

## MUS 120C

### Notes on exam format

Exams are not multiple choice. You will not need a blue book, but can write your responses directly on the exam.

A word of advice: don't try to cram for the listening IDs! This kind of learning does not reward cramming. If you make a playlist and listen continually throughout the term, you should be just fine.

Each exam has three sections. Below I give an example of each question type.

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#### **1) listening IDs**

*Identify the artist (composer, singer, or whoever is identified alongside this piece on the course page) and the name of the work:*

- [write the artist here]
- [write the name of the work here]

#### **2) short answer (1 sentence or less)**

*What composer wrote andante emasculata on the score, and what does it tell us about him or her?*

[Charles Ives. It's an example of his macho sense of humor and insistence that challenging music can't be effeminate.]

#### **3) short essay**

*In this course, we have examined many composers' relationship to politics. Pick three such composers and explain how they differ in how their music relates to their political environment.*

[A good response would mention three composers whose music we had discussed in terms of politics – for example, Verdi, Brahms, and Ruth Crawford – and show 1) a confident understanding of how each was political and 2) the ability to think flexibly and critically about the relationship of music to politics. Exam essays can be short – three good paragraphs would be plenty.]