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**RI Commercial Music Research Project**

**MUS 4913**

 **3 credits**

**Instructor:**

Michael Zager (Eminent Scholar and Professor of Music)

Classroom/Lecture location: TBA

Meeting Time: TBA

Office: Building 52, AH 111

Phone: (561) 297-0060

E-mail: mzager@fau.edu

Office hours: Tuesday & Thursday – 10:00 AM-12:00 PM

**Pre-Requisites:**

Permission of instructor and C grade or better in the appropriate pre-requisite (either Topic Research or Sound Recording 3)

**Course Description:**

Commercial Music Research Project (MUS 4913) is a three-credit research-intensive course taken the final semester of the senior year in fulfillment of the Bachelor of Music with Major in Commercial Music degree. The purpose of the course is completion of an original research project with supporting documentation in keeping with the objectives of the student’s degree concentration. This course contains an assignment or multiple assignments designed to help students conduct research and inquiry at an intensive level. If this class is selected to participate in the university-wide assessment program, students will be asked to complete a consent form and submit electronically some of their research assignments for review. Visit the Office of Undergraduate Research and Inquiry (OURI) for additional opportunities and information at <http://www.fau.edu/ouri>.

**The Commercial Music Major is a professional degree with three area concentrations:**

1. **Bachelor Of Music With Major In Commercial Music: Commercial Music Composition Concentration:** Majors in this track will complete a project which reflects their creative work in composition and/or performance in either live or produced contexts. The type of accompanying written documentation will be determined by the aim and scope of the project (e.g. complete arrangements and/or orchestrations, musical analysis, description of recording process, etc.)
2. **Bachelor Of Music With Major In Commercial Music: Commercial Music Technology Concentration:** Majors in this track will choose a project topic, which reflects their creative work in applied music technology through recording and production. Projects may include, but are not limited to, CD recordings, performance of original compositions/arrangements, or collaboration with artists in other disciplines. Projects must include written supporting documentation with citations and references.
3. **Bachelor Of Music With Major In Commercial Music: Music Business Concentration:** Majors in this track will complete a project which demonstrates their competency in some aspect of the music business. This option with be detailed in a significant written document, with supporting references, a minimum of 25 double-spaced pages, excluding bibliography and notes

**Student Learning Outcomes:**

1. **Knowledge:** Students will conduct, produce, document and support original research specific to their individual commercial music concentration.
2. **Formulate Questions:** Each student’s individual project will be formulated around a specific research question, technical challenge, or creative methodology appropriate to their individual concentration.
3. Plan of Action: Prior to beginning their specific projects, students will develop an approved action plan, linked directly to the research questions and challenges pertinent to their concentration and the broader field of the commercial music industry. That plan of action will guide and direct each individual project from its inception through its completion.
4. **Critical Thinking:** Students will apply critical thinking as evaluative process through musical analyses and/or written summaries of their completed research projects.
5. **Ethical Conduct:** Beginning with the development of an action plan, students will identify specific ethical issues pertinent to their individual concentration, which will guide the research and realization of individual projects. Instances of ethical concerns include business plan plagiarization, copying of musical scores or musical themes, and the use of non-original studio resources.
6. **Communication:** All projects will be formally presented or realized in the appropriate medium (digital recording, musical score, written paper, etc.) with citations and supporting documentation specific to their individual concentration. Students will personally present their completed projects at a variety of appropriate public venues including the department’s Music@Noon Concert Series and the Stern Sequencing Lab.

**Course Requirements**

Commercial Music students must be in their final semester in the degree track. Attendance required at weekly or biweekly meetings scheduled with the professor. New updates to be discussed at each meeting. (Number of meetings concerning research progress will be counted towards 10 percent of final grade.)

**Format/Style:**

All written material must be typewritten and double-spaced, with outside references properly cited and included in an accompanying bibliography. (See FAU Music Department Research Paper Guidelines for specific information regarding layout and style.)

**The Completed Project must include supporting documentation:**

Creative concentration:

* Paper (with bibliography) – Soft copy and Hard copy
* Scores (if applicable)
* CD (with: Name, Semester, Research Project – if applicable)
* Session Agreement for recordings (to be submitted with final project – if applicable)

The student must also supply a disk copy in Word format of all written material, which will be scanned by **SafeAssign** or additional software for evaluation of original content, authenticate project and check for plagiarism.

**Course Evaluation:**

**EVALUATION\*:** The Bachelor of Arts Research Project will be graded by averaging the evaluations of the FOUR to FIVE committee members based on the on the following percentage scale:

 95-100=A 80-83=B- 67-69=D+

 90-94=A- 77-79=C+ 64-66=D

 87-89=B+ 74-76=C 60-63=D-

 84-86=B 70-73=C- below 60=F

\*Students must achieve a C or better to fulfill degree requirements. In the event of a non-passing grade, students may be given one (1) opportunity to resubmit the project within six months of the original deadline.

**Attendance Policy:**

* Students are expected to attend all of their scheduled University classes and to satisfy all academic objectives as outlined by the instructor. The effect of absences upon grades is determined by the instructor, and the University reserves the right to deal at any time with individual cases of non-attendance.
* Students are responsible for arranging to make up work missed because of legitimate class absence, such as illness, family emergencies, military obligation, court-imposed legal obligations or participation in University-approved activities. Examples of University-approved reasons for absences include participating on an athletic or scholastic team, musical and theatrical performances and debate activities. It is the student’s responsibility to give the instructor notice prior to any anticipated absences and within a reasonable amount of time after an unanticipated absence, ordinarily by the next scheduled class meeting. Instructors must allow each student who is absent for a University-approved reason the opportunity to make up work missed without any reduction in the student’s final course grade as a direct result of such absence.

**Incomplete Policy:**

Incompletes will be given at the discretion of the instructor and **only in the case of emergency situations that occur at the end of the semester**. Such emergencies include illness or death inthe immediate family and must be documented. Outside employment or a heavy class scheduleare not acceptable reasons for incompletes. It is the student’s responsibility to consult with theinstructor if an incomplete is necessary. Incompletes can be made up by arrangement with the instructor and must be completed within one year.

**Makeup/Late work:**

No homework assignments or late work will be accepted after the due date **without permission** of the instructor.

**Plagiarism Detection:**

SafeAssign - will be used to check for plagiarism. All students are expected to compose, arrange, and program their own assignments. Not complying with this will constitute academic dishonesty and will be dealt with according to University policies.

**Course Communication:**

CANVAS will be used throughout the whole semester. Please check daily for updates. All electronic communication must originate from a valid FAU e-mail address. Please write or contact the faculty mentor at any time concerning matters pertaining to class work, reading assignments, exams or homework.

**Classroom Etiquette policy**

**CONDUCT:** Students must be respectful, attentive, and patient in the classroom environment at all times. In accordance with the FAU Rules and Regulations (Student Handbook pp. 155-163), students are to refrain from all academic irregularities and disruptive conduct. This includes phone calls, text messaging, and phone camera usage. Failure to do so will result in appropriate disciplinary action. **Please turn off and put away all cell phones prior to the start of meeting.**

**Disability policy statement:**

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), students who require special accommodation due to a disability to properly execute coursework must register with Student Accessibility Services (SAS) and follow all SAS procedures. SAS has offices across three of FAU’s campuses – Boca Raton, Davie and Jupiter – however disability services are available for students on all campuses.

**Code of Academic Integrity policy statement:**

Students at Florida Atlantic University are expected to maintain the highest ethical standards. Academic dishonesty is considered a serious breach of these ethical standards, because it interferes with the university mission to provide a high quality education in which no student enjoys an unfair advantage over any other. Academic dishonesty is also destructive of the university community, which is grounded in a system of mutual trust and places high value on personal integrity and individual responsibility. Harsh penalties are associated with academic dishonesty. For more information, see University Regulation 4.001.

**Student Absence Accommodations:**

Please contact the professor concerning this matter.

**Religious Holiday Accommodations:**

* In accordance with rules of the Florida Board of Education and Florida law, students have the right to reasonable accommodations from the University in order to observe religious practices and beliefs with regard to admissions, registration, class attendance, and the scheduling of examinations and work assignments.
* Students who wish to be excused from course work, class activities, or examinations must notify the instructor in advance of their intention to participate in religious observation and request an excused absence. The instructor will provide a reasonable opportunity to make up such excused absences.
* Any student who feels aggrieved regarding religious accommodations may present a grievance to the director of Equal Opportunity Programs. Any such grievances will follow Florida Atlantic University’s established grievance procedure regarding alleged discrimination.

[*http://www.fau.edu/regulations/chapter2/Reg%202.007%208-12.pdf*](http://www.fau.edu/regulations/chapter2/Reg%202.007%208-12.pdf)

**Credit and Time Requirements**

Federal regulations, FAU and our accrediting body the National Association of Schools of Music have determined the following formula to represent the amount of work represented per credit hour: for each credit hour in a class, the combined contact hours in class and out-of-class student work should equal three hours. In the cases of applied music lessons, each individual area will provide specific out-of-class expectations that will lead to student success in the applied lesson. Large ensembles may meet additional hours beyond this formula to accommodate the rigors of the repertoire scheduled for performances.

**Health and Safety**

Students are encouraged to access the FAU Department of Music Handbook or our website [www.fau.edu/music](http://www.fau.edu/music) to read the Department’s guidelines towards hearing and performance health and safety.

<http://www.fau.edu/music/Department%20of%20Music%20student%20handbook%202014-15.pdf>

<http://www.fau.edu/music/pdf/HEALTH%20AND%20SAFETY%20INFORMATION%20AND%20RECOMMENDATIONS%20FOR%20STUDENT%20MUSICIANS.pdf>

**Required text/readings:**

Will be assigned according to the specific individual research project and commercial music area concentration.

**Supplemental/recommended readings (see separate attachment):**

Owsinski, Bobby. 2009. Music 3.0: A Survival Guide for Making Music in the Internet Age. Hal Leonard Books. ISBN 978-1-4234-7401-2

**Course Schedule**

**(may be subject to change)**

**Week 1**

Contact the Professor to arrange for weekly meeting schedule. You should have been working on your project since Topic Research approval last semester. Bring your updated project for review.

**Week 2**

**Composition students:** Continue to work on your project and start your compositions, research paper and score preparation. Discuss paper and project progress.

**Technology students:** Continue to work on your project and start your compositions, research paper and score preparation. Discuss paper and project progress.

**Business students:** Continue to work on your paper.

**Week 3**

**Composition students:** Listen to compositions, review scores and research paper.

**Technology students:** Listen to compositions, review scores and research paper. Discuss paper and project progress.Research paper must: Follow FAU DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC WRITING GUIDELINES pages 8-10

**Business students:** Discuss paper and project progress.

Research paper must: Follow FAU DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC WRITING GUIDELINES pages 8-10

**Week 4**

**Composition students:** Listen to compositions, review scores and research paper.

**Technology students:** Listen to compositions, review scores and research paper.Discuss paper and project progress**.** Include Annotated Bibliography and reference update.

**Business students:** Discuss paper and project progress**.** Include Annotated Bibliography and reference update.

**Week 5**

**Composition students:** Due: COMPLETE RECORDINGS of compositions – (2 points) Due: Rough Draft – send electronic copy prior to meeting – (2 points)

**Technology students:** Due: LEAD SHEETS – (2 points) Due: Rough Draft – send electronic copy prior to meeting – (2 points)

**Business students:** Due: Rough Draft – send electronic copy prior to meeting – (2 points)

**Week 6**

**Composition students:** Listen to recordings, review scores and written paper.

**Technology students:** Review complete draft.

**Business students:** Review complete draft.

**Week 7**

**REMINDER:** RESEARCH PAPER (Writing style 10% to meet Rubric scale grading, page 11)

Complete paper - check with the Writing Center for an appointment to review grammar, formatting, spelling- (Contact University Center for Excellence in Writing for appointment and research paper layout). <http://www.fau.edu/UCEW/>

**Week 8**

**Composition students:** Due: Listen to recordings and/or scoring for videos– (2 points)

**Technology students:** Due: Listen to recordings– (2 points)

**Business students:** Due: Submit revised paper – send electronic copy – (2 points). Meet with instructor.

**Week 9**

Finalize your project – paper, scores, etc. (if applicable)

Instructor will review submission and contact student with changes. You have ONE week to make corrections before submitting to Commercial Music Faculty committee.

**Week 10**

**Due:** Finalized complete and formatted Research Project – paper, scores, etc. to be submitted and reviewed by the Commercial Music Faculty Committee. – (2 points)

**Submission:** A physical copy to instructor and Google doc to the committee members.

**Week 11 & Week 12**

**Students are required to present their research and creative activity at a public presentation during the Friday Music @ Noon Commercial Music Concert, scheduled at the end of each semester.**

**Week 13 &14**

You will be required to supply 2 copies or your final Research Project to the Department of Music for archival purposes.

**Weeks 15 & 16**

Your Research Project grade will be uploaded to Canvas