

Fall 2015

## **MUS 6200**

Charles Taylor  
*University of New Orleans*

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarworks.uno.edu/syllabi>

**This is an older syllabus and should not be used as a substitute for the syllabus for a current semester course.**

---

### **Recommended Citation**

Taylor, Charles, "MUS 6200" (2015). *University of New Orleans Syllabi*. Paper 850.  
<https://scholarworks.uno.edu/syllabi/850>

This Syllabus is brought to you for free and open access by ScholarWorks@UNO. It has been accepted for inclusion in University of New Orleans Syllabi by an authorized administrator of ScholarWorks@UNO. For more information, please contact [scholarworks@uno.edu](mailto:scholarworks@uno.edu).

## Research and Writing in Music (MUS 6200)

Fall 2015

PAC Room 317

Tuesday/Thursday 11:00-12:15

Dr. Charles Taylor

Office: PAC Room 331

Office Phone: (504) 280-6381

Email: [ctaylor@uno.edu](mailto:ctaylor@uno.edu)

Office Hours as Posted

Texts: Herbert, Trevor. *Music in Words: A Guide to Researching and Writing About Music*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2009.

Turabian, Kate L. *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, 8<sup>th</sup> edition. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2013.

**Course Objectives and Student Learning Outcomes:** This course is designed as an introduction to research and scholarly writing in music for graduate students. At the conclusion of this course you will be able to:

- Analyze and assess written research reports of the primary types of research used in the study of music
- Create and develop clear, compelling arguments that will serve as the basis for research
- Write effective research reports/papers in an appropriately scholarly format that evidence clear and correct structure
- Identify and evaluate sources of information that are appropriate for use in scholarly research

**Assignments and Exams:** There will be several reading assignments that will serve as the basis for class discussion. It is expected that you will prepare to participate in these discussions by giving each assignment a close reading. The readings will be from the textbook and other relevant materials.

In addition to the readings and class discussions, grades will be determined through a variety of written assignments, including a major research paper that develops an original argument. There will be no midterm or final exams.

**Grading:** The final grade for this course will be determined as follows:

1. Journal article review #1	30
2. Journal article review #2	30
3. Journal article review #3	40
4. Primary source/artifact assignment	100
5. Program notes project	100
6. Research project	
a. Topic	50
b. Prosepectus/bibliography	150
c. First draft	100
d. Final paper	400
	<hr/>
	1000

**Attendance:** Class attendance is required. Class meetings provide the substance of this course; this is the time for discussion, expression, interpretation, and clarification. It is essential that everyone participate in the process. The success of this class depends upon your contributions. **Unless accommodations are made in advance, each absence beyond two (2) will result in a 3-point deduction from your final grade.**

**Accommodations:** It is University policy to provide, on a flexible and individualized basis, reasonable accommodations to students who have disabilities that may affect their ability to participate in course activities or meet course requirements. Persons with disabilities and/or special needs must follow the procedures established by the Office of Disability Services.

**Academic Integrity:** Academic integrity is fundamental to the process of learning and evaluating academic performance. Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, the following: cheating, plagiarism, tampering with academic records and examinations, falsifying identity, and being an accessory to acts of academic dishonesty. Refer to the UNO Judicial Code for further information. The Code is available online at [http://uno.edu/~stlf/policy%20Manual/judicial\\_code\\_pt2.html](http://uno.edu/~stlf/policy%20Manual/judicial_code_pt2.html).

**Class Conduct and Expectations:** Class will begin on time. All students are expected to be on time and be prepared for class, which includes bringing appropriate materials. An open exchange of ideas is encouraged, but you must be respectful of everyone in the room. It is expected that students be attentive and contribute to class discussions. **Students are expected to have access to Moodle and check it on a regular basis. All communications will be done via UNO email and Moodle.**

## Evaluation of Research Paper

Your research paper will be evaluated using these criteria:

1. Content
  - a. Does it have a clear thesis, a main point to which everything else relates?
  - b. Is the argument persuasive?
    - i. Is enough evidence presented to support each point, and does each point support the thesis?
    - ii. Are possible counter-arguments considered and refuted?
  - c. Are the ideas original and compelling?
  - d. Does the paper treat the topic comprehensively, in depth, and with insight?
  - e. Are there enough relevant, varied, and scholarly primary and secondary sources, and are the sources used well in the paper?
2. Organization
  - a. Is there clarity in the construction of each paragraph and the paper as a whole?
  - b. Does the paper move logically through the argument from paragraph to paragraph?
  - c. Does everything in the paper have a purpose?
  - d. Have redundancies been eliminated?
3. Writing Style and Mechanics
  - a. Are diction, spelling, usage, sentence structure, and punctuation correct?
  - b. Are footnotes and bibliography entries constructed properly?
  - c. Is the paper enjoyable to read?

Remember, an argument is not the same as an opinion. Arguments must be supported by evidence and must be given the opportunity to stand as correct by addressing all counterarguments and divergent interpretations. You are trying to position yourself as an expert on the topic you have addressed; as such you must be prepared to answer any opposing viewpoints with a well-constructed, evidence-based response. This idea should guide your work.

## Daily Schedule

August	20	Course Introduction
	25	What is research? KLT, Chapter 1: <i>What Research Is and How Researchers Think About It</i>
	27	<b>Journal Article Review #1 Due</b> Types of Research
September	1	Writing TH, Chapter 1: <i>How to Write</i>
	3	Topics KLT, Chapter 2: <i>Moving from a Topic to a Question to a Working Hypothesis</i>
	8	<b>Research Topic Due</b> *Reading Research
	10	Sources I KLT, Chapter 3: <i>Finding Useful Sources</i> TH, Chapter 8: <i>Sources and Research Tools</i>
	15	Sources II KLT, Chapter 4: <i>Engaging Sources</i>
	17	<b>Journal Article Review #2 Due</b> *Reading Research
	22	Developing an argument KLT, Chapter 5: <i>Planning Your Argument</i> TH, Chapter 2: <i>Doing Research</i>
	24	Construction
	29	Citations TH, Chapter 4: <i>Scholarly Documentation</i>
	October	1
6		Library and Internet TH, Chapter 3: <i>Using Libraries and the Internet</i>
8		(Continued)
13		<b>Prosepectus/Bibliography Due</b>
15		<u><i>Mid-semester Break (No class meeting)</i></u>
20		First Draft KLT, Chapter 6: <i>Planning a First Draft</i>
22		Draft (Continued) KLT, Chapter 7: <i>Drafting Your Report</i>
27		Using Illustrations, Tables, etc. KLT, Chapter 8: <i>Presenting Evidence in Tables and Figures</i> TH, 6. Chapter 5: <i>Using Illustrations</i>
29	*Reading Research	
November	3	<b>First Draft Due</b>

		*Reading Research
	5	Revising I KLT, Chapter 9: <i>Revising Your Draft</i>
	10	Revising II KLT, Chapter 11: <i>Revising Sentences</i>
	12	Writing Final Version KLT, Chapter 10: <i>Writing Your Final Introduction and Conclusion</i>
	17	Writing Program Notes I
	19	Writing Program Notes II
	24	<b>Program Notes Assignment Due</b>
	26	<i>Thanksgiving (No class meeting)</i>
December	1	*Reading research
	3	<b>Journal Article Review #3 Due</b> Summary

**Final Paper due Wednesday, December 9, 2015, no later than 4:00 PM**

**\* Readings will be assigned in advance and will be posted to Moodle**