

Music: A Cultural Experience (GEN_MUS_170: Introduction to Music)



Musicking Journal

Due: Friday, 4/30



*Musicking: the act of engaging with music as a process, as listener, performer, composer, dancer, etc.
(from Christopher Small, *Musicking: The Meanings of Performing and Listening*)*

Things to do

- Journal: Document three or more days of your musical experiences
- Reflection: Reflect on your musical experiences in a written document (400-500 words)

Document your experiences (Journal)

Over the course of three or more days, document each time you listen to or hear music, to the best of your ability. This can take the form of a list with dates, times, titles of songs/pieces, formats, and your reason for listening to it.

You should document:

1. Date
2. Time (does not need to be exact)
3. Artist & title of songs/pieces of music/album
4. Format: how you listen to it or play it (streamed, MP3 on an iPod, headphones, laptop speakers, at the grocery store, roommates speakers, etc.)
5. Reason: Why you are listening to it/playing it

Reflect on your experiences (Reflection)

Once you've documented your listening for a few days, write up your reflections in 400-500 words. See if you can relate your practices to the big questions and concepts we've explored in the past couple weeks. You should base your reflections on the experiences you documented in your journal, but you can draw on the past few weeks of musical experiences if you would like.

- What might your musical experiences say about you? Consider all of the information you documented about your listening.
- What trends can you identify? How might they be meaningful?

- How are you entangled with listening technologies and social media?
- What is the role of music in how you're dealing with our current crisis?

Tips and suggestions

- Consider all the ways that you encounter music unintentionally -- whether you're trying to or not. Do you hear a song you can identify played by a passing car? Have you had a song stuck in your head?
- Consider how you unconsciously make music. Do you sing in the shower? Hum while walking to the grocery store?
- Check out my example of a musicking journal, if you'd like a sample. I journaled my musicking from March 30 – April 1. I used Last.FM to track my listening and my Chrome history, in addition to journaling while I was listening, when constructing this journal.
- I recommend writing things down as they happen, or shortly afterwards, in addition to retroactively piecing together a journal.
- You shouldn't adjust your musicking habits for the purpose of this assignment – but the assignment will be easier if you have at least a few musical experiences each day.

Rubric

This project is worth 7.5% of your grade, organized into 20 points.

Musicking Journal (7 points): A student will receive full credit for a musicking journal that documents at least three days of musical experiences, with the following attributes: date, time, artist, title of piece of music, format, and reason for each musical experiences. This journal should be specific and clear, but it does not need to list every attribute for every experience listed.

Reflection (13 points): A student will receive full credit for a reflection on their musicking experiences with thoughtful structure and correct grammar. This reflection should answer most of the questions posed in the above “Reflect on your experiences” section in 400-500 words.

Available on the Musicking Journal Canvas Page

- PDF of assignment
- Example of Ben's musicking journal
- Last.FM link (listening tracker)