

MUHL 570: Research Materials and Techniques

Fall 2023

Herklotz Room, Music Library (Doheny Memorial Library G-28)

Andrew Justice

Head of the Music Library

ajustice@usc.edu

(213) 740-2926

Office Hours: drop-in / by appointment (Doheny Memorial Library G-18)

Course Objectives

Regardless of major or area of interest, professional musicians should be able to:

1. Find specific or intentionally discover compositions, recordings, and/or works of scholarship
2. Think critically about stylistic, historical, and/or cultural aspects of music and scholarship
3. Write effectively about music, whether in terms of program/liner notes or funding applications

Recommended Text

Gottlieb, Jane. *Music Library and Research Skills*. 2nd ed. New York: Oxford University Press, 2016.

Attendance

Attendance is required for every class meeting and will be recorded. Each unexcused absence results in 10 points subtracted from your final grade. Extreme tardiness (more than 15 minutes) is considered an absence. If you need to miss a class, please notify me at least 24 hours in advance to be excused.

Grading

Your final course grade will be on a scale of 1000 points:

Assignments (total of 4 @ 100 points each)	400
Class participation	100
Final project	500

Academic Integrity

SCampus (USC's student handbook) outlines academic integrity procedures and outcomes; any instances of cheating or plagiarism in this class will result in the initiation of a complaint per the policy, which may result in a failing grade for the course and/or appropriate disciplinary action from the university.

Americans with Disabilities Act

USC complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) in making reasonable accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. If you have an established disability as defined in the ADA and would like to request accommodation, please contact me as soon as possible.

Devices

Laptops & tablets are encouraged, but please silence all devices (especially phones) in the library.

Course Schedule

August 23	Course overview, library tour, website intro	
August 30	TBD	
September 6	Dictionaries, encyclopedias, & thematic catalogs	<i>Assignment 1 due</i>
September 13	TBD	
September 20	Periodicals, etc.	<i>Project topic due</i>
September 27	TBD	
October 4	Manuscripts & printed editions	
October 11	Primary sources & archives (Special Collections)	<i>Assignment 2 due</i>
October 18	TBD	
October 25	Sound recordings & discography	
November 1	TBD	<i>Assignment 3 due</i>
November 8	Presentations	
November 15	Presentations	<i>Assignment 4 due</i>
November 22	No class	
November 29	Presentations	<i>Project draft due</i>

Final Project

The goal of the final project is to demonstrate your understanding of research techniques and music resources, as well as the craft of writing and formatting a bibliography. It is also intended to serve as a first step toward possible further research in your academic and/or professional career.

1. Agree on a topic with me and identify at least 20 different sources pertinent to the topic
2. Appropriately cite (using The Chicago Manual of Style) and write an annotation for each source
3. Write an essay (3,000 words minimum) that:
 - Provides an overview of the topic
 - Summarizes your findings of scholarship
 - Suggests possibilities for future research

During the last three class meetings, everyone will give a short summary presentation of their project; accompanying materials such as slides are welcome, but not required.

Final project topic due:	September 20
Final Project draft due:	November 29
Final Project due:	December 13

AVOID THE EVENING SLUMP IN THE LIBRARY
EAT LUNCH, DRINK COFFEE/TEA, ETC.
BEFORE CLASS, PREFERABLY