



## MUSIC 490 – 02H

### Honors Readings

COURSE SYLLABUS: Spring 2025

### INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Dr. Mary Alice Druhan

Office Location: Music Building, 217

Office Hours: M-T-W-T-F [posted weekly at 217]

[as available around rehearsals, concerts, and private instruction]

Office Phone: 903-886-5304

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Preferred Form of Communication: email or text or office visit

Communication Response Time: typically 24 hours [Monday-Friday]

### [Honors College Handbook]

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND INFORMATION

#### Honors Thesis, 490

Once an Honors thesis proposal has been accepted by a student's committee and the Dean of the Honors College, the student, under the direction of their advisor, completes the thesis. The student must also successfully defend the Honors thesis prior to graduation, working with the Honors office to schedule the defense time.

Occasionally, personal or professional commitments prevent students from completing the Honors thesis and thus failing to complete the 490 class. If a student registers for the Honors Thesis class, fails to complete the thesis, and does not withdraw from the course, a grade of I (in progress) will be entered on the transcript and will remain unchanged.

#### Levels of Honors

Participants in the Current and Transfer Student Programs are eligible for three levels of honors designation:

- A. **Honors.** Students may earn the designation of Honors if they complete and defend a thesis of notable merit, as judged by their committee.
- B. **High Honors.** Students may earn the designation of High Honors if the thesis they complete and defend significantly exceeds the basic level of "Honors," as judged by their committee.
- C. **Highest Honors.** Students may earn the designation of Highest Honors if the thesis they complete and defend is judged by their committee to be truly exemplary, or if they complete the Option 2 Capstone opportunity.

*The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.*

Step 7: Enroll in 490, conduct research, and write and defend your thesis. Again, the thesis process often takes longer than expected, and you may find that you need to enroll for one more semester in order to complete the degree. (Remember: Students who are completing the thesis capstone cannot receive a bachelor's degree until they have successfully defended their thesis project).

#### General Proposal and Thesis Guidance

Although researching and writing a thesis is a process that requires attention to detail, many of the most important points can be boiled down to some key ideas.

#### Thesis Proposals

- Proposals do not need to be lengthy. The best proposals tend to be in the 6-15 page range, excluding references, appendices, etc. You are providing a "roadmap" to your project—not writing a full-length term paper.
- Although an in-depth review of important secondary, scholarly literature should occur before any project is undertaken, students should only provide a brief review of the most relevant literature in their proposals. This summary of the literature should clearly lead the reader to the proposed project and/or analytical argument of the project.
- Methodology should be as detailed as possible. This section, if done right, will be cut and pasted into your final thesis, although you will change the verb tense from future to past.
- Proposals are defended in front of a committee that includes a member drawn from the Honors Council, who is unlikely to be an "expert" in the proposed field. Thus, proposals should be written so that "non-experts" can understand them.
- Grammar and syntax matter. Honors students should demonstrate above average writing ability, and the proposals they submit should be polished and professional.
- Remember that students must complete Responsible Conduct in Research training, along with additional training/approvals if their study involves human or animal subjects, prior to submitting the proposal and collecting data.

#### Theses

- There is no single correct format for the thesis. The conventions and dictates of your field should guide the presentation.
- Choose the style manual most relevant to your field of study and then use it assiduously. APA, MLA, Turabian—whatever you use, use it well and consistently.
- Assume that you will make changes before the thesis is sent to the library to be digitally archived (i.e., after the thesis defense).
- Certain projects may benefit from different thesis formats. For example, for a photography student, a process journal in conjunction with a gallery show may be a more appropriate written document than a lengthy analytical thesis. If you and your advisor believe that an alternate format may be in order, please contact the Dean of the Honors College to discuss options.
- Again, grammar and syntax matter. Honors students should demonstrate above average writing ability, and the these they submit should be polished and professional.

#### Proposal and Thesis Defenses

- Students will defend their theses to their committee members (advisor, second faculty member chosen by the student, and member of the Honors Council, chosen by the Dean of the Honors College). The Dean may also be in attendance and participate in the defense but is a non-voting member unless invited into the committee.
- Oral defenses are an opportunity for students to demonstrate their ability to speak about their project intelligently in an academic setting.
- Defenses typically last between 45-60 minutes.
- Students should provide a **brief** (10-15 minute) overview of their project. Then committee members will ask questions and make comments and suggestions.
- Although questions will generally focus on the research project, students may be asked to assimilate other relevant information (e.g., relation of their research to the "real world") into the defense.
- If students have technical requirements (e.g., Power Point, DVD player) for the defense, they should indicate those needs when scheduling the defense.
- All defenses are open to the public, though typically the only people in attendance are the student, committee members, and sometimes the Dean of the Honors College. Students may opt to invite family or friends to attend, as well.
- Thesis students are required to present their research at the Annual Research Symposium in the Spring semester**, which offers a great opportunity to practice for the final defense.

## HONORS COLLEGE SCORING RUBRIC



| Section 1: High School Class Rank Percentage* |    |
|---|----|
| 1st or 2nd in Class                           | 60 |
| Top 1%  | 55 |
| Top 5%  | 50 |
| Top 10%                                       | 45 |
| Top 15%                                       | 35 |
| Top 20%                                       | 30 |
| Below Top 20%                                 | 0  |

| Section 2: Supplemental Assessment (choose one) |    |   |
|---|----|---|
| <b>Test Score Option</b>                        |    |   |
| Choose best ACT or SAT score                    |    |   |
| 1490+ or 33+                                    | 30 | <b>Test Optional</b><br>Up to 30 points available<br>See additional document for guidance on recorded lesson. |
| 1390-1480 or 30-32                              | 25 |   |
| 1270-1380 or 27-29                              | 20 |   |
| 1160-1260 or 24-26                              | 15 |   |
| 1080-1150 or 21-23                              | 10 |   |
| 1070 or 20 and lower                            | 0  |   |

| Section 3: Essay                          |
|---|
| 0-5 points to be scored by Honors Council |

**Add point totals from all three sections.  
45 points needed to qualify for interview.**

- Homeschooled applicants will be slotted in the top 10% and must submit test scores.
- Students from schools who do not rank must submit test scores.

### Syllabus Change Policy

The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance.

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## Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course

### Music Engagement Expectations

Students are expected to actively participate in all assigned components of this course. Active participation includes being present, engaged, responsive, cooperative, respectful, and professional. It may also include providing feedback, asking questions, and being supportive of class members and faculty during instruction time.

### Student Expectations

Students are expected to actively participate in all meetings and sessions as assigned. Notification for excused absence must be received in advance. For excused absences students must access and watch available recorded classes and sessions.

## GRADING

Final grades in this course will be based on the following scale and components:

A = 90%-100%

B = 80%-89%

C = 70%-79%

D = 60%-69%

F = 59% or Below

[Bulk Edit](#)

| <input type="checkbox"/> | Grade Item                             | Type    | Association | Max. Points |
|--------------------------|--|---------|-------------|-------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Communication and Organization         |         |             | 50          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Week 1 Planning Meeting                | Numeric | -           | 50          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Writing and Lecture Grades             |         |             | 250         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Revised Proposal Document              | Numeric | -           | 50          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Document Final                         | Numeric | -           | 50          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Lecture Draft                          | Numeric | -           | 50          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Visual Presentation Draft              | Numeric | -           | 50          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Visual Presentation Final              | Numeric | -           | 50          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Music Prep and Rehearsals              |         |             | 450         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Composition Draft                      | Numeric | -           | 50          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Planning Recital Logistics and Program | Numeric | -           | 50          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Composition Final                      | Numeric | -           | 50          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Dress Rehearsal                        | Numeric | -           | 100         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Lecture Recital Performance            | Numeric | -           | 200         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Final Calculated Grade                 |         |             | 750         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Final Adjusted Grade                   |         |             |             |

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### **Grading Criteria & Schedule of Activities**

Classes will meet based on student availability. Grades will come from the graded items as listed in your D2L shell [shown above]. Questions about grading should be brought to your professor immediately, not in the final 2 weeks of classes (unless stemming from final coursework).

## **Course and University Procedures / Policies**

### **Syllabus Change Policy**

The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance

### **Attendance Policy**

All required events have required attendance. Unexcused absences will be marked as a zero. However, your gradebook is built on the integrity of your work and not attendance. Keep in mind that I can only assist you when you are present and engaged.

### **Late Assignments or Work**

See the Honors College Handbook regarding a thesis project which is not completed on time and how this will affect your enrollment, grades and graduation.

### **Academic Integrity**

Students at East Texas A&M University are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures: [Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03](#)

### **Students with Disabilities-- ADA Statement**

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, contact the Office of Student Disability Services at 903-886-5150, 903-886—5835; email [studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu](mailto:studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu); online at [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](#); or in-person in Room 162 of the Velma K. Waters Library.

### **Tenets of Common Behavior**

All students enrolled at the university shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. (See current Student Guidebook);

### **Campus Concealed Carry Statement**

Campus Concealed Carry - Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in East Texas A&M buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or

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those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and East Texas A&M Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations. For a list of locations, please refer to

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf> and/or consult your event organizer). Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all East Texas A&M campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

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