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MUSC 3101 Final Project

Option A

This final project is a creative opportunity to demonstrate your understanding of the links between history, music, and identity in the United States. Thinking of the communities we studied, you will create a compilation of 20 songs representing at least two migrant groups studied in class. You will complement your musical selections with an informal essay of no more than 1,500 words, known as liner notes. This text will introduce your thinking behind selecting the communities, their history in the United States, and the significance of the pieces you chose. Feel free to arrange songs in a few groups or talk about them individually. If you select music in a language other than English, please provide a brief synopsis and highlight parts of the lyrics that move you.

Think about this project as creating an album released on CD format (remember those?). Besides the CD, the booklet tucked inside the case was the most attractive aspect of the album. These were the liner notes containing artwork, lyrics, relevant information, credits, etc.

Here is a checklist of what to include in your album to help you stay on track:

- A playlist of 20 songs on either Spotify (preferred) or YouTube
- Artwork (not mandatory, but highly encouraged. Please give artistic credit when using non-original artwork)
- Thinking behind your choices of communities
- Relevant historical information about these communities' experiences in America
- Discussion of the music (why are these songs essential)
- What do you like about some of the songs (what makes them special to you)
- A brief synopsis of non-English lyrics
- When possible, try to tie the music and its social context to some of the readings done in class

Option B

You can also choose to do an album of one or two communities we did not study. This choice will give you a chance to share your knowledge with me and to push your interests further. Like option A, you will create a playlist of 20 songs of your choosing and annotate it with the same parameters as option A.

General notes:

- Submit a PDF document in the repository with the playlist URL at the top
- You can format your final project in a word processor, create slides in PowerPoint or Keynote, or use websites like Prezi or Issuu.
- I highly encourage you to create a YouTube playlist if you think the videos are relevant to your overall narrative. The artistic aspect of music and music videos to your writing will demonstrate a thorough understanding of the assignment and the course in general.
- Please check the liner notes examples I uploaded in the Final Project tab on Blackboard.