



## **MUS 301W “Bach in the Concert Hall” | *Guidelines for Research Paper***

---

### **Outline and Partial Rough Draft**

1. Description
  - a. Your rough draft should cover a substantial portion of your paper (around 5 double-spaced pages; at least 1200 words) and include footnotes and bibliography.
  - b. Your outline should cover the entire paper, including the already written section, and be organized in the indented list format used here.
    - i. The Introduction section should include your hook and thesis statement.
    - ii. The Body section should include descriptive headings for each major topic or claim discussed (for instance, “Reception of Bach’s Cantatas in England”, or “Modern Rhythmic Interpretations of BWV 1041”). Below those headings, you should list the claims that you want to prove in this section, and below each claim the evidence that you will use to support that claim (like a certain review, secondary source, analytical finding, etc.)
    - iii. The Conclusion should restate your thesis and describe the significance of your thesis—in other words, if people accept your argument as true, how would their other assumptions about music and Bach be affected.
2. Due Date
  - a. Submit your outline and partial draft on Blackboard by 10:45am on Monday 4/24; bring a stapled hard copy of your draft and outline to class, which you will exchange with a classmate.

### **Final Paper**

1. Description
  - a. Undergraduates will write one argumentative research paper of at least 2500 words, around 10 double-spaced pages in length (not including bibliography). Graduate students are expected to do the same, but expanded to at least 3750 words, around 15 double-spaced pages in length.
  - b. The aims of the research paper are: a) to synthesize and apply concepts derived from course readings and class discussions to a new musical context; b) to make a persuasive argument and support it throughout with musical and historical evidence; c) to critically evaluate primary and secondary sources and situate them accurately within your argument
2. Due Date
  - a. Monday May 22 at 11am (Final Exam Date)



### 3. Basic Requirements

- a. Substantially addresses multiple course concepts:
  - i. Music editions, collected works, manuscripts, copies, publication
  - ii. Music reviews, criticism, audience reception
  - iii. Performance spaces (church, concert hall, private salon, etc.), ensembles, audiences
    1. Secular vs sacred; private vs public; gender; class
  - iv. The historical emergence and impact of the public concert and the Western canon
  - v. The Bach image (nation, religion, history, craftsman vs genius)
  - vi. Musical transformations: arrangements, transcriptions, editorial changes, modified instrumentation, interpretation
  - vii. Historically informed performance practice and “authenticity”
- b. Engages with at least one Bach composition or genre.
- c. Clearly written and organized; proofread; individual paragraphs are structured with a topic sentence, evidence, and explanation of how evidence connects to the topic sentence/supports the claim
- d. Makes one central, well-supported argument, with a clear thesis; thesis itself is of an appropriate scope for the assignment and takes a position that a reasonable person could disagree with.
- e. Terminology is used in a precise and accurate manner; working definitions are provided and concepts are explained as if to a smart, musically educated reader who has little knowledge of Bach.
- f. References and meaningfully engages with the following within the text of the paper and bibliography: at least two course readings; at least five additional secondary sources; at least one primary source. Displays an understanding of these sources and offers reasons for why the writer agrees or disagrees with ideas drawn from others.
- g. References to sources – in the form of quotes *and* paraphrased text – are cited with Chicago style footnotes (Notes-Bibliography, not Author-Date) and all outside sources are referenced in the bibliography. The paper does not plagiarize; it is entirely the writer’s own work, and not that of someone else or writing AI.
- h. Word count is respected and author’s name is included. Margins, font, and spacing are in a standard, readable format, as is a bibliography which concludes the paper.
- i. Paper has been revised and developed in response to peer and instructor feedback.
- j. The author has thoughtfully, carefully, and enthusiastically attempted to fulfill these basic requirements.