

Professor Eleonora M. Beck
Assignments

Assignment 1

Please lip-synch a piece of music. It should be between 3 and 4 minutes long.

Assignment 2

After reading excerpts from Charles Ives's *Memos*, Patti Smith's *Early Work 1970-1979* and listening to their music, write a 500-word description or analysis of their work in any style you like.

Assignment 3

Create a tape of the music you would like played at your funeral. In 500 words explain why you have chosen the music.

Assignment 4

In 500 words write a short story with a composer or musician as your primary character. Combine real and made-up situations in your piece.

Assignment 5

Listen to three CDs you've never heard before and write three 150-word reviews.

Assignment 6

In 500 words please describe the development of your musical taste.

Assignment 7

Please compose a short song in the style of the Decameron ballatas to perform in class.

Assignment 8

After reading excerpts of Boccaccio, please write a two-page story in the style of the author. Be sure that it has a musical theme.

Assignment 9

Please be prepared to play a piece in class. Write a story that describes it.

Assignment 10

Draw a candy wrapper with a musical subject. It should cover a bon-bon.

Assignment 11

Draw a three-section cartoon with music as its subject.

Assignment 12

Teaching Music

Divide into groups of four people. Each group is commissioned to teach two pieces of music to their students.

Two members of the group should teach the pieces
Two individuals create and administer a "test" by which they determine if and what the class has learned.

The class participates in the learning and testing.

Writing assignment: Please submit a two-page (500-word) essay describing your role in the project and the results.

Assignment 13

Talk Show

Meet with your group of five to produce a 20-minute episode of "Oprah" about some aspect of music and culture.

Assign the role of the host (not necessarily Oprah herself).

Assign the role of the producer (keeps action going, props, cue cards, straightens ties, I don't know, other things).

Three guests.

The rest of the class participates as the audience.

To get started devise a central topic of the day's discussion.

Create the characters of the guests.

Choreograph a musical performance or soundtrack.

Writing assignment: Write a page describing in intimate detail your character and their views. Please write in the character's voice. Most of all have a good time.

Assignment 14

Opera

After seeing Rigoletto create a short opera. Be prepared to present an overture and a complete 45-minute production. Don't forget a title. Split up into groups of six.

One person writes the plot.

One or two people provide music.

One writes the dialogue.

One works on staging, lighting and costumes--set the scene.

One directs and writes about her/his artistic vision.

Everybody participates in some way on stage.

Participants are encouraged to modify the above suggestions as they see fit.

Writing assignment: In 500 words describe your contribution to the production.