-processing program to complete many elements of this course. Students who do not have this access at home will need to scheduled time to do so either at the library or at other campus computing locations. Always back up your work, whether on a flash drive, via email, or through an online back-up service such as Syncplicity or Google Documents. Assignments will not be accepted late because of computer or printer problems.

**Attendance**

Attendance is expected. Attending class will help you learn the material and be better prepared for assignments. If you must miss class for performances, please let me know at least a week ahead of the expected absence. If you must miss class for personal reasons, including
illness, family emergencies, etc., please let me know as soon as you can. It is your responsibility
to get notes from a classmate and be prepared for the next class.

If you have special needs that will affect performance in this class, such as a documented
learning disability, please provide me with your university documentation during the first week
of class or as soon as you are documented. If you think you might have such needs, but have no
documentation, please contact the E.O.P. office in the basement of Taylor.

Assignment Policies
Assignments are due at the beginning of class on the day specified. Assignments turned
in after the first five minutes of class—including during or at the end of class—are considered
late. Late assignments will be penalized 1/3 of a letter grade per business day.

Evaluation
25% Writing Assignments
These assignments will familiarize you with thinking and writing about music and music
research, as well as assist you in preparing documents for your career. Writing assignments
include the syllabus quiz, CV, autobiography, dictionary/encyclopedia, and discography
assignments.
20% Journal
Keeping up-to-date and engaged in musical scholarship is important no matter what your
major or field is. Each Tuesday you will be required to turn in 3-4 journal entries based on your
responses to the scholarly articles that you have read and discussed in class the previous week.
10% Book Review
Performers and scholars alike are frequently asked to review books for journals. In this
assignment, you will select a recently published book and write a book review, adhering to the
style guidelines provided.
5% Quizzes and In-Class Assignments
Occasional unannounced reading quizzes and short in-class assignments are designed to
encourage you to stay current with the assigned readings be prepared for class. They can also
help raise your grade.
40% Proposal & Annotated Bibliography (5%), Presentation (15%), & Paper (20%)
Musicians of all kinds must be able to research topics, synthesize their findings, and
present the information they have found in a clear and correct manner. This course will
culminate with the writing and presentation of a research paper of no fewer than 3000 words
(approximately 12 pages) on a topic of interest to you and approved by me.

Classroom Etiquette
Please do not use cell phones during class for calls, texting, or accessing the internet.
Please do not eat during class.

Assignments, Spring 2009
Your work reflects directly on you: strive for a professional appearance and clear, well-
written prose in your assignments. All assignments (except where noted) must be submitted in
print and should be double-spaced and single-sided. Please use the Times New Roman font in 12
point type in black ink for all assignments. Margins should not be more than 1 inch. Include your full name and the course name and number in the upper left hand corner of each assignment. Spelling and grammar errors will count against you; always spell-check and proofread your work prior to turning it in.

Journal Entries
Each Tuesday you will be required to turn in two short essays of approximately 350 words each responding to the prior week’s assigned readings, discussions and topics. These essays are not summaries of the reading; rather, use them to explore your reactions to, questions about, or experiences with what the author has written about. Each journal entry must begin with the full citation of the reading to which you are responding in correct Chicago Manual of Style format. If you quote from the article, include the page number in parentheses following the quotation.

CV
For this assignment, you will create a professional curriculum vita that you can use for job applications as you begin your search for a permanent position in music. Use the sections below to build your CV, listing credentials, projects, and positions in reverse chronological order (starting with the most recent first). If you don’t have anything to list under a particular section, omit it. Be sure to include planned degrees, ongoing projects, and/or upcoming performances with your anticipated dates of completion or performance. Your CV should not be double-spaced, and it should be single-sided and in a clean, legible font no smaller than 12 point.
Due 2/5

CV Areas:
Contact Information
Education
Professional Training and Expertise
Teaching Experience
Administrative Experience
Publications
Presentations
Professional Affiliations, Academic Service, and Community Outreach
Awards, Fellowships, Honors, Grants
Languages
Research Interests
Technical Skills
Performance Experience
References

Autobiography Assignment
Write your autobiography as an entry in Baker’s Biographical Dictionary of Musicians. Format the entry in the same manner as Baker’s: name, birth and death dates, etc. Your entry should be 1-2 pages and should cover your entire life; be creative about your future! What awards will you win? Where will you have performed and taught by the end of your life? Feel
free to invent works lists and the titles of books and articles you’ve written and pieces you’ve performed.

Due 2/12

Encyclopedia Assignment

Select an individual in music and look him/her up in two different encyclopedias. Write a brief (350 word) comparison of the two entries. Discuss any discrepancies between the two entries, including differences in spellings, overall assessment, works lists, and other elements.

Due 2/19

Book Review

The purpose of a book review is to situate a new publication within the current literature and to critically evaluate the author’s thesis, methodology, purpose, and arguments. The bulk of a good book review consists of an evaluation of the book’s merit and contribution to existing scholarship, and an assessment of the author’s presentation of his/her thesis and supporting arguments and materials. As celebrated historian (and music historian) Jacques Barzun has written:

The beginning, we know is important. The first [paragraph] should present an idea of interest to the readers . . . . If your first words are "This book . . ." they will not be able to distinguish your review from twenty others, and they will be entitled to conclude that you have not expended much thought on enlisting their attention. The opening statement takes the readers from where they presumably stand in point of knowledge and brings them to the book under review. The briefest possible description of its aim, scope, and place in the world therefore follows the baited opening sentence and completes the first paragraph. [Jacques Barzun, The Modern Researcher, 4th ed. (New York: Wadsworth Publishing, 1985), 290.]

Your review may be on any recent (published in 2005 or later) book on a musical topic that appeals to you. It should contain a discussion of the author’s intent in writing the book; a summary of the author’s methods and sources; an assessment of the book’s strengths and weaknesses; and a consideration of how the book might change the way readers might view the topic. You should use at least one quote from the book to illustrate your evaluation.

Your book review should follow the format and style guide of reviews published in Notes, the journal of the Music Library Association, available at http://www.areditions.com/mla/notes/stylesheet.html. Your review should be approximately 1,000 words. You are encouraged to view several reviews from Notes before beginning your review.

Due 2/27

Paper Proposal

The paper proposal should be a short and informative précis containing the following elements:

• a brief discussion of your topic;
• a summary of why this topic is important or what it will contribute to knowledge of the topic;
• a statement of the research questions you propose to answer;
• how you will go about answering this question; and
• a rough outline (in narrative or list form) of the final paper.

Your entire proposal should be no more than one or two double-spaced pages.

Due 3/5

Annotated Bibliography

Using the guidelines provided at “A Brief Citation Guide for Internet Resources in History and the Humanities,” http://www.h-net.org/about/citation/, prepare a ten-item (minimum) annotated bibliography for your project, including both articles and books. Your annotations should be 3-4 sentences long and must include:
• an account of the source’s primary thesis;
• a description of the materials included in the source; and
• an evaluation of the source’s intended audience.

This bibliography should include the basic resources for your paper. All entries must be in correct Chicago Manual of Style format.

Due 3/5

Discography Assignment

Select 10-12 recordings from your own collection that represent a particular style, period, genre, or artist, and create a discography of them. Include an introductory paragraph describing the discography’s topic and scope. Each entry must include the title of the recording, complete contents, principal performers, recording label, catalogue number, and date of issue.

Due 3/12

Abstract

Write an abstract of your paper not to exceed 250 words. Your abstract should provide an informative summary of your paper and provide the reader an overview of the facts that will be laid out in detail in the paper itself. Your abstract should answer the following questions: Why should readers care about your paper? What problem or question did you seek to solve with your research? What methods and sources did you use to answer your question? What did you find out? What are the implications of your research on your field?

Three sample abstracts:

Recognizing musicology's demonstrated potential to contribute to its ideological aims, the Nazi government took immediate steps to centralize music scholarship and, along with the SS, to subsidize relevant research projects. Alfred Rosenberg's ideological watchdog organization recruited musicologists for a variety of tasks, including the plundering of musical treasures in occupied territories and the assessment of the receptivity of occupied populations to Germany's eventual takeover of cultural life. Meanwhile, many scholars contributed to the press with music historical justifications for all of Germany's current military and diplomatic actions. Born in an era preoccupied with the creation of the German nation-state, musicology had embraced a Germanocentric focus, dating back to Forkel, that the Nazi propaganda machine fully exploited. This nationalism also infiltrated American musicology with the arrival of German émigré scholars.

During the late middle ages, popular songs filled the ears of the average German with scandalous images of the corruption of the clergy. Anticlerical songs were often comical, depicting a bumbling priesthood more concerned with filling their bellies and their beds than with tending their spiritual flocks. The lyrics provided a catalog of sins, including drunkenness, gluttony, greed, and lust, and showed how crafty peasants could outfox the clergy who would otherwise abuse them. These songs were sometimes set to popular tunes that were recycled repeatedly, making their texts easier for the average people to remember and to spread. In other cases, composers of songs took their melodies from traditional Catholic hymns, creating rollicking parodies of familiar works like the Christmas Resonet in laudibus the Lenten Judas. Such songs could spread anticlerical sentiment far, especially in the primarily oral culture of medieval Europe. By the early sixteenth century, anticlerical songs were a familiar part of popular culture, and as such they were perfectly situated to play a vital role in the Lutheran Reformation in Germany.


Music plays an important role in the art of Samuel Beckett. Indeed, we need only observe the continual presence of a defining motive that spans the thirty years between Beckett's novel *Watt* of 1953 and his television play *Nacht und Träume* of 1983: Beckett's protagonists sing. The enigmatic Mr. Knott of the novel sings, as does the nameless protagonist of the television play. An astonishing transformation emerges, however, when we trace the treatment of music from the “extreme monotony” of Mr. Knott's song in *Watt* to the elaborate bars of Schubert in *Nacht und Träume*. Increasingly, Beckett's attitude toward music contrasts with his attitude toward the other arts. “One loses one's classics,” complains Winnie in *Happy Days*, but this does not hold true for the Lehár melody she sings. Nor does it hold true for Beckett's relationship to Beethoven and Schubert: musical quotations from their works appear in unbroken extension. As though he meant to model his concept of music ever more explicitly on Schopenhauer's metaphysics and Proust's romanticism, Beckett's quotations from music gain strength over time, achieve more immediate reality, and become a dominant factor in his work.

Due 3/26

**Final Paper**

Your final paper should be no fewer than 3000 words (approximately 12 pages). It must adhere to Chicago Manual of Style citation guidelines and consist of the following, in order:

- Title page with name, paper title, course title and number, and date
- The body of the paper (double spaced), using footnotes
- A complete bibliography

You may include musical examples as necessary in an appendix to the paper.

Both your first and final drafts should include all of the required elements. You will be asked to revise based on my comments on your first draft.

The final four class periods are reserved for presenting your paper. You will have 25 minutes to read or otherwise present your paper to the class as if presenting at a conference,
followed by a question period. You are encouraged to use musical examples, slides, and other multimedia tools in your presentation.

**Draft due 4/2**  
**Final paper due 4/21**

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