

COURSE OUTLINE

Credit Points	10	Convenor	Huib Schippers
Pre-requisite(s)	2329QCM or 3329QCM	Teaching Team	Various
Co-requisite(s)	None	Mode of delivery	Independent study
Incompatibles	None		

Description

An independent study project on an agreed topic will be undertaken by the student under supervision of a member of the academic staff. A contract will be developed for each student defining the project and the required outcomes. A course proposal and a seminar presentation will be assessed to monitor each student's progress.

Objectives

- Acquisition of independent research and study skills.
- Development of knowledge and experience in a focused field of study in Musicology
- Familiarity with the literature, repertoire and resources relevant to the research topic.
- Development of writing and/or other presentation skills relevant to scholarly research.

Content

The student will negotiate and have approved an independent study project related to some field of Musicology. Such a project might relate to a particular historical period, repertoire, or issue which is directly relevant to the field of musicology or to any of the range of subject areas included in the music literature curriculum at QCM. The student is expected to originate a project proposal and to approach an appropriate member of staff to act as supervisor. That person will be required to negotiate and approve the topic and to complete a contract with the student. The student may consult with the lecturer as required during the course of the project. The student will be required to pursue the project through independent research or other independent work.

Organisation and Teaching Methods

1. The student will develop a short written proposal (c. 250 words) outlining the project to be undertaken and will present it to an appropriate member of the academic staff for approval. To be approved, the project should clearly require work equivalent to that required by other 10 CPS courses and the supervisor will need to be confident about this. Students should aim to have drafted this proposal and approached a possible supervisor at least by the end of the 2nd week of the semester.
2. If the staff member approached agrees to supervise the project, it will then proceed to development of the Contract. If the staff member declines to supervise the project, the student may approach an alternate supervisor. **The student must have confirmed a supervisor for the project by the end of the 2nd week if he/she is to continue with this course. IF THE STUDENT CANNOT GET A STAFF MEMBER TO AGREE TO SUPERVISE THE PROJECT, THE STUDENT SHOULD CHANGE HIS/HER ENROLMENT TO AVOID A RESULT OF FAILURE IN THIS COURSE OR A LATE FEE FOR A CHANGE IN ENROLMENT. Under exceptional circumstances, the course convenor may grant an extension for the submission of the project proposal but this will only be granted if the availability and willingness of a supervisor has been confirmed.**
3. The supervisor and the student will complete the Contract Proforma (attached) and sign it. **A copy of the signed contract and project proposal must be submitted to the course convenor by the end of the 3rd Week of the semester for assessment.**
4. The course convenor assesses the submitted contracts and proposals in relation to the assessment criteria.

- 5 The student will commence the project and independently undertake it, however it would normally be expected that the student and supervisor will meet at least 5 times in the semester to review progress. Such meetings shall be initiated by the student.
- 6 Towards the middle of the semester each student gives a 5-10 minute presentation in front of the supervisor or the course convenor and other students enrolled in the course. The presentation should outline the nature of the project, the progress made and any issues arising. The supervisor or course convenor assesses the presentation in relation to the assessment criteria.
- 7 At the end of the semester, the student will submit the completed project and the supervisor will assess it and report the result to the Course Convenor. The Convenor then combines the marks from the three assessment items and determines each student's mark and grade for the course and reports these to the administration.

Assessment

There are three assessment items within this course which will be weighted as follows.

Project proposal	10%
Seminar presentation	20%
Research Paper	70%

The project proposal is part of the signed contract between student and supervisor. Three copies of it are needed. One must be submitted to both the supervisor and the course convenor while the student should also keep a copy for reference. The proposal is to be around 150-250 words and should set out the intended topic, how the student intends to investigate it and a brief bibliography. This bibliography should contain at least five available sources.

The second item of assessment is the student's seminar presentation. This brief presentation to the course supervisor or convenor and other students in the course should outline the nature of the project itself, the major sources available, the progress made thus far and any other issues arising. The presentation may or may not be supported by written material. Each student's presentation will be assessed at these seminars by either the supervisor or the course convenor. (When a staff member is supervising a group of students in this course the supervisor is expected to arrange for those students to meet as a group for their seminar presentations and to assess them. Supervisors must then pass on to the course convenor the mark out of 20 for this component by the end of Week 9 of the semester. In cases where staff members are supervising only one student, the course convenor is to arrange for those students to meet and give their presentations to him/her or to the supervisor and the group.

The third assessment item will be the written research paper itself. It is expected to be a minimum of 4,000 words in length. The Research Paper and other documentation (where appropriate) will be submitted to the Supervisor by the Friday of Study Week in the semester in which the course is taken. The supervisor shall mark the work against the assessment criteria and will annotate the paper/documentation.

Assessment Criteria

Assessment criteria for the proposal would include

- the viability of the proposed topic/project
- the extent to which the topic and its implications have been thought through
- an awareness of the major sources available as evident in the bibliography
- the correct format of the bibliography
- the clarity of presentation
- the accuracy and coherence of expression.

Assessment criteria for the presentation would include

- evidence of on-going work in the development of the topic
- awareness of the sources and issues relating to the topic
- the organisation and coherence of the presentation itself.

Assessment criteria for the research paper would consider the following questions.

- Is the paper and/or report the result of thorough and systematic research or a combination of thorough and systematic research and practical activity?
- Does the paper present a development or logical relationship to the original topic proposal? (The final project does not have to match the proposal exactly but the relationship between them should be clearly evident.)
- Is an appropriate range of research sources of good quality used?
- Does the paper demonstrate an understanding of the principles of scholarly research and apply them successfully?
- Does the project demonstrate a clear academic or practical benefit to the student?
- Is the paper and/or report clearly and well written with due regard to expression, spelling, grammar, punctuation, sentence and paragraph structure, and overall ordering of information?
- Is the general presentation of a good standard?
- Is the paper appropriately documented with respect to citation of sources used in the text and provision of a reference list?
- Has the student demonstrated thorough familiarity with the topic studied and clearly explored aspects of the topic outside his/her experience at the beginning of the project?

Texts and Supporting Materials

No specific texts and readings are assigned for this course since the range of topics and student projects is diverse. However students may refer to the following to assist in formulating a topic and in producing a research paper:

Turabian, Kate L. *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, 6th ed. Rev. John Grossman and Alice Bennett. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1996.

Evans, David. *How to Write a Better Thesis or Report*. Melbourne: M.U.P., 1995.

Administration

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3349QCM (10CP): MUSICOLOGY PROJECT B

CONTRACT

Student's name Student's number.....

Supervisor's name.....

Outline the work to be undertaken by the student in this course:

Indicate what the student is required to submit for assessment:

Agreed:

Supervisor SignatureStudent Signature.....

Date.....