FINAL PROJECT ASSIGNMENT

Your assignment is to work on a final project of your choice (topic to be approved by professor). Your project will culminate in a group oral presentation (to be given on May 7, 9, 14), as well as an individual 8-10 page paper (typed, 12-font, double-spaced, single-sided, with a title and page numbers) **due May 9th.**

Your project is open to any topic involving world music, and may be either ethnographic in nature, or more research or analysis-based, but will fall under one of the group categories (to be determined in class). The exact length of the oral presentations will depend on the number of people per group.

METHODOLOGY

Although each project will be unique, most will fall under one of two categories (or straddle between the two): ethnographic projects or research papers.

ETHNOGRAPHIC PROJECTS

Background research
Even if your project is primarily ethnographic in nature, it is always helpful to do some background research to supplement your ethnographically-acquired data. Use books, articles, and recordings available in the Lewis Music Library.

Participant-observation
If you are doing an ethnographic project, you will need to carry out fieldwork by attending and observing (and in some cases, participating in) rehearsals and/or performances, taking detailed notes (as you have done for previous assignments.) You may wish to focus primarily on one rehearsal or performance as the central part of your project.

Interviewing
You should try to do interviews if at all possible. If you are focusing on a campus/local group, you may interview friends who participate in that group. Be sure to prepare a list of questions before doing an interview. Interviews are best done in person, but alternatives include telephone interviews or "e-mail interviews." E-mail interviews should be brief and like a questionnaire.

RESEARCH PROJECTS

Written sources
You are **required** to make use of non-web materials (i.e. books and articles). There are many good resources in the Lewis Music Library (see guide for more detailed information.)

Web sources
You may refer to sources on the web; however, you should be aware that websites are constantly changing, and that many sources are unreliable.

Sound sources
If you are doing a research paper on a musical genre or a particular artist, you should become very familiar with the music through repeated listening. You must have access to sound recordings, either through the music library, from the web, or by purchasing a recording. Part of your project must deal with analyzing the sound.

REQUIREMENTS

All final papers must follow standard format (single-sided, double-spaced, 12-font, Times New Roman, with page numbers and a title). Papers must also cite sources properly, whether books, websites, or interviews. Refer to a style manual (such as the Chicago Manual of Style or MLA Style Manual) for citation formats.

Your oral presentation is a chance to share your group's work with your classmates. You are strongly encouraged to use audio and/or visual samples as part of your presentation, or to do a live demonstration, if applicable. You also must make a handout to accompany your presentation, and hand in a hard copy printout of the slides (if you use powerpoint). Be SURE to practice your presentation at least SEVERAL times, DAYS before your presentation; you will be glad that you did!

The criteria for evaluation of the oral presentation will be the following:

Structure
    Logical organization pattern
    Powerful introduction
    Clear key message
    Use of transitions
    Powerful conclusion
    Use of evidence for support

Group Delivery
     Time management
     Consistency in Tone
     Choreography
          Transitions between speakers
          Use of Space

Visual Aids
     Design
     Consistency
     Use

Questions and Answers
     Management of the process
     Quality of the Answers

FINAL PROJECT SCHEDULE

April 4 – start brainstorming on google doc

April 9 -- submit preliminary final project proposals [see below]

April 11 – determine groups in class

May 7, 9, 14 – FINAL PRESENTATIONS

May 9 – FINAL PAPER DUE

FINAL PROJECT PROPOSAL

Please submit a preliminary final project proposal by Tuesday, April 9th. Your proposal should be brief (one page), and will have several components:

1) Project description (a paragraph explaining your specific topic & its scope, as well as how it relates to the larger group.)
2) Methodology and sources (a paragraph describing how you will go about doing your research, whether by consulting books and CDs, or by attending performances or conducting interviews)
3) Time line (give a rough estimate of how you will use your time to complete the project – this is especially important for ethnographic projects)

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