Scoring Guidelines for Essays and Papers

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Music History 220: History of Western Music II
Music History 220
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- History of Western Music II
- MWF 11:15 am — 12:05 pm
- 145 Music Building

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Scoring guidelines for music history papers and essays:
100 An Outstanding Paper demonstrates a high degree of proficiency in response to the assignment, but may have minor errors. A paper in this category:

- Fulfills the stated objectives of the paper (refer to assignment for each paper)
- Presents an argument clearly and develops it coherently
- Clearly explains or illustrates key ideas in appropriate level of detail
- Demonstrates a firm understanding of materials discussed in class and in reading
- Demonstrates good research skills and uses appropriate sources
- Uses examples and citations effectively
- Is generally free from errors in mechanics and usage
- Fulfills stated specifications (length, appearance, format)

90 A Strong Paper demonstrates clear proficiency in response to the assignment and may have minor errors. A paper in this category:

- Fulfills the stated objectives of the paper (refer to assignment for each paper)
- Has an argument, and is generally clear and well-developed
- Explains or illustrates key ideas with appropriate level of detail
- Demonstrates reasonable understanding of materials discussed in class and in reading
- Demonstrates reasonable research skills and uses appropriate sources
- Uses examples and citations effectively
- Is generally free from errors in mechanics and usage
- Fulfills stated specifications (length, appearance, format)

80 A Competent Paper demonstrates proficiency in response to the assignment. A paper in this category:

- Fulfills the stated objectives of the paper (refer to assignment for each paper)
• Has a discernible argument, and is adequately organized and developed
• Explains or illustrates some of the key ideas with some detail
• Demonstrates adequate understanding of materials discussed in class and in reading
• Demonstrates adequate research skills and uses appropriate sources
• Uses examples and citations effectively
• May display some error errors in mechanics or usage
• Fulfills stated specifications (length, appearance, format)

70 A Limited Paper demonstrates some degree of proficiency in response to the assignment. A paper in this category reveals one or more of the following weaknesses:

• Stated objectives of the paper have not been completely fulfilled
• Argument somewhat unclear or organization and development inadequate
• Inadequate explanation or illustration of key ideas; insufficient supporting detail
• Demonstrates limited understanding of materials discussed in class and in reading
• Research skills not adequately demonstrated
• Use of examples and citations not very effective
• Accumulation of errors in mechanics and usage
• Not all stated specifications are fulfilled (length, appearance, format)

60 A Flawed Paper demonstrates marginal proficiency in response to the assignment. A paper in this category reveals one or more of the following weaknesses:

• Limited relationship to stated objectives
• Argument unclear, weakly organized, and underdeveloped
• Little or no relevant detail
• Understanding of class materials not demonstrated
• Insufficient research
• Poor use of examples and citations
• Serious errors in mechanics and usage
• More than one specification unfulfilled

0 An Unacceptable Paper demonstrates significant deficiencies. A paper in this category reveals several of the following weaknesses:

• Only vague relationship to stated objectives
• Absence of discernible argument, lack of development or organization
• No research apparent
• Persistent writing errors
• More than one specification unfulfilled