

# ENGL 197A: Autumn 2022

## SYLLABUS



### **Instructor: Justin Birchell**

Class Meetings: MWF 11:30-12:20.  
Savery Hall 155.

Email: [jbirch4@uw.edu](mailto:jbirch4@uw.edu)

Office Hours: Tuesdays & Thursdays,  
1:30-2:30, Padelford B10, or via Zoom

<https://washington.zoom.us/j/4780153555>

### **Class Goals**

Our goal in this class is to learn to effectively write about music. We will do this by engaging with a broad range of writings about music, by practicing writing in various modes of musical discourse (memoir, analysis, critique), and by doing various class activities and discussions designed to increase our understanding of effective written communication about musical topics.

This class is linked to MUSIC 120, but is a separate course with separate work and a separate grade. Our material will often, but not always, track along with the content being covered in 120. ENGL 197 is part of PWAC (the Program for Writing Across Campus).

### **Class Communication:**

Classwork, assignments, and discussions will be disseminated through Canvas. I will use weekly modules to organize our class content. Expect each week's module to be published by Monday morning of that week, at the latest.

If you need to reach me, please use the email address listed above (this works better than messaging through Canvas). I will try to respond to email within 24 hours **during the school week**. If you email me on a weekend (after Friday noon), do not expect a

response until sometime on Monday. Occasionally I may take longer than 24 hours to answer a student email; I apologize and your patience is appreciated.

## **Class Expectations**

–We will write in class most days. These writings will make up the major part of your participation grade. This writing will be done via Canvas discussions or Google Docs. Please bring a device with keyboard to class daily (if this represents a hardship for you, please contact me ASAP so that we can work out an alternative). (Here is a link to the STLP, a program on campus that can loan you devices or otherwise help with tech access: <https://stlp.uw.edu/> ).

–Attendance policy: The content of class discussions and lectures is critical for success in this course. Attendance should be considered mandatory except in the case of illness. If you are ill, especially if your symptoms include fever, please stay home. If you are ill and have to stay home, I strongly urge you to attend via Zoom. I will set up the Zoom link for class on request—if I don't know you need it, there will be no Zoom link.

–Bathroom/break policy: you are adults. Feel free to leave class to use the restroom. Leave & return quietly and without disruption. You do not need to ask permission.

–Late work policy: Work will drop one full letter grade for each day it is late, **except:** Rough Drafts and Peer Reviews will **NOT** be accepted late; for these two types of assignments, late work will result in a grade of 0. If extenuating circumstances will affect your ability to turn in a paper on time, open a discussion with me BEFORE the due date. Requests for extensions on the day it is due, or after the due date, will NOT be granted.

## **Three Papers (PWAC Writing Sequence)**

The bulk of your grade will come from three medium-length papers that you will produce during the quarter. The schedule/components of each will be as follows:

- 1.) Daily assignments & class activities:** These will be ongoing and day-to-day. Small written assignments will contribute to your overall understanding and fluency at writing about music. These small assignments may be due in class (day-of), or they may turn into homework, due before the next class period (11:59 the night before). In the case of many of our short written assignments, we will dissect and analyze each other's work. Expect that anything you write may possibly be shared with the class and discussed by me and your peers.

- 2.) **Rough draft:** A draft of each paper will be turned in about a week and a half before the Final is due. This will give time for a peer review, then a conference with me, then a rewrite. Rough drafts are due at 11:59 on the listed due date
- 3.) **Peer review:** You will be in groups of three or four to do peer reviews. Peer review groups will mainly be determined by your availability during the conference weeks. There will be a peer review form/process for each person in your group, and then we will discuss and go over these in-person during conferences.
- 4.) **Conference:** You and your peer reviewers will meet with me and we will spend time discussing strengths and areas for improvement. We will go over how your paper can improve so that you have time to apply that input before your final drafts. These conferences will take place in scheduled slots during our normal class times. Aside from your scheduled meeting time, you will have the week off from our classes—giving you more time to complete your final draft to a high degree of polish.
- 5.) **Final Draft:** Your final draft will be due at 11:59 on the listed due date.

**FIRST ASSIGNMENT:** Memoir

Rough draft due: Tuesday, October 18th by 11:59pm

Conferences: Week 4, (Oct 24-28, times and locations TBA)

Final Draft Due: Monday, Oct 31st by 11:59pm

**SECOND ASSIGNMENT:** Analysis

Rough draft due: Thursday, November 10, by 11:59pm

Conferences: Week 7, (Nov 14-18, times and locations TBA)

Final Draft Due: Monday, Nov 21st by 11:59pm

**THIRD ASSIGNMENT:** Concert Review

Rough draft due: Thursday, December 1st, by 11:59pm

Conferences: Week 10, (Dec 5-9, times and locations TBA)

Final Draft Due: Monday, Dec 12th by 11:59pm

**Grading Policy:**

Grades will be weighted according to the following categories:

Class Participation: 20%

Sequence One (first Paper): 20%

Sequence Two (second paper): 30%

Sequence Three (third paper): 30%

Class Participation includes: contributing to class discussions, being present and engaged during lectures, discussions and activities (yes I can tell, and will be taking notes on class involvement), and the short day-to-day assignments we will do in-class and as homework.

For each Sequence, the grade weights will be as follows:

–Rough Draft 25%

–Peer Review (thoughtful engagement with peers' papers) 25%

–Final Draft 50%

#### GRADING PERCENTAGE SCALE:

A+	97-100	4.0
A	93-96	4.0
A-	90-92	3.7
B+	87-89	3.3
B	83-86	3.0
B-	80-82	2.7
C+	77-79	2.3
C	73-76	2.0
C-	70-72	1.7
D+	67-69	1.3
D	65-66	1.0
E/F	Below 65	0.0

#### **Academic Integrity:**

The University takes academic integrity very seriously. Behaving with integrity is part of our responsibility to our shared learning community. If you're uncertain about if something is academic misconduct, ask me. I am willing to discuss questions you might have.

Acts of academic misconduct may include but are not limited to:

Cheating

Plagiarism (representing the work of others as your own without giving appropriate credit to the original author(s))

Unauthorized collaboration (working with each other on assignments)

Students found to have engaged in academic misconduct may receive a zero on the assignment (possibly a zero on the entire sequence).

## **Disability Resources**

Your experience in this class is important to me. It is the policy and practice of the University of Washington to create inclusive and accessible learning environments consistent with federal and state law. If you have already established accommodations with Disability Resources for Students (DRS), please activate your accommodations via myDRS so we can discuss how they will be implemented in this course.

If you have not yet established services through DRS, but have a temporary health condition or permanent disability that requires accommodations (conditions include but not limited to; mental health, attention-related, learning, vision, hearing, physical or health impacts), contact DRS directly to set up an Access Plan. DRS facilitates the interactive process that establishes reasonable accommodations. Contact DRS at [disability.uw.edu](http://disability.uw.edu).

## **Masking Policy**

Per the recommendations of the University, I will **strongly encourage** (but not require) all students to wear masks for the first two weeks of the quarter (through Friday, October 14th). After this (unless there are new developments in the public health situation), our classroom will become mask-optional.

## **Religious Accommodations:**

Washington state law requires that UW develop a policy for accommodation of student absences or significant hardship due to reasons of faith or conscience, or for organized religious activities. The UW's policy, including more information about how to request an accommodation, is available at [Religious Accommodations Policy](https://registrar.washington.edu/staffandfaculty/religious-accommodations-policy/) (<https://registrar.washington.edu/staffandfaculty/religious-accommodations-policy/>).

Accommodations must be requested within the first two weeks of this course using the [Religious Accommodations Request form](https://registrar.washington.edu/students/religious-accommodations-request/) (<https://registrar.washington.edu/students/religious-accommodations-request/>).

## **Safety**

Call SafeCampus at 206-685-7233 anytime – no matter where you work or study – to anonymously discuss safety and well-being concerns for yourself or others.

SafeCampus's team of caring professionals will provide individualized support, while discussing short- and long-term solutions and connecting you with additional resources when requested.

## **Title IX**

UW, through numerous policies, prohibits sex- and gender-based violence and harassment, and we expect students, faculty, and staff to act professionally and respectfully in all work, learning, and research environments.

For support, resources, and reporting options related to sex- and gender-based violence or harassment, visit UW Title IX's webpage, specifically the Know Your Rights & Resources guide.

Please know that if you choose to disclose information to me about sex- or gender-based violence or harassment, I will connect you (or the person who experienced the conduct) with resources and individuals who can best provide support and options. You can also access those resources directly:

**Confidential:** Confidential advocates will not share information with others unless given express permission by the person who has experienced the harm or when required by law.

**Private and/or anonymous:** SafeCampus provides consultation and support and can connect you with additional resources if you want them. You can contact SafeCampus anonymously or share limited information when you call.

Please note that some senior leaders and other specified employees have been identified as "Officials Required to Report." If an Official Required to Report learns of possible sex- or gender-based violence or harassment, they are required to call SafeCampus and report all the details they have in order to ensure that the person who experienced harm is offered support and reporting options.

Title IX website: [uw.edu/titleix/](http://uw.edu/titleix/)

Survivor resources page: [uw.edu/titleix/survivor-resources/](http://uw.edu/titleix/survivor-resources/)

Confidential advocates: [uw.edu/sexualassault/support/advocacy/](http://uw.edu/sexualassault/support/advocacy/)

SafeCampus: [uw.edu/safecampus/](http://uw.edu/safecampus/)

Officials Required to Report: [uw.edu/titleix/employee-reporting-expectations/](http://uw.edu/titleix/employee-reporting-expectations/)

Related policies: [uw.edu/titleix/policies/](http://uw.edu/titleix/policies/)

OFFICE OF THE TITLE IX COORDINATOR  
Valery Richardson, Title IX Coordinator

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