

# Short Paper No. 1

**due date:** Sunday, March 15th at 8:00pm

**Media:** submit on brightspace.

## DESCRIPTION

The main objective for this paper is to get you to use two pieces of music to advance an argument. You can choose two pieces of music that use sounds produced with the techniques and machines we are seeing in class (i.e. Buchla, Moog, Theremin, Hammond, music studio, etc). They can be works featured in class or in the listening materials, or others you can find or know. For example, you could compare Westerkamp's "Gently penetrating..." and Bariya Studio's "Delhi Polyphones" as two pieces that engage with the soundscape of New Delhi<sup>1</sup> to make a claim about soundscape composition or soundwalks.

If you need more help, you may want to answer ONE of the following questions:

1. How can two pieces of music be created with the same technology/techniques but sound so different? (focus on the music)
2. Why do some technologies produce certain reactions in people? (focus on the technology)

Discuss these questions in the light of the concepts developed in class so far. Be sure to use some of the terms from our shared vocabulary as well as concepts from the readings, referring to at the very least two written sources in your paper from our reading assignments. You must give credit to others' ideas either by saying things like "borrowing from *anyauthor's* concept of *anyconcept...*", to cite inside the text (*author, year*), or in a footnote<sup>2</sup> and to include a bibliography in a separate page if footnotes aren't convenient. Pick your citation style and stay consistent.

Since some of you are not as experienced writing about sonic experiences or academic writing in general, please read the guidelines below to help you create a solid paper.

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<sup>1</sup> We saw these pieces in recitation.

<sup>2</sup> for example...: Demers, Joanna Teresa. *Steal this music: How intellectual property law affects musical creativity*. University of Georgia Press, 2006.

## **GUIDELINES**

**Your essay MUST include in the first paragraph:**

- **The question you are trying to answer**
- **A concise summary of your answer to that question (i.e. your thesis)**
- **A brief outline of your supporting arguments to follow**

Short papers (3-4 pages) should help you to obtain experience writing about music in preparation for your concert report and final paper. We are not looking for a series of directionless unconnected observations. Instead, we expect you to construct arguments that support a clearly defined thesis or central point. There is nothing wrong with saying in your first paragraph something like:

"In this paper, I will demonstrate how the phonograph transformed musical culture. First, I will discuss song x and song y as examples of the phonograph's role in changing musical performance practice, and then show how the phonograph's mere existence enabled the development of entirely new practices like studio composition that would have otherwise been impossible."

In fact, stating your objectives clearly at the beginning of your paper will give us a clear picture of how you frame your problem and what the structure of your paper is, so we don't have to struggle to figure out what your paper is about as we read it.

This paper is 3-4 pages long, so be concise, clear, and to the point. Use Times New Roman, 12 size, double space, 1 inch margins.