3791B: Issues in Musicology

Instructor: Dr. K. Helsen (kate.helsen@uwo.ca)
Office: TC 227
Office Hours: Wed., 1:30 – 3:30pm; other times by appointment (email)

Description:
The evolution of musicology into the complex field of study it is today merits a focused look at the nature of the discipline itself, its origins, and some of the issues it solves (or even creates!) This seminar course considers both historical musicological writing as well as recent scholarship, as students are exposed to the ideas and arguments that have characterized this field for more than a century. Based on the assigned readings corresponding to the weekly topic, students will write five short essays that they will read aloud in class in a writing-workshop atmosphere. In addition, students will prepare a short presentation about a living musicologist working in their field of interest, and will submit a final paper on the same subject.

Objectives:
- Accurately define the aim and scope of musicology
- Become familiar with some of the major areas of study within musicology
- Communicate in clear, attractive prose
- Increase confidence and skill in verbal communication
- Think critically about music and issues in musicology

Required Texts:
- There is no required text. Course packs will be assembled by the professor and made available to the student in a timely way.

Evaluation:
- Five (5) short essays (approx. 1000 words, not including bibliography): 5 x 15% = 75%
- Presentation on living musicologist: 10%
- Final paper on living musicologist (DUE: Thursday, April 6, 2017): 15%

Statement on Academic Offences, including Plagiarism:
Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following web site: http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholoff.pdf.
Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes and citations. All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database.
for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (http://www.turnitin.com).

Statement on Mental Health:

Students that are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western (http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth) for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

Statement regarding Illness:

In order to ensure fairness and consistency for all students, academic accommodation for work representing 10% or more of the student’s overall grade in the course shall be granted only in those cases where there is documentation indicating that the student was seriously affected by illness and could not reasonably be expected to meet his/her academic responsibilities. Documentation shall be submitted, as soon as possible, to the Associate Dean, Undergraduate. Academic accommodation for work representing less than 10% of the student’s overall grade will similarly be granted only in cases of documented illness. Documentation shall be submitted, as soon as possible, to the Associate Dean, Undergraduate.

Statement regarding Late Assignments:

Late assignments will not be accepted, resulting in a grade of zero for that assignment, except in cases in which there is a documented illness. See “Statement regarding Illness” (above).