

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 10-minute oral presentation (to be given on December 1, 6 or 8), as well as an 8-10 page paper (typed, 12-font, double-spaced, single-sided, with a title and page numbers) **due December 13th**.

Your project is open to any topic involving African music, and may be either ethnographic in nature, or more research and analysis-based.

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 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, 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 work with your classmates. It should give some general background information to your topic, and then highlight some aspect of your project, as time is limited. You are strongly encouraged to use audio and/or visual samples as part of your presentation, or to do a live demonstration, if applicable. A handout is also strongly recommended for your oral presentation. Do not assume that the audience has any prior knowledge of your topic!

You may use notecards for your oral presentation if you wish. Be **SURE** to practice your presentation at least **SEVERAL** times the **DAY** before your presentation; you will be glad that you did!

SCHEDULE

November 8 – submit final project proposal

November 22 – submit progress report

December 1, 6, and 8 – FINAL PRESENTATIONS

December 13 – FINAL PAPER DUE