

MUS 102 Project Ideas

Dr. Mark Nelson, Instructor

Specifics:

- The Project in this class is worth 20% of your semester grade
- Projects will be presented to the class on the last week of class and during the final exam time.
- Projects can be done in a group of up to 4 people or done individually.
- Projects should be informative, interesting, and fun to optimize your experience.

Procedures:

During class, I will give you time to form up in groupings to help you with your project experience. I encourage you to work together rather than as a solo. It is easier to present a project as a group than by yourself and it is more fun to work with peers to develop your plan.

Ideas:

1. Take a children's story, folk tale, or other short subject and "invent" musical background for it using traditional or graphical notation. Show how the music enhances the story.
2. Work with a theme, mood, emotion, idea that serves as a focus point for representing it musically using only your own available resources for sound and rhythm.
3. Using a given short melody, enhance it with appropriate accompaniment either in a traditional way or using "found" instruments and sounds.
4. Write a more traditionally based composition for standard instruments or voice OR write using a music writing software program and record it on disk for playback to the class.
5. Come up with your own ideas about this project and share them with me for consideration.

Procedures:

Each project must have the following for it to receive credit:

1. The names of each member of the group must be listed.
2. The project must have a written component (typed, about 2-3 pages) listing how it was conceived, the methods used to produce it, and a list of materials used (more later).

3. Each member of the group shares equally in the final grade. Everyone needs to take ownership of the final product.
4. Enhancements such as handouts, visuals, posters, costumes are expected and necessary for the highest evaluation.
5. Do not go out of your way to make this project a high-budget item. Use everyday items for sounds. Check out library books. If musical standard notation is a big hassle, use a graphically representative system of your own design.

Final Product:

1. I will comment on each project for cleverness, completeness, and presentation.
2. I will take under consideration how you present your information and the extent you use props or other enhancing materials.
3. You do not have to ever use traditional notation although you are welcome to do so.
4. A copy of your project paper and any standard or graphical music notation will be kept by me. Please make a copy of your work.
5. In some cases, you may be gone for vacation by the time I am done evaluating your work. I will keep them in my office through the first few weeks of class the following semester for you to stop by and pick up.

What I do NOT want:

1. Come up and play a few guitar riffs with no notation and then sit down.
2. Improvise your project without using some kind of form or notation to explain how it comes together.
3. Wait until the last minute and then present something you did three years ago.
4. Anything that does not represent a good faith effort to expand your musical horizons.



Group Work Helps!