

# Music 314: Final Exam Take-Home Essays

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May 15, 2017

## Essay 1

*1a. Explain the concept of Postmodernism, as it contrasts with Modernism, and reflects changes in attitudes about the relationship between the past and the present. Detail some of the characteristic techniques of postmodern composition, giving specific examples from the repertoire.*

Postmodernism is marked by the “building on the music of the past without irony.”<sup>1</sup> This is considerably different than Modernism rejection of the past. Another way of looking at Postmodernism is to see that it rejects and questions large narratives in favor of many small narratives. These large narratives are generally the those of the establishment. Postmodernism seems to attempt to give voice to those who did not have voices in Modernism. For instance, equal importance may be given to the performer as it is to the audience.

## Essay 2

*2a. Referring to specific composers and works, discuss ways that different aspects of identity (race, gender, sexuality, etc.) have impacted the composition and reception of music in the late 20th and early 21st centuries.*

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1. Dr. Timothy Sterner Miller, “Class 24: Postmodernism,” Lecture, Music 314, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Milwaukee, WI, March 27, 2017.