Music and… Playlist | Topic Proposal Guidelines

*Due Monday March 2 at 10:45am by email*

**What is a Music and… Playlist anyway?**

The Music and… Playlist is the ultimate product of your hard work this semester, the project that we will be gradually developing as a class over the next few months. In its final stage, the Music and… Playlist will consist of **eight pieces** of music that fit within a certain social topic (the “. . .” in the assignment title). You get to choose your topic along with each piece; the only requirement is that you pick at least two pieces of Western Art Music and one piece of world music. Two pieces can be taken from the textbook. Alongside each of your chosen pieces, you’ll write at least 200 words (two to three paragraphs) describing the **social context** of the piece (including how it fits with your topic), some of its **musical characteristics**, and how those characteristics connect with the social uses of the music.

**That sounds like a lot…**

Don’t worry! I’ve made the project less overwhelming by breaking it into several portions throughout the semester: the Topic Proposal; Peer Review; Midterm; and Final. You’ll receive feedback from me or your classmates at each stage. You can see the due dates and general breakdown for these stages on our course site.

**So what do I need to do for the Topic Proposal?**

1. Pick a social topic that both interests you and relates to music in some way
   1. Please note that you cannot pick a topic that is named in the textbook chapter titles that we will cover this semester (Spirituality, Ethnicity, Gender, etc.)
   2. Moods and emotions do not qualify as social topics for this assignment
2. Do some reading on your topic; find at least **three outside sources** (encyclopedias, web pages, books, journal articles, newspaper/magazine articles, etc.) that discuss your topic, including one that discusses music in some way
3. Write two to three paragraphs (at least 200 words) that: define your social topic; describe some of the ways that music works within your chosen social setting; select one or two pieces of music that you think would fit in your playlist
4. Formatting the Topic Proposal itself:
   1. Title your assignment with the topic you’ve chosen; for example, “Music and Religion”
   2. Include your written paragraphs (double spaced please!)
   3. Next, cite your scholarly sources in either APA, MLA, or Chicago style