
COURSE OUTLINE

Credit Points	30	Convenor	Paul Draper
Prerequisite(s)	Approved entry to Honours	Teaching Team	Faculty Staff Members
Co-requisite(s)	None	Mode of delivery	approx. 30 mins/week
Incompatibles	None		

Description

The dissertation or research project addresses a particular research issue within the discipline of music. It is expected to make a contribution to the knowledge and context of music.

Objectives

Through the submission of a dissertation or research project, candidates will be expected to demonstrate the ability to undertake research and to present the results in a scholarly manner. In particular it targets:

- The ability to formulate and sustain a coherent topic, and to identify relevant sub topics or related issues.
- The ability to undertake thorough research of the topic at a level appropriate to an honours student.
- The ability to construct a coherent argument or to present a body of research data in a coherent way.
- The ability to write coherently and in an appropriate scholarly manner.
- Understanding and application of the principles of scholarly documentation.

Content

This course addresses a particular research issue within the discipline of music and, where appropriate, related areas. The dissertation/project is expected to make a contribution to the knowledge and content of the discipline/s. The scope of the dissertation/project must be appropriate to the honours level in terms of its feasibility and the methodologies employed. It may not have been submitted for any other degree or award. The student will be guided in development of the topic and in the research process both by the supervisor and through the course 4401QCM Research Methods.

Organisation and Teaching Methods

Candidates consult with their supervisors at appropriate frequency throughout the year.

Assessment

Assessment is based on the submission of a dissertation of 10 000 - 12 000 words (or equivalent). The dissertation is due for submission by Friday of Week 13 of the semester of submission (usually second semester). Three copies are required. Details of format for submission will be provided in the course 4401QCM Research Methods.

The dissertation is assessed by two examiners, neither of whom may be the candidate's supervisor.

Assessment Criteria

Does the introduction articulate: a rationale for the dissertation/thesis; central and related issues/themes/questions; methodology adopted; sources available for the topic?

Is the body of the project coherent, well argued, suitably supported by the sources and successful in its exploration and discussion of the major issues and themes of the study?

Is the conclusion clearly articulated? Does it bring together the major aspects of the project? Are its discussion and claims sustainable in terms of the study which precedes it? Does it articulate the contribution/s which the project has made to the field of study through research and/or synthesis of data/material?

Is the dissertation/thesis presented with an appropriate level of personal and scholarly maturity? To what extent is the project free from errors in grammar, punctuation, and syntax? (Examiners are requested to indicate where such errors occur by referring to relevant page numbers; it would assist candidates in the correction of their work if errors were indicated in the text of the dissertation). Are the references and documentation adequate, accurate, consistent and sufficiently contemporary? Are exemplification and illustration adequate, accurate and sufficiently annotated?

How successful is the dissertation/thesis: in pursuing its topic of research (e.g: in its exercise of scholarly judgement; in its critical use of published works and source materials)? in producing a valuable and sustainable study?

Texts and Supporting Materials

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

Administration

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