

ENGL 3116: MUSIC & DIGITAL MEDIA

002 | MWF | 12 - 12.50 | HLMS 137

001 | MWF | 13 - 13.50 | HLMS 137

GENERAL INFORMATION

Instructor	Dr. Benjamin J Robertson
Office	134 Hellems
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Office Hours	MWF 11.00 - 12.00 appointment

OVERVIEW OF ENGL 3116

The late 1990s and the first decade of the twenty-first century demonstrate that the most important aspect of music is no longer its involvement with semantic meaning or even the virtuosity of the musician behind it, but rather its encoding: whether we can play it through an iPod or a Zune, whether it can exist online, whether it can be tracked through p2p networks, whether Apple will allow it into the iTunes store (and how much it will cost according there according to the level of security attached to it). The most important technologies music now involves itself are—rather than the guitar, bass, or drum kit—software packages, computer workstations, fiberoptic cables, routers, modems, and servers. Music in the digital age—its production, its consumption, its distribution—operates according to different rules than in the analog age. This class will consider these issues and others through readings in music and political economy, music and digital technology, music and law, etc.. Additionally, we will consider several musical texts produced in the last ten years that explicitly involve themselves with and question processes of encoding and networking.

SCHEDULE

In addition to this syllabus, please familiarize yourself with the schedule of readings and assignments (available on D2L)

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Response papers (40%)

Five short (2 pp) responses to our weekly discussions, each worth 8% of your final mark. See Response Paper Instructions for details.

Midterm paper (20%)

A medium-length (4 - 5 pp) paper that deals with a running theme from our readings, discussions, and music. See Midterm Paper Instructions for details.

Final Project (30%)

A long final project. It need not be a paper and may be a group project. It should be equivalent to ~10 pp of writing. See Final Project Instructions for details.

General participation (10%)

Please come prepared to discuss the reading. Please raise your hand, make comments, ask questions, and be a part of the conversation. Talking in class is not everyone's idea of a good time, but part of your grade depends on it. A rule of thumb: if you have never heard me say your name in class, you are not participating enough. Please, raise you hand. Don't make me call on you. I will assign you two participation grades, one at midterm and one at the end of the term, each worth up to 5% of your final mark.

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Attendance

Attendance is not a formal component of the grade, but not showing up will adversely affect your mark in this course.

The rules:

- I make no distinction **at all** between excused and unexcused absences, except as discussed below.
- You may miss, without penalty, up to 2 weeks (i.e. 5 hours) of the course: 6 sessions for a MWF schedule, 4 sessions for a TR schedule, 2 sessions for a course that meets once per week. If the class has a recitation, of your total absences, no more than 2 may be recitation sessions, regardless of how often the class meets.
- If you miss part or all of a third week of class, you will be penalized 10% - 30% of your final mark, depending on how much additional class you miss (10% per class in MWF, 15% per class in TR, etc.).
- If you miss any part of a fourth week of class, you will automatically fail the course without exception.
- If you can document **all** of your absences (**EVERY SINGLE ONE**) for medical reasons **AND** you contact me as soon as you are able to about those absences, you may, after discussion and signing a contract that describes how you plan to complete the course, miss a third week of class. This is the only circumstance in which notes mean anything to me.
- Under no circumstances will you be allowed to miss a fourth week of class. Again, missing any part of a fourth week of class, **for any reason whatsoever**, will result in a failing grade.
- If you are more than 5 minutes late to class, you will be charged an absence.

DO NOT TEST ME ON THIS POLICY.

Note: Campus policy regarding religious observances requires that faculty make every effort to deal reasonably and fairly with all students who, because of religious obligations, have conflicts with scheduled exams, assignments or required attendance. Please inform me of any conflicts with religious observances and we will work out a solution that is mutually satisfactory. http://www.colorado.edu/policies/fac_relig.html

GRADING POLICIES

Late Work

I do not accept work after it's due without prior approval. "Prior approval" means one week before the due date and will not be granted because of work due in other classes. Non-authorized late work will receive an 'F'. Note: if you fail a project because of lateness, you must still complete it. Failure to do so will result in an 'F' for the course.

Incompletes

Only granted for non-academic reasons, when 30% of the class is outstanding, and after signing an incomplete contract.

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Grade calculation

On response papers:

$A = 8/8$; $B = 6.8/8$; $C = 5.6/8$; $D = 4.4/8$; $F = 0/8$

Your letter grade converts to a score out of eight. Each point is worth 1% of your final mark. See Response Paper Instructions for further details.

On midterm paper:

$A+ = 20/20$; $A = 19/20$; $A- = 18.4/20$; $B+ = 17.6/20$; $B = 17/20$; $B- = 16.4/20$; $C+ = 15.6/20$; $C = 15/20$; $C- = 14.4/20$; $D = 13/20$; $F = 0/20$

Your letter grade converts to a score out of twenty. Each point is worth 1% of your final mark. See Midterm Paper Instructions for further details.

On final project:

$A+ = 30/30$; $A = 28.5/30$; $A- = 27.6/30$; $B+ = 26.4/30$; $B = 25.5/30$; $B- = 24.6/30$; $C+ = 23.4/30$; $C = 22.5/30$; $C- = 21.6/30$; $D = 19.5/30$; $F = 0/30$

Your letter grade converts to a score out of thirty. Each point is therefore worth 1% of your final mark. See Final Project Instructions for further details.

For final mark:

$95 - 100 = A$; $90 - 94 = A-$; $87 - 89 = B+$; $84 - 86 = B$; $80 - 83 = B-$; $77 - 79 = C+$; $74 - 76 = C$; $70 - 73 = C-$; $65 - 69 = D$; $0 - 64 = F$

Points from your response essays, midterm paper, and final project will be added to your participation mark. If you exceed the allotted number of absences, your score will be adjusted according to the method described above. The number that results from this operation is your final mark.

+No cell phone use. That means no calls and no texting. If I catch you doing either, I will ask you to leave the class and you will be counted absent for the day. Each additional violation will result in the same penalty.

OTHER COURSE POLICIES

+You may use your laptop to read PDFs and other electronic texts in class, but if I find you using it for any other purpose you will be 1) asked to leave, 2) marked absent for the day, and 3) lose the privilege of using your laptop in class.

+You should bring relevant materials to class when they are due.

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STATEMENT REGARDING ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

All students of the University of Colorado at Boulder are responsible for knowing and adhering to the academic integrity policy of this institution. Violations of this policy may include: cheating, plagiarism, aid of academic dishonesty, fabrication, lying, bribery, and threatening behavior. All incidents of academic misconduct shall be reported to the Honor Code Council (honor@colorado.edu; 303-725-2273). Students who are found to be in violation of the academic integrity policy will be subject to both academic sanctions from the faculty member and non-academic sanctions (including but not limited to university probation, suspension, or expulsion). Other information on the Honor Code can be found at <http://www.colorado.edu/policies/honor.html> and at <http://www.colorado.edu/academics/honorcode/>.

STATEMENT REGARDING CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR

Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. Those who fail to adhere to such behavioral standards may be subject to discipline. Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with differences of race, culture, religion, politics, sexual orientation, gender, gender variance, and nationalities. Class rosters are provided to the instructor with the student's legal name. I will gladly honor your request to address you by an alternate name or gender pronoun. Please advise me of this preference early in the semester so that I may make appropriate changes to my records. See policies at <http://www.colorado.edu/policies/classbehavior.html> and at http://www.colorado.edu/studentaffairs/judicialaffairs/code.html#student_code

STATEMENT REGARDING DISCRIMINATION & HARASSMENT

The University of Colorado at Boulder policy on Discrimination and Harassment, the University of Colorado policy on Sexual Harassment and the University of Colorado policy on Amorous Relationships apply to all students, staff and faculty. Any student, staff or faculty member who believes s/he has been the subject of discrimination or harassment based upon race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, religion, sexual orientation, or veteran status should contact the Office of Discrimination and Harassment (ODH) at 303-492-2127 or the Office of Judicial Affairs at 303-492-5550. Information about the ODH, the above referenced policies and the campus resources available to assist individuals regarding discrimination or harassment can be obtained at <http://www.colorado.edu/odh>

STATEMENT FROM THE BOULDER PROVOST'S DISABILITY TASK FORCE

If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit to me a letter from Disability Services in a timely manner so that your needs be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities. Contact: 303-492-8671, Willard 322, and <http://www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices>.

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This statement must be completed, signed, and returned to the instructor by Friday 31 January 2014. Failure to do so will result in a loss of 5% of the overall grade.

I _____ have read all course materials (including this syllabus and the course schedule). Furthermore, I assert that I understand all course policies.

STATEMENT OF
UNDERSTANDING

Sign

Date