

MUSC 4963 Senior Project – Bachelor of Arts with Major in Music  
Syllabus

Time: TBA  
Instructor: Dr. Ruth Morrow  
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Spring 2024

Course Description: A capstone written and oral project for the B.A. in Music student synthesizing learning from both the music major and required minor. To be given in public presentation; may be in conjunction with senior recital (if B.A. Music Performance minor chosen) as lecture-recital.

Course Requirements: Each student will complete a written paper of not less than 15 pages on a topic selected jointly by them and the instructor. The topic will be chosen to reflect both a synthesis of learning from courses in both major and minor and a furtherance of research within the selected topic of interest. This paper will then be presented in a public oral setting. It may be augmented with visual and aural aids and examples as well as handouts for the audience.

Grading: Will be based on a composite score from the following: timely and thorough completion of portions of the written project as assigned (25%), readiness for and participation in class (25%), and the oral presentation (50%).

Attendance: Will affect both your grade (see above) and your ability to complete your project with both depth and breadth. Meetings will be in group and individual, giving each student as much advisement and aid as appropriate and necessary to facilitate the project's completion.

**Academic (Dis)Honesty:** Plagiarism is NOT allowed!!! Doing so can result in penalties ranging from receiving a “0” on an assignment to being dropped from the course with the annotation of “plagiarism” being added to your official MSU transcript, depending on the severity of the infraction. Cheating by any means will result in similar actions.

**Special Needs:** If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, if you have emergency medical information that needs sharing, or if you need special accommodations in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with the professor to discuss these needs as soon as possible. Please note that in order to qualify for consideration of special accommodations, the student must be registered with the MSU Office of Disability Services, and the professor must receive a memo on file from that office, along with the Special Accommodations Request Form.

**Student Privacy:** Federal privacy law prohibits the instructor from releasing information about students to certain parties outside of the university without the signed consent of the student. Thus, in almost all cases the professor will not discuss students’ academic progress or other matters with their parents. Please do not have them call. Regardless of these important legal considerations, the professor’s general policy is to communicate with the student(s), not their parents, even when a student has signed a consent form.

**Social Justice:** Social justice is stated as one of Midwestern State University’s core values, and the professor considers the classroom to be a place where the students will be treated with respect as human beings, regardless of gender, race, ethnicity, national origin, religious affiliation, sexual orientation, political beliefs, age, or ability. Moreover, diversity of thought is appreciated and encouraged, provided the students can agree to disagree. It is the professor’s expectation that ALL students be able to consider the classroom a safe environment.

**Campus Carry:** Senate Bill 11 passed by the 84th Texas Legislature allows licensed handgun holders to carry concealed handguns on campus, effective August1, 2016. Areas excluded from concealed carry are appropriately marked, in accordance with state law. For more information regarding campus carry, please refer to the University’s webpage at <http://mwsu.edu/campus-carry/rules-policies>.