

Guidelines for Grades in Music History Courses

A-/A/A+

[A-,A,A+]: This range indicates varying degrees of excellence.

[A+]: is awarded to a student whose written work and class contributions are of an outstanding nature, well beyond expectations for an undergraduate. Written papers and other assignments are free of any typographical, grammatical, or factual errors, with proper bibliographic format and presentation. In-depth and extensive research supports mature critical thinking expressed in elegant prose with impeccable structure and argumentation. Essays are suitable for submission to peer-reviewed musicological journals. Exams and tests display mastery of the subject matter and show evidence of knowledge well beyond course requirements. All work is submitted in a timely manner and professionalism is always of the highest order. Major graduate programs in musicology will be trying to outbid each other to recruit this student.

[A]: indicates outstanding course work and class contributions. Thoughtful, informed and appropriate contributions to class discussion display mastery of assigned reading and listening and an ability to synthesize larger concepts with historical and musical details. Written papers and other assignments are free of typographical, grammatical and factual errors, with proper bibliographic format and presentation. Research both in quantity and quality are above average for this level, and essays demonstrate exceptional prose, structure, and thesis development. Research projects and assignments show substantial independent thought, planning, and creativity. Exams and tests display complete mastery of all assigned course material, and the student displays outstanding professionalism in the course. This student could feel confident writing a placement test in music history for a graduate program in music performance, education, etc. at a major institution.

[A-]: indicates excellent work. Thoughtful, informed, and appropriate contributions to class discussions suggest excellent grasp of assigned reading and listening and a desire to learn and share knowledge. Written papers and other assignments have very few typographical, grammatical and factual errors, with proper bibliographic format and presentation. Research quality, quantity, and the ability to develop and argue a strong thesis are excellent. Research projects and assignments show independent thought, planning, and creativity, and exams and tests show a broad and deep understanding of assigned course material and an ability to synthesize. The student's professionalism in the course is unquestionable. This student would feel confident taking courses in music history at a graduate level.

B-/B/B+

[B-,B,B+]: This range indicates good performance in music history classes.

[B+]: indicates a very well prepared student. Contributions to class discussion are thoughtful, informed, and appropriate, focusing on important issues and questions drawn from assigned reading and listening. Written papers and other assignments are essentially free of typographical, grammatical and factual errors, with proper bibliographic format and presentation. Research

quality and quantity is consistent with expectations for this level, demonstrating the student's ability to undertake solid, independent research and presenting it in an engaging and clear manner. Tests and exams show very strong knowledge of assigned reading and listening and adequate preparation. Professionalism in class and individual work is unassailable.

[B]: indicates that, in addition to mastery of assigned listening and reading, this student contributes to the class through engaged and informed class discussion. Written papers and other assignments are relatively free of typographical, grammatical and factual errors, with proper bibliographic format and presentation. Research quality and quantity are appropriate for this level, and the student expresses sound and thoughtful ideas effectively in written prose. Tests and exams show mastery of course material and adequate preparation.

[B-]: The student's work is *above* the minimum acceptable standard for this level. Class contributions may show some ill-preparedness or be too infrequent, but the student demonstrates completion of all assigned reading and listening. Research quality and quantity might be sparse, and essays and other written assignments might contain typographical, grammatical, or factual errors, but still show the ability to undertake independent work and present it effectively. Tests and exams show a good grasp of course material, and professionalism is appropriate for this level.

C-/C/C+

[C-,C, C+]: marks in this range are an indication that the work is of a minimum acceptable standard for a music student at this level. Any or all of the following areas need to be addressed: lapses in professionalism and class conduct, infrequent or unprepared contributions to class discussion; research quality and quantity inadequate for this level; written assignments contain typographical, grammatical, or factual errors, or are weakly structured or argued. Thesis development and the ability to conduct independent and responsible research at the university level needs work; exams and tests show adequate understanding of course material, but suggest that the course may be more challenging to this student and thus requires more study time; submitted work lacking in appropriate presentation. Overall, marks in this range indicate a minimum standard of performance.

D-/D/D+

[D-,D, D+]: This range indicates that the work is below the minimum standard expected of a music student at this level, and does not allow the student to use the course as a prerequisite. A grade in this range might indicate a first-year student who entered with a weak background who is not "catching up", or a student at any level with sufficient background and ability, but unsatisfactory work habits. This grade reflects one or all of the following: lapses in professionalism and class conduct; unexcused absences from class or frequent tardiness; unprepared or inappropriate contributions to class discussion, insufficient research quality and quantity for this level; weak thesis development and argumentation; tests and exams show inadequate mastery of course material and/or ill-preparedness. A mark within the "D" range should be interpreted as a strong indication that a student is in serious danger of not completing the program successfully without major improvement.