

Final Self-Evaluation and Self-Grading

In a short essay due along with your final exam quiz thingy, you'll reflect on your learning in Music 242 this semester. Reflection means taking stock of your experience, examining how you've grown and what growth might still be needed. This is authentic assessment at its finest: many professions require annual reflections or self-evaluations. (All of your professors and most of the staff at St. Olaf do this.) You should be honest about your efforts and performance - including successes and failures - but you should avoid being overly self-critical. My intention is to give full credit to any reflection that honestly, sincerely, and thoughtfully engages with your experience in the class this semester.

As relevant, you might reflect on some or all of the following:

- your individual work/study habits
- the adjustments that you made to those habits in response to your performance on the quizzes
- your adjustment to remote learning and any challenges that shift posed
- the efforts you made to collaborate with group members
- the extent to which you participated during in-person or synchronous class meetings
- your interactions with your professor

You should also reflect on how you feel your performance on quizzes, your contributions to the group discussion documents, and your individual notes show that you met or struggled to meet the course goals, articulated in the syllabus as follows:

By the end of the semester, you should be able to:

- Distinguish aurally between pieces from different times and places by identifying and explaining relevant stylistic features;
- Apply sophisticated listening skills to the task of describing known and unknown music using appropriate terminology;
- Situate a given piece in its historical context by describing how it relates to music that came before and after, as well as to the wider world in which it was written;
- Analyze primary sources (literary, musical, and visual) in terms of the ways they reveal their authors' opinions and life experiences;
- Argue the value of engaging closely with unfamiliar, unlikeable, or difficult-to-understand music.

Note that unlike a course evaluation, this reflection isn't where your professor finds out what he did or did not do effectively; it's meant to be a place where **you** decide what you did well and could have done better, and where you contemplate what kind of learner you'll be in future courses or future growth opportunities.

At the end of your reflection, you should take into account your attendance, participation, and quiz grades, and assign yourself a letter grade for the course. The ranges for letter grades (95-100 = A, etc.) are in the

syllabus, but those should only serve as a rough guide. Only you know whether your quiz grades and other grades accurately reflect what you put into - and what you think you got out of - this course.

Unless your self-evaluation is profoundly inconsistent with my observations of the quality or timeliness of your work in the course, I will award you a final letter grade at most within $\pm$ one letter grade level of your self-recommendation. So if you suggest an A-, I reserve the right to give you a B+, A-, or A.

Happy reflecting, and let me know if you have any questions.