

MUHL 5878 - Selected Topics in Music History

Fall 2026 Syllabus, Section 01, CRN 41534,

Credit hours: 3

Instructor

Joseph Louth

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Public Instructor Information

Instructor Title: Dr. Paul Louth

Instructor Professional Qualifications: *Ph. D., Music (Education), Western University; Master of Music Education, Western University; Bachelor of Education, University of Toronto; Bachelor of Music in Performance, University of Toronto; Diploma in Applied Music, Mohawk College of Applied Arts and Technology*

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Course Description

5878. Selected Topics in Music History. A study of a specific topic to be announced each time the course is offered. May be repeated once with different topic. Prereq.: MUTC 2632, MUHL 3771, MUHL 3772, MUHL 3773, and MUHL 3774. 3 s.h.

This course is a slightly modified version of MUHL 6960, Research in Music. It is an introduction to the various research methods used in different disciplines of music study, and to the scholarship associated with those disciplines. 3 s.h.

Course Readings

Group	Title	Author	ISBN
No readings			

All course materials are fully integrated into Blackboard modules.

The course readings are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances, research developments, current events, and/or to ensure better learning.

Schedule of Topics and Assignments

Week of	Reading(s)	Proposed Topic	Due/To Prepare for Class
8/24	Module 1	Introduction to Music Research; research vs. opinion; crucial issues facing music research today; overview of major research methods	Discussion contribution Introduce yourself (for 3% bonus)
8/31	Module 2	Historical Research: Traditional	Discussion contribution Written Assignment 1
9/7	Module 3	Historical Research: Postmodernist / Feminist / Critical	Discussion contribution Written Assignment 2
9/14	Module 4	Performance-Based Research	Discussion contribution Written Assignment 3
9/21	Module 5	Music Analysis as Research (generating/testing versus using music theories)	Discussion contribution Written Assignment 4
9/28	Module 6	Philosophical / Theoretical Research, Part 1	Discussion contribution
10/5	Module 7	Philosophical / Theoretical Research, Part 2	Written Assignment 5
10/12	Module 8	Qualitative Research, Part 1 (ethnography / narrative research, etc.)	Discussion contribution



10/19	Module 9	Qualitative Research, Part 2 (ethnography / narrative research, etc.)	Written Assignment 6
10/26	Module 10	Brief Overview of Quantitative Research (study designs, basic types, aims)	Discussion Contribution Written Assignment 7
11/2	Module 11	Review of All Major Research Methods (Quiz and Portfolio check)	Idea for final project / paper
11/9	Module 12	Doing Secondary Research: Online / Library Resources	Quiz must be taken by Thursday before midnight Research Portfolio due
11/16	Module 13	Bibliography and Style	
11/23	Module 14	Video Presentations of Research Projects	Video presentation due Feedback on 3 other video presentations via discussion post
11/30	Module 15	Work on Final Paper	Research Paper Due (no exceptions)
12/7		No exam in this course.	

The course schedule, policies, procedures, and assignments in this course are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances, by mutual agreement, and/or to ensure better learning.